

POLITICS IN THE HEBREW BIBLE (OLD TESTAMENT)

The course is addressed to one key question: is there room for human politics and prudential decision-making in a world ruled by an omnipotent God? Topics include the idea of the covenant, the three legal codes, the inner-biblical argument about monarchy, the role of the prophets, wisdom and revelation, and the anti-politics of some biblical writers.

There will be six two-hour sessions, each consisting of two half-hour lectures and two half-hour discussion periods. The argument follows that of my book *In God's Shadow*, but reading for the course will consist of selected biblical texts, listed below.

February 22: Introduction

The Covenants: Exodus 19:3-8; 24:1-9; Deuteronomy 29:9-15; 30:11-20

March 1: The Legal Codes: Exodus 20-23:19; Leviticus 19; Deuteronomy 5:6-11; 15. 22

Laws of War: Deuteronomy 20; 21:10-14

March 8: Kings: Judges 8:22-23; First Samuel 8; Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Elders: First Kings 20-1-9; Second Kings 23:1-3

March 15: Prophets: First Kings 21:1-14; Amos 7:7-17; Isaiah 58

International Relations: Second Kings 18 and 19; Isaiah 30:1-15 and 30-31; 31:1-5

March 22: Exile: Lamentations 1; Psalm 137; Jeremiah 29:4-11

Priestly Rule: Leviticus 4; Deuteronomy 17:8-13; Second Chronicles 19:8-11

March 29: Wisdom: Proverbs 11:4; 14:35; 16:13-15; 18:16; 20:2 and 18; 21:23: 25: 6, 7, and 15

Messianism: Isaiah 2:1-14; 11:1-9; Jeremiah 31:30-34

Leader: Michael Walzer is professor emeritus of social science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Mondays: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., 6 weeks: February 22 through March 29

Maximum: 40