

Comprehensive Examination List for MA in RELG and ACRE
Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East, 2016
Prof. Sara Milstein

Primary Literature

Required

Hebrew Bible

Read the following primary sources along with their respective introductions.
Use either the *Jewish Study Bible* or the *New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*.

1. Genesis; Exodus; Deuteronomy 12-28
2. 1-2 Samuel; 1 King 1-12
3. Isaiah 1-10; Jeremiah 1-20; Amos

Mesopotamia and Ugarit

Read the following primary sources along with their respective introductions.

1. The Gilgamesh Epic (Standard Babylonian Version) in Andrew George, *The Epic of Gilgamesh: The Babylonian Epic Poem and Other Texts in Akkadian and Sumerian* (Penguin, 2003).
2. Adapa (Fragments A-D) in Shlomo Izre'el, *Adapa and the South Wind* (Eisenbrauns, 2001). Read also the Introduction to the book.
3. Atrahasis ("the Babylonian Flood Story") in Stephanie Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia* (Oxford, 2000).
4. Laws of Hammurabi in Martha Roth, *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor* (Scholars Press, 1995). Read also the Introduction to the book.
5. Kirta, Aqhat, and the Baal Cycle in *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry*, ed. Simon Parker (Scholars Press, 1997). Read also the Introduction to the book.
6. Near Eastern prophetic corpora in Martti Nissinen, ed., *Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East* (SBL Press, 2003).

Secondary Literature

Required

1. Smith, Mark S. *The Early History of God: Yahweh and Other Deities in Ancient Israel* (Eerdmans, 2002).
2. Cross, Frank Moore. *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic* (Harvard, 1973).
3. Frymer Kensky, Tikva. *In the Wake of the Goddesses: Women, Culture, and the Biblical Transformation of Pagan Myth* (Free Press, 1992).

4. Levinson, Bernard. *Deuteronomy and the Hermeneutics of Legal Innovation* (Oxford University Press, 1997).
5. Carr, David. *Writing on the Tablet of the Heart: Origins of Scripture and Literature* (Oxford, 2005).
6. Van der Toorn, Karel. *Scribal Culture and the Making of the Hebrew Bible* (Harvard University Press, 2009).
7. Ulrich, Eugene. *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Origins of the Bible* (Eerdmans, 1999)
8. Van der Toorn, Karel. *Family Religion in Babylonia, Ugarit, and Israel: Continuity and Changes in the Forms of Religious Life* (Brill, 2006).
9. Dever, William. *What Did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It? What Archaeology Can Tell Us about the Realia of Ancient Israel* (Eerdmans, 2001).
10. Nissinen, Martti ed., *Prophecy in its Ancient Near Eastern Context: Mesopotamian, Biblical, and Arabian Perspectives* (SBL Press: 2000); last essay on "Arabian Prophecy" is optional
11. Bottéro, Jean. *Mesopotamia: Writing, Reasoning and the Gods* (University of Chicago Press, 1992).
12. Bottéro, Jean. *Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia* (University of Chicago Press, 1997).

Secondary Literature in other languages: choose 1 of the following

1. Demare-Lafont, Sophie. "Le roi législateur," "Rendre la justice," and "Les premiers codes de lois," in P. Bordreuil ed., *Les débuts de l'histoire: Civilisations et cultures du Proche-Orient ancien* (Paris, 2008), pp. 132-137 and 249-260.
2. Levin, Christoph. "Das vorstaatliche Israel." *ZTK* 97.4 (2000): 385-403
3. Liverani, Mario. "Nuovi sviluppi nello studio della storia dell'Israele biblico," *Biblica* 80.4 (1999): 488-505.