# BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

**Winter Quarter, 2020**

**The Book of Genesis: A Close Reading**

## COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CODE &amp; SECTION</th>
<th>LENGTH OF COURSE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Book of Genesis: A Close Reading, Books 11-36</td>
<td>BASC80136 Sec. 20W7</td>
<td>10 WEEKS: January 7-March 10</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE SCHEDULE</th>
<th>CLASS LOCATION</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAYS: Tuesdays</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Stephen Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIMES: 7:00-8:30 PM</td>
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<td>PHONE: (847) 341-9991</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>EMAIL: <a href="mailto:halls@uchicago.edu">halls@uchicago.edu</a></td>
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## GRAHAM SCHOOL INFORMATION

PHONE: 773.702.1722  
WEBSITE: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu

## PREREQUISITES

None.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students should register before the course begins.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible for Judaism and Christianity and a book that has been the source of inspiration over the centuries for numerous other books, sermonic literature and other works of art. The dense narratives compiled in this ancient book invite the reader to participate in their drama to untangle plots and figure out characters. Moreover, these narratives include divine participation as character in the stories that for many become paradigmatic for an ongoing dialogue. Simply stated this course is a close reading of the Book of Genesis and it is the second in a three quarter sequence of reading the Book of Genesis.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Participants may read from any version of the Bible, but I would recommend the new translation with commentary by Robert Alter, *The Hebrew Bible: a Translation with Commentary* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019).
## WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>TEXT/READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Genesis 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>Genesis 12</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>Genesis 13-14</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>Genesis 15-16</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td>Genesis 17</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>Genesis 18-19</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>Genesis 20-21</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Genesis 22</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Genesis 23</td>
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<td>March 03</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Genesis 24-25</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
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This syllabus is a summary of course objectives and content, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.

### CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

### DISABILITY INFORMATION
Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.