

Delivered from Destruction: The Bible's Exodus and Virgil's Aeneid Syllabus

Instructor

Adam Rose

Quarter: Spring 2024

Start – end date: March 20 – May 8

Session day/time: Wednesday, 9:30 am – 12:45 pm

Course Code and Section: HUAS80110 24S1

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Course Overview

Origin or foundation epics are common to many cultures. In this course we will examine two such epics side-by-side: the Exodus epic (Exodus–Joshua) from the Bible, in which the Israelites are transformed from slaves in Egypt into masters in Canaan, and Virgil's Aeneid, in which the vanquished at Troy are transformed into the victors at (what will become) Rome. Through a careful consideration of both stories we will seek to better understand each epic in its own right as well as what the two stories have in common and what makes each story unique.

Modality

Remote learning

Note to students:

Students may wish to review Adler and Van Doren's *How to Read a Book* prior to, or concurrent with, this course. There is no official homework for Week 1 but a review of a review of the Book of Genesis and of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* will be helpful.

Required texts

1. The Bible (New Revised Standard Edition). Oxford / 978-0195283808.
(Or other.)
2. Virgil. *Aeneid* (Fagles translation). Penguin / 978-0143105138.
(Handouts will be provided on Canvas.)

OPTIONAL

3. Adler, Mortimer and Van Doren, Charles, *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*. Touchstone / 978-0671212094.

Books can be purchased online through the [University of Chicago Bookstore](#).

Course readings

Week	Before the Break	After the Break
Week 1	INTRODUCTION	Book of Genesis Review Homer's <i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i> Review
Week 2	Book of Exodus	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> : Books 1-2
Week 3	Book of Leviticus	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> : Books 3-4
Week 4	Book of Numbers	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> : Books 5-6
Week 5	Book of Deuteronomy, Chapters 1-26	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> : Books 7-8
Week 6	Book of Deuteronomy, Chapters 27-34	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> : Books 9-10
Week 7	Book of Joshua	Virgil, <i>Aeneid</i> : Books 11-12
Week 8	Book of Judges	"Romulus and Remus" [Handout] REVIEW & SYNTHESIS

Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the "Get Started" button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you've created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

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resources. Students are not obligated to respond to this outreach, and this will not generate a report to law enforcement.

For more information, please see [this handout for students](#) as well as the [University's Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#) and [Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment](#). You can also reach out directly for services and support from the [Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support](#) by emailing titleix@uchicago.edu.

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zmel@uchicago.edu.