

**COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 2121A**

HEBREW BIBLE

Instructor: Shawna Dolansky

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Office hours: 2a52 PA, Wed 5:00-6:00PM

Office Phone: 520-2600 ex. (2930) *do not leave messages here*

Lectures: Mon/Wed 6:05-8:55PM, Southam Hall 316

Our **focus** in this course will be to view the variety of texts contained in the Hebrew Bible of ancient Israel within the historical, cultural, and religious contexts within which these texts developed. The history of the ancient Near East provides an important backdrop for the movement from polytheism to monotheism, from Israelite religion to Judaism, as well as the themes of covenant and theodicy and the ancients' understanding of the nature of the divine and its relationship with humanity. Although the Hebrew Bible continues to be a sacred text for the monotheistic traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, our goal will be to understand it from the perspective of its original authors and audiences, rather than adopting the lenses of the later history of interpretation.

Our **objectives** are: (a) to develop an academic approach to the study of religious texts, using the tools of literary study, anthropology, history, and archaeology; (b) to understand the history, culture, and worldview of ancient Israel as separate from and prior to the historical development of Judaism and Christianity; (c) to understand the variety of genres and source texts contained within the Hebrew Bible and appreciate the ways in which they operate both independently of and in combination with each other; and (d) to understand and appreciate the interaction between text and context, culture and history, in determining religious meaning.

Required Texts:

1. You will need a Bible. I have ordered the Jewish Publication Society's *Tanakh* (in English) for this class, but other modern Bible translations are acceptable. Modern translations include anything produced after the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls such as the Revised Standard and New Revised Standard Versions (RSV and NRSV), New English, Jerusalem, New International Version. Check the title page of any Bible you own to check the translation. Though poetic, the King James Version is not acceptable.
2. I will be uploading several articles to WebCT. These are required reading, as noted in the schedule below.
3. Richard E. Friedman's bestselling *Who Wrote the Bible?* Friedman offers an engaging look at how biblical scholarship works, and a very accessible introduction to how and when the Hebrew Bible was put together. This is also required reading, as noted on the schedule below (WWTB).

Evaluation:

1. Midterm examination, in class Monday May 28th, worth 30%.
2. Final examination, date TBA (during finals week June 22-27th), worth 40%.
3. Exegetical paper assignment, details TBA, due in class June 18th, worth 30%.

Schedule

May 7	Introduction to the course Worlds and Worldviews: Gen 1-3	
May 9	History and Covenant	WWTB intro & ch 1-4; Gen 4-15; Deut 28
May 14	Ancient Israel: Society and Culture	Gen 16-50; Prov 31
May 16	Exodus & the Ten Commandments	Ex 1-20, 24, 32-34; PDF articles online
May 21	VICTORIA DAY – NO CLASS	
May 23	Religious Rituals and Regulations	Lev 1, 6-7, 10-20, 22, 25; Deut 1-7, 10-14, 17-18, 22, 26-32; PDF articles online
May 28	MIDTERM EXAMINATION	
May 30	The Bible's Buried Secrets - screening	
June 4	The Israelite Monarchy: Literary & Historical Considerations	WWTB ch 5-6; 1Sam 1-19; 1Kgs 2-13, 15, 17-19; 2Kgs 17-25
June 6	The Documentary Hypothesis	WWTB ch 7-14; Ezra 7; Neh 8-9
June 11	The Prophets: Isaiah & Jeremiah	Isa 1-11, 36-40, 42, 45, 48-53, 59-63, 65-66 Jer 1, 3, 7, 11, 13, 16, 19-21, 23, 25-30, 36-45
June 13	The Prophets: Ezekiel & Jonah Wisdom Literature	Ezek 1-5, 16, 18, 23, 37; Jonah (all); Proverbs 1-10, 22-23
June 18	Wisdom and Theodicy	Ecclesiastes (all); Job (all)

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 **EARLY SUMMER** courses is **JUNE 19, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FULL SUMMER and LATE SUMMER** courses is **AUGUST 15, 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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

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