

Kimberly Stratton -- PA 2A47
Office Hours: Wed. 1:30-2:30 pm
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Course Objectives

The Hebrew Bible is a core text of Western civilization, forming the backbone of the three monotheistic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. While Islam has its own foundational scripture, the Qur'an, the shared stories, history, and legal material of these two texts makes knowledge of the bible as worthwhile for Muslims as it is for Christians and Jews, whose religions are more directly founded upon the bible/Torah. This course approaches the Hebrew bible from an historical and text-critical perspective. That is to say, we will read the bible academically as a cultural product, not a sacred text, and try to understand it in its socio-historical setting. We will question who wrote the Bible and when; try to discern who were the ancient Israelites and what were their religious beliefs and practices. We will investigate how those beliefs and practices developed in response to historical events. Additionally, we will consider how those beliefs and practices have shaped the modern religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In what way are those modern religions different from or similar to the religion that produced the bible? This course will concentrate on primary sources: reading the bible and examining archaeological evidence for biblical history. In some cases the material evidence supports accounts in the bible; in others it raises questions or contradicts the biblical narrative. Religious conviction is welcomed in the course; students must be willing, however, to subject faith-based claims to the same critical inquiry as a text in any other course, whether literature, history, or philosophy. Careful reading and interpretation of the bible against the context of its historic background should help students develop critical thinking skills, that is, to base knowledge/opinion on thorough inquiry and available information rather than on authority or tradition. Additionally, this course will improve cultural literacy by expanding knowledge of the biblical texts and stories upon which so much of Western culture is based.

COURSE TEXTS:

The following texts are on order at *Octopus Books (in the Glebe), 116 Third Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 2K1 (613) 233-2589*:

New Oxford Annotated Bible. Augmented Third Edition. New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha. An Ecumenical Study Bible. Michael D. Coogan, ed. Oxford University Press, 2007.

The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of its Sacred Texts. Israel Finkelstein and Neil Asher Silberman. Simon and Schuster, 2002.
Making Sense of Religious Studies. Ed. Margot Northy, et al, eds. OUP, 2012.

The following texts are on Reserve at Carleton's MacOdrum Library:

Making Sense of Religious Studies. Ed. Margot Northy, et al, eds. OUP, 2012.

The Early History of God. Mark S. Smith. Eerdmans, 2002.

Myths from Mesopotamia: Creation, the Flood, Gilgamesh and Others. Ed. Stephanie Dalley. OUP, 1998.

The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of its Sacred Texts. Israel Finkelstein and Neil Asher Silberman. Simon and Schuster, 2002.

Who Were the Israelites and Where did they Come From? William Dever. Eerdmans, 2006.

Evaluation

Attendance (10%) – sign in for both parts of the class (before and after break)

First Essay (20%) – due Oct 18 (assignment posted on WebCT)

Second Essay (30%) – due November 29 (assignment posted on WebCT)

December Exam (40%) – date set by Exam Services, December 8-21

Class Schedule 2011

- Sept. 13 Introduction to the course:
 Why study the Bible? What is the nature and purpose of Myth?
Read: *Discourse and the Construction of Society*, Ch. 1, “Myth, Sentiment, and the Construction of Social Forms” (pp 15-26; link posted on WebCT)
Recommended: *Making Sense of Religious Studies*, Ch. 1; *Who Were the Early Israelites*, Ch. 12
- Sept. 20 Ancient Near Eastern Background
Read: “Epic of Gilgamesh” and “Enuma Elish/Babylonian Creation Story” (available through links on WebCT or on reserve in *Myths from Mesopotamia*).
- Sept 27 Creation x2 / Patriarchal Narrative
Read: Genesis
Recommended: *Bible Unearthed*, Ch. 1
- Oct 4 Captivity and flight from Egypt
Read: Exodus
Recommended: *Bible Unearthed*, Ch. 2
- Oct. 11 Conquest and Tribal Federation
Read: Joshua and Judges
Recommended: *Bible Unearthed*, Chs. 3 & 4

- Oct. 18 Rise of the Monarchy / 1st Essay due
Read: 1-2 Samuel
Recommended: *Bible Unearthed*, Chs. 5 & 6
- Oct 25 Division and Fall of two Kingdoms
Read: 1-2 Kings
Recommended: *Bible Unearthed*, Chs. 7 & 8
- Nov 1 Josianic Reforms and Israelite Religion
Read: Deuteronomy
Recommended: *Bible Unearthed*, Ch. 11; *The Early History of God*, Chs. 1, 2, & 3
- Nov 8 Prophets
Read: Jeremiah 1-44; Ezekiel 1-11, Isaiah 40-66
Recommended: *Bible Unearthed*, Ch. 12
- Nov. 15 Wisdom literature
Read: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job
- Nov. 22 Writing Workshop
Strongly Recommended: *Making Sense of Religious Studies*, Chs. 3-5, 8, 10, 15-18
(Guide for researching and writing interpretive essays in Religion)
- Nov. 29 Divine Love / Course Review / 2nd Essay Due
Read: Song of Songs

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 5, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2012**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov.11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please **contact** the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library