

Spring, 2015

*[W]hen a Library expels a book of mine and leaves an unexpurgated Bible lying around where unprotected youth and age can get hold of it, the deep unconscious irony of it delights me...* (Mark Twain, Letter to Mrs. F. G. Whitmore, Feb. 7, 1907)

JUDA 136/HINE 104

### **SEX IN THE BIBLE**

#### **Instructor:**

Prof. William H. C. Propp. Office: 4012 Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS) Building, Muir campus. Email: [wpropp@ucsd.edu](mailto:wpropp@ucsd.edu). Office phone (only during office hours): 858-534-6187. Office hours: Monday 3-5 pm or by appointment.

#### **Course aim:**

To explore ancient Israelite attitudes toward human sexuality through close reading of selected biblical texts. Also considered will be later developments in Judaism and Christianity. Topics include hetero-, homo- and transsexuality, androgyny, puberty, chastity, celibacy, modesty, monogamy, polygamy, (in)fertility, adultery, bastardy, impotency, sodomy, pornography, bestiality, voyeurism, exhibitionism, nudism, transvestitism, onanism, orgasm, phallic symbolism, menstruation, genital mutilation, masturbation, procreation, ejaculation, castration, prostitution, miscegenation, rape, incest, bondage, nymphomania, divine sex, the Oedipus Complex, coitus interruptus (a.k.a. the withdrawal method), dildos, aphrodisiacs and groping.

#### **Required/recommended readings:**

1. The *New Oxford Annotated Bible (NOAB)*. (If you already own a Bible and prefer to use it, make sure it's an accurate, reputable translation—definitely not the *New International Version* popular among American Protestants or any of several orthodox Jewish versions that incorporate traditional rabbinic interpretation and legend into the translation. Note: you will still be required to read the *NOAB* supplementary essays through course reserves; also note that, depending upon whether your Bible is published for Jews or Christians, citations in the syllabus may be off by a verse or two.)
2. E-reserves and other on-line materials; library e-reserves code wp136
3. Various course materials to be distributed in class

#### **Field Trip:**

On April 26, a bus will take those of us wishing to attend to the California Science Center Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition. (**Highly recommended**) See:

<http://californiasciencecenter.org/exhibits/dead-sea-scrolls-the-exhibition>

UCSD will cover the cost of transportation and admission!

### Lecture Event

On May 21 at 5:00 pm, the co-curator of the CSS exhibit, Prof. Risa Levitt Kohn of San Diego State University, will give a lecture entitled "Jewish and Christian Origins as Revealed by the Dead Sea Scrolls" at the UCSD Faculty Club (**Required unless excused by me**).

### Course assignments/evaluation:

1. Two 6-10-page essays (ca. 1800-3000 words), each 35% of final grade. Pick a biblical passage or a set of passages dealing some aspect of human sexuality. (This may be one we have studied; if you pick another you must **get my approval**.) Summarize it *briefly*, read some commentaries in the library, analyze any details or ambiguities pertinent to your theme; then place the story/law/poem in its broader anthropological/psychological/sociological/literary/biblical context. **With my approval** you may also write about the later interpretation(s) of your passages. Requires citations (format up to you) and a bibliography. These papers are due on class 16 (**5/4**) and at the final (**6/12**). You must submit, along with a paper copy of your final draft, a marked-up paper copy of your penultimate draft, so I can track your rewriting process.

N.B.: If you come to office hours, **I will help you with your paper.**

2. A final exam (20%). You will be asked to identify biblical characters we have met and comment briefly on passages discussed in class.
3. Class participation/pop quizzes/oral presentation (10%). There will be six pop quizzes; they should be quite easy, providing you've done the reading before class. If you take all six, only the top five scores count. During the last week, you will be asked to make a 5-10-minute oral presentation of an item in the news (or from fiction) and compare it to a biblical passage about sex. Frequent participation throughout the quarter will also add points to this component of your grade.

### 1. Introduction - why give this course? why take this course? 3/30

Reading for next class:

Spencer A. Rathus, Jeffrey S. Nevid, Lois Fichner-Rathus, *Human Sexuality in a World of Diversity* (Allyn and Bacon, 2002), 2-35

### 2. Nature and Culture - what is sexuality? 4/1

Reading for next class:

George Chauncy, "The Invention of Heterosexuality," *Sexuality* (ed. Robert A. Nye; Oxford, 1999), 198-202

Evelyn Blackwood, "Sexuality and Gender in Certain Native American Tribes: The Case of Cross-Gender Females," *Sexuality and Gender* (ed. Christine L. Williams, Arlene Stein; Blackwell, 2002), 113-124

Roger N. Lancaster, "Subject Honor and Object Shame: The Construction of Male Homosexuality and Stigma in Nicaragua," *Sexuality and Gender* (ed. Christine L. Williams, Arlene Stein; Blackwell, 2002), 87-99

### **3. Homo-, hetero-, trans- and asexuality 4/3**

Reading for next class:

*NOAB* pp. 2185-2193

### **4. What is (and isn't) the "Bible"? 4/6**

Reading for next class:

*NOAB* pp. 2221-2226, 3-6 (pp. 2227-2234 optional)

### **5. What was (and wasn't) the Bible? 4/8**

Reading for next class:

Genesis chaps. 1-3; Deuteronomy 1:38-39; 2 Samuel 14:12-20; 19:34-37; Isaiah 7:11-17

Jacob Milgrom, "Sex and Wisdom: What the Garden of Eden Story is Saying," *Bible Review* 10:6 (Dec. 1994), 21, 52

William Propp, "Eden Sketches," *The Hebrew Bible and Its Interpreters* (1990): 192-194 (esp. n. 9)

Plato, *Symposium*, §§ 189-194. <http://www.connellodonovan.com/hen.html>

Scott F. Gilbert and Ziony Zevit, "Congenital human baculum deficiency: The generative bone of Genesis 2:21-23," *American Journal of Medical Genetics* 101.3 (2001): 284-85; on-line [http://cabinetmagazine.org/issues/28/gilbert\\_zevit.php](http://cabinetmagazine.org/issues/28/gilbert_zevit.php)

### **6. The Big Bang and carnal knowledge 4/10**

Reading for next class:

Genesis chap. 19; 24:1-9; 47:28-31; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Judges chap. 19; 2 Samuel 1:17-27

Bruce L. Gerig, "Homosexuality in Ancient Egypt."  
<http://epistle.us/hbarticles/ancientegypt1.html>

Ibid., "Homosexuality in the Ancient Near East, Beyond Egypt"  
<http://epistle.us/hbarticles/neareast.html>

Saul M. Olyan, "'And with a Male You Shall Not Lie the Lying Down of a Woman': On the Meaning and Significance of Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 5 (1994): 179-206. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3704197>

Howard Eilberg-Schwartz, *God's Phallus* (Beacon Press, 1994), 81-97

## **7. Friendship, transsexuality, homosexuality and hospitality 4/13**

Reading for next class:

Genesis chaps. 4 and 16; 21:1-21; chap. 24; 29:1-30:24; 31:13-18; chap. 37; chaps. 39-50; Exodus 21:1-11; Deuteronomy 21:10-17; 25:5-10; Judges 11:1-3; 1 Samuel 1:1-8; 1 Kings chap. 11; Psalms 128; Proverbs chap. 31

Roland de Vaux, *Ancient Israel* (McGraw Hill, 1965), 7-8, 24-38, 53-55

Donald Tuzin, *The Cassowary's Revenge – The Life and Death of Masculinity in a New Guinea Society* (University of Chicago Press, 1997), 45-49

## **8. Monogamy, concubinage and the perils of polygamy 4/15**

Reading for next class:

Genesis chap. 39; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20:10; Numbers 5:11-31; Deuteronomy 22:13-27; 23:2; 1 Samuel 11:1-12:23; Proverbs 6:20-35; chap. 7

## **9. This lesson is brought to you by the letter "A" 4/17**

Reading for next class:

Genesis 12:10-20; chap. 20; 26:1-16; 29:1-18; 35:22; Exodus chap. 2; 1 Samuel 18:17-29; 2 Samuel 3:1-16; 12:1-12; 15:1-16; 16:20-22; 1 Kings 1:1-8; 2:12-25; 11:3

William Propp, "Acting Like Apes," *Bible Review* 20.3 (2004) 35-40, 46

## **10. The "trophy wife" 4/20**

Reading for next class:

Leviticus 19:29; chap. 21; Deuteronomy 23:17-18; Joshua chap. 2; Judges 11:1-2; 1 Kings 3:16-28; 22:29-38, 45-46; Proverbs 6:20-35; chap. 7; 29:3; Isaiah chap. 23; Joel 3:1-3 (Jewish Bibles Joel 4:1-3)

Phyllis Bird, "The Harlot as Heroine: Narrative Art and Social Presupposition in three Old Testament Texts," *Semeia* 46 (1989): 119-139

<http://bhporter.com/Porter%20PDF%20Files/Harlot%20as%20Heroine..pdf>

Edwin M. Yamauchi, "Cultic Prostitution," pp. 213-222 in Harry A. Hoffner (ed.), *Orient and Occident: Essays presented to Cyrus H. Gordon on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday* (Butzon & Bercker, Neukirchener Verlag, 1973)

#### **11. The "oldest profession" 4/22**

Reading for next class:

Genesis chap. 24; 29:1-20; chap. 38; Exodus chap. 2; Ruth (whole book)

Robert Alter, *The Art of Biblical Narrative* (Basic Books, 1981), pp. 3-10, 47-62

#### **12. Single woman desperately seeking husband, or, How to land your man 4/24**

Reading for next class:

Genesis chaps. 34 and 39; Exodus 22:16-17; Numbers 31:7-18; Leviticus 19:20-22; Deuteronomy 20:10-14; 21:10-14; 22:23-29; Judges chaps. 19-21; 2 Samuel chap. 13

William Propp, *Exodus 19-40* (Random House, 2006), 253-255

Ken Stone, "Gender and Homosexuality in Judges 19: Subject-Honor, Object-Shame?" *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 67 (1995) 94-103

<http://jot.sagepub.com/content/20/67/87.full.pdf+html>

Pamela Reis, "Cupidity and Stupidity: Woman's Agency and the 'Rape' of Tamar," *Journal of the Near Eastern Society, Columbia University* 25 (1997) 43-60

<http://www.jtsa.edu/Documents/pagedocs/JANES/1997%2025/Reis25.pdf>

#### **13. Rape - a matter between men 4/27**

Reading for next class:

Genesis 9:18-27; 19:30-38; chap. 20; 21:1-10; 29:16-28; 30:27-43; 35:22; 49:1-4; Exodus 6:20; 23:19; Leviticus 18:1-18; 20:11-21; Deuteronomy 22:30; 27:20-23; Ezekiel chap. 23; Song of Songs 4:9; 8:1-3

William Propp, "Kinship in 2 Samuel 13," *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 55 (1993): 39-53

[http://ucelinks.cdlib.org:8888/sfx\\_local?genre=article&issn=00087912&title=Catholic+Biblical+Quarterly&volume=55&issue=1&date=19930101&atitle=Kinship+in+2+Samuel+13.&spage=39&sid=EBSCO:hlh&pid=](http://ucelinks.cdlib.org:8888/sfx_local?genre=article&issn=00087912&title=Catholic+Biblical+Quarterly&volume=55&issue=1&date=19930101&atitle=Kinship+in+2+Samuel+13.&spage=39&sid=EBSCO:hlh&pid=)

Jonathan R. Ziskind, "The Missing Daughter in Leviticus XVIII," *Vetus Testamentum* 46 (1996) 125-30

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/10.1163/1568533962580991>

Howard Eilberg-Schwartz, *God's Phallus* (Beacon Press, 1994), 128-134

ADD NEXT TIME: PROPP/EILBERG-SCHWARTZ ON KID IN MILK

#### 14. **Good breeding vs. inbreeding, or, My sister, my bride 4/29**

Reading for next class:

Exodus 19:9-15; Leviticus chaps. 10-12, 15-16, 18:19; 20:18; chap. 21; 22:1-7; Deuteronomy 23:9-11; 1 Samuel 21:1-9

Howard Eilberg-Schwartz, *The Savage in Judaism* (Indiana University Press, 1990), 177-194

William Propp, *Exodus 19-40* (Random House, 2006), 681-690

(Optional: Propp, "Physics for Prophets – An Ancient Israelite Delivers a TED Talk" <http://www.bibleinterp.com/PDFs/Propp4.pdf> is a lighter presentation of ideas from the previous reading, developing the nuclear power plant analogy to its logical conclusion--and beyond!)

#### 15. **The "yuck factor" - sexuality and purity 5/1**

Reading for next class:

Exodus 20: 8-10, 17; 22:19; Leviticus 18:23; 19:19; 20:15-16; Deuteronomy 22:4-11; 27:21; Ezekiel 1:1-14; 23:1-20

Howard Eilberg-Schwartz, *The Savage in Judaism* (Indiana University Press, 1990), 115-140

Simon B. Parker, ed., *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry* (Scholars Press, 1997), 1-5, 148, 181-196

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;idno=heb07779>

Images of Egyptian gods – <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/350999364678404014/>

Greek mythology - <http://www.theoi.com/Titan/Pasiphae.html>

<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/people/bdodge/scaffold/gg/zeuslover.html> (just Io, Ganymede and Callisto)

<http://www.pantheon.org/articles/l/leda.html>

Hittite Laws §§ 187-200

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/1650nesilim.asp>

Harry A. Hoffner, "Incest, Sodomy and Bestiality in the Ancient Near East," pp. 81-90 in Hoffner, Harry A. (ed.) *Orient and Occident: Essays presented to Cyrus H. Gordon on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday* (Butzon & Bercker, Neukirchener Verlag, 1973).

## 16. Fun with animals 5/4

Reading for next class:

Genesis 6:1-4; chap. 32; Numbers chap. 13; Deuteronomy 2:9-12; 3:1-11; Isaiah 14:1-22; Ezekiel 28:1-19; 32:27; Job 1:6-7; 38:1-7

The Book of Enoch chaps. 6-10

[http://www.ccel.org/c/charles/otpseudepig/enoch/ENOCH\\_1.HTM](http://www.ccel.org/c/charles/otpseudepig/enoch/ENOCH_1.HTM)

Ronald S. Hendel, "When the Sons of God Cavorted with the Daughters of Men," *Bible Review* 3:2 (1987), 8-13, 37

<http://www.dougvandorn.com/Hendel%20Sons%20of%20God%20Cavorted.pdf>

## 17. More fun with gods and angels 5/6

Reading for next class:

1 Kings 4:32-33 (Christian editions) or 5:12-13 (Jewish editions); Song of Songs (whole book)

Carey Ellen Walsh, *Exquisite Desire – Religion, the Erotic, and the Song of Songs* (Fortress Press, 2000), 13-30, 41-67, 105-132

## 18. Their bodies their selves, or, Flirtation and wet dreams 5/8

Reading for next class:

Exodus 4:24-26; Judges chaps. 4-5

William Propp, "Oedipus in Midian: Analyzing Ancient Israel," *International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies* 10.4 (2013)

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/aps.1376/pdf>

Susan Niditch, "Eroticism and Death in the Tale of Jael," in P. Day (ed.), *Gender and Difference in Ancient Israel* (Fortress, 1989) 43-57.

MAY 11 NO CLASS

### 19. Love ya, Mom 5/13

Reading for next class:

Exodus chaps. 2-4 and 17; Psalm 45

Simon B. Parker, *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry* (Scholars Press, 1997), 49-62, 205-214

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;idno=heb07779>

Delbert R. Hillers, "The Bow of Aqhat: The Meaning of a Mythological Symbol," pp. 71-80 in Harry A. Hoffner (ed.), *Orient and Occident: Essays presented to Cyrus H. Gordon on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday* (Butzon & Bercker, Neukirchener Verlag, 1973)

William Propp, "Is Psalm 45 an Erotic Poem?" *Bible Review* 20.2 (2004): 33-37, 42

William Propp, *Exodus 1-18* (Random House, 1999), 155-158, 174-175

William Propp, *Exodus 19-40* (Random House, 2006), 705-707

### 20. If you search long and hard enough, they're everywhere - "Freudian" symbols in the Bible 5/15

Reading for next class:

Genesis chap. 4; Deuteronomy 22:5; Judges chaps. 13-16; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; chaps. 9-20, 24, 26; 2 Samuel 1:17-27 (pay attention to sexual symbolism in reference to the masculinity of Samson, Saul, Jonathan and David); 2 Kings 6:26-30

Howard Eilberg-Schwartz, *God's Phallus* (Beacon Press, 1994), 110-116

### 21. Butch and femme: biblical gender-bending 5/18

Reading for next class:

William Propp, "The Origins of Infant Circumcision in Israel," *Hebrew Annual Review* 11 (1988): 355-370

Ibid., "That Bloody Bridegroom (Exodus IV 24-6)," *Vetus Testamentum* 43 (1993): 495-518

<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/10.1163/156853393x00421>

Howard Eilberg-Schwartz, *The Savage in Judaism* (Indiana University Press, 1990), 144-154, 161-164, 169-176

### 22. You want us to cut off the ends of our what?! 5/20

Reading for next class:



Leviticus 21:16-23; 22:24; Deuteronomy 23:1; 25:11-12; 2 Kings 20:16-18; Isaiah 56:1-8; Jeremiah 38:7

Piotr Bienkowski, "Eunuchs," *Dictionary of the Ancient Near East*

[http://books.google.com/books?id=V9QrPMN1C4EC&pg=PA110&lpg=PA110&dq=eunuchs+in+ancient+near+east&source=bl&ots=zgkv2ijwpg&sig=LcZ9\\_3pQzrPxJ2tSMGQMPYlZGu4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=TIqUU8OTBMPpoATXioDoAw&ved=0CCgQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=eunuchs%20in%20ancient%20near%20east&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=V9QrPMN1C4EC&pg=PA110&lpg=PA110&dq=eunuchs+in+ancient+near+east&source=bl&ots=zgkv2ijwpg&sig=LcZ9_3pQzrPxJ2tSMGQMPYlZGu4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=TIqUU8OTBMPpoATXioDoAw&ved=0CCgQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=eunuchs%20in%20ancient%20near%20east&f=false)

Kathryn M. Ringrose, "Eunuchs in Historical Perspective," *History Compass* 5 (2007): 495-506

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1478-0542.2006.00379.x/full>

William H. C. Propp, "The Eunuch Steward – A Trans-Asiatic Tale of Seduction and Castration," *International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies*

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/aps.1344/epdf>

### **23. All of it?!, or, High Anxiety 5/22**

Reading for next class:

Esther (whole book)

### **24. Impotence and farce, or, Esther: a biblical sitcom 5/27**

Reading for next class:

Deuteronomy 16:21; Judges 6:25; 1 Kings 15:13; 16:33; 18:19; 2 Kings 17:16

William G. Dever, *Did God Have a Wife?* (Eerdmans Publishing, 2005), 209-236 ADD PAGES ON KUNTILLET AJRUD

Exodus 34:11-16; Numbers chap. 25; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; 1 Kings 11:1-13; Hosea chaps. 1-3; Jeremiah chaps. 2-3, Ezekiel chaps. 16 and 23

Howard Eilberg-Schwartz, *God's Phallus* (Beacon Press, 1994), 97-109

Phyllis Bird, "'To Play the Harlot': An Inquiry into an Old Testament Metaphor," *Gender and Difference in Ancient Israel* (ed. Peggy L. Day; Augsburg Fortress, 1989), 75-94

Renita Weems, *Battered Love: Marriage, Sex, and Violence in the Hebrew Prophets* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995), 58-64, 96-98

### **25. God's wife (?) and God's gay lover (?!), or, Worship vs. whoreship 5/29**

Reading for next class:

NT Matthew 5:27-32; 19:1-26; Mark 12:18-25; Romans 1:14-32; I Corinthians chap. 5; 6:9-20; chap. 7; Galatians chap. 5; Colossians 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 1:8-10; Jude 1:7; 1 John 2:12-17; Revelation 14:1-5; 17:1-6

Robert A. Nye, ed., *Sexuality* (Oxford University Press, 1999), 31-66

## **26. Eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven: sex in the Christian tradition 6/1**

Reading for next class:

Michael S. Berger, "Marriage, Sex, and Family in the Jewish Tradition: A Historical Overview," pp. 1-14 in Michael J. Broyde and Michael Ausubel (eds.), *Marriage, Sex, and Family in Judaism* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005), 1-14

David Biale, *Eros and the Jews* (University of California Press, 1997), chap. 2

<http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft2489n812&brand=ucpress>

## **27. It's not just a good idea, it's the law: sexuality in rabbinic Judaism 6/3**

Reading for next class:

David Biale, *Eros and the Jews* (University of California Press, 1997), chap. 5

<http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft2489n812&brand=ucpress>

## **28. Kabbalistic sex – don't try this at home; summation 6/5**

**FINAL EXAM** Friday, June 12, 3-6 pm.

### **Additional Bibliography (Bible)**

Susan Ackerman, *When Heroes Love – the Ambiguity of Eros in the Stories of Gilgamesh and David* (Columbia University Press, 2005)

Danna Nolan Fewell and David M. Gunn, *Gender, Power, & Promise – The Subject of the Bible's First Story* (Abingdon Press, 1993)

Esther Fuchs, *Sexual Politics in the Biblical Narrative: Reading the Hebrew Bible as a Woman* (Sheffield Academic Press, 2000)

John Kaltner, Steven McKenzie and Joel Kilpatrick, *The Uncensored Bible: the Naughty and Bawdy Bits of the Good Book* (HarperOne, 2008)

Victor H. Mathews, Bernard M. Levinson and Tikva Frymer-Kensky, *Gender and Law in the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1998)

Susanne Scholz, *Sacred Witness: Rape in the Hebrew Bible* (Fortress, 2010)

## **Additional Bibliography (sex)**

Abramson, P. R., & Pinkerton, S. D. (1995). *With Pleasure: Thoughts on the Nature of Human Sexuality*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Beach, F. A. (Ed.). (1977). *Human Sexuality in Four Perspectives*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Diamond, J. (1997). *Why is Sex Fun? The Evolution of Human Sexuality*. New York: BasicBooks.

J. H. Geer & W. T. O'Donohue (Eds.), *Theories of Human Sexuality* (pp.335-362). New York: Plenum Press.

Strong, B., DeVault, C., & Sayad, B. W. (1996). *Core Concepts in Human Sexuality*. Mountain View: Mayfield Publishing Company.

Suggs, David N., and Miracle, Andrew W. ed. 1993. *Culture and Human Sexuality – A Reader* (Brooks/Cole Publishing.

Tiefer, L. (1995). *Sex is Not a Natural Act and Other Essays*. San Francisco: Westview Press.