We will read ancient texts about the creation of the world and the first humans; surprisingly vivid tales of sex and violence; warnings from prophets who claimed that God spoke to them about social inequality; and poetry that both praises God's greatness and questions his justice. We will discuss how these texts emerged in the ancient world, but also how they have been read in wildly diverse ways—from Jewish, Christian, and non-religious perspectives. The course will not only familiarize you with some of the most influential and dramatic literature in the world, but also to think critically about what you hear about the Bible in the media today. No prior knowledge is required.