



Bible and Politics
Dr. Annabel Herzog

Course Description:

The course analyses political issues through the reading of biblical sources. Main emphasis will be dedicated to the concepts of authority, freedom and political responsibility.

Course Requirements:

- Weekly ½ page responses to the reading material
- Term Paper (15 pages, font size 11-12, double-spaced). Topics will be chosen during office hours before May 15 and presented in class during the last meeting.

Final Grade:

Personal Responses	30%
Term Paper	70%

Course Outline and Reading List

Please bring a BILINGUAL Hebrew Bible to ALL meetings. All translations (and in all languages) are permitted, but in class we will use a standard King James version (together with others). Students are encouraged to read traditional commentaries, as can be found in rabbinic bibles (miqraot gedolot). However, the orientation of the course is not primarily rabbinic.

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Authority

1 Samuel, 8

Deuteronomy, Chapter 16: 18-21; Chapters 17; 18; 19; 20

Judges, Chapters 8; 9

Week 3: Authority

1 Samuel, Chapters 9-30

Week 4: Authority

2 Samuel

Week 5: Authority

1 Kings, Chapters 1-11



Week 6: Authority

Martin Buber, "Biblical Leadership" in *On the Bible: Eighteen Studies*, New York 1968, pp. 137-150

Week 7: Freedom

Exodus, Chapters 1-24

Week 8: Freedom

Numbers, Chapters 16-18

Week 9: Freedom

Michael Waltzer, *Exodus and Revolution*, New York 1985, pp. 1-70

Week 10: Freedom

Michael Waltzer, *Exodus and Revolution*, New York 1985, pp. 71-149

Week 11: Responsibility

Genesis, Chapters 4; 19; 34
Judges, Chapter 19, 20.

Week 12: Responsibility

Yeshayahu Leibowitz, "After Kibiyeh" in *Judaism, Human Values and the Jewish State*, Cambridge, Mass. 1992, pp. 185-190

Week 13: Presentation of Papers

Additional bibliography will be suggested during the semester.