

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

**HEBREW BIBLE**

**Instructor:** Shawna Dolansky

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**Office hours:** Tu/Th 1:15-2:15pm Paterson 2a60

**Office Phone:** 520-2600 ext. 7029

**Lectures:** Tues/Thur 2:35-3:55pm, Mackenzie Building 3356

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 an accurate translation and won't work for this class. \***Note:** good Bible translations are also available online. I recommend biblegateway.com but choose NRSV translation in the dropdown menu.
2. I will be uploading several articles to CULearn. 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).
4. Stephanie Dalley's *Myths from Mesopotamia*; also required reading.
5. Optional (but encouraged): bibleodyssey.org – great timelines, maps, and short articles on all things biblical.

**Evaluation:**

1. Bi-weekly quizzes on lecture & reading material, worth 5% each, total of 30%.
2. Final examination, date TBA (during finals week), worth 30%.
3. Exegetical paper assignment, details TBA, due beginning of class November 30th, worth 30%.
4. Attendance and Participation, worth 10%.

## Schedule

Thurs. Sept. 7	Introduction to the course
Tues. Sept. 12	The Ancient Near East READ: Dalley pp. xv-xxii; Dolansky, "The Multiple Truths of Myths" on CULearn
Thurs. Sept. 14	The Epic of Creation: Enuma Elish READ: Dalley pp. 228-277
Tues. Sept. 19	The Epic of Gilgamesh READ: Dalley pp. 39-135
Thurs. Sept. 21	NO CLASS TODAY
Tues. Sept. 26	Intro to the Hebrew Bible READ: WWTB ch. 1; <a href="http://bibleodyssey.org/places/related-articles/gilgamesh-and-the-bible.aspx">http://bibleodyssey.org/places/related-articles/gilgamesh-and-the-bible.aspx</a> <i>Quiz 1</i>
Thurs. Sept. 28	Worlds & Worldviews READ: Genesis 1-3 Optional: <a href="http://bibleodyssey.org/people/related-articles/goddess-in-the-garden.aspx">http://bibleodyssey.org/people/related-articles/goddess-in-the-garden.aspx</a>
Tues. Oct. 3	Primeval History READ: Gen 4-11; WWTB Intro & ch. 2 & 3
Thurs. Oct. 5	Myth, History, & Covenant READ: Gen 12-27; Deut 28
Tues. Oct. 10	Matriarchs & Patriarchs READ: Gen 28-50; Prov 31 <i>Quiz 2</i>
Thurs. Oct. 12	Exodus READ: Exodus 1-18
Tues. Oct. 17	The 10 Commandments READ: Exodus 19-40
Thurs. Oct. 19	NO CLASS TODAY
Tues Oct. 23	FALL BREAK
Thurs. Oct. 25	FALL BREAK
Tues. Oct 31	Biblical Religion: Leviticus READ: Lev 1, 6-7, 10-20, 22, 25 <i>Quiz 3</i>
Thurs. Nov. 2	Biblical Religion: Deuteronomy READ: Deut 1-7, 10-14, 17-18, 22, 26-32
Tues. Nov. 7	Archaeology and the Bible READ: Judges 1-5; "Pagan Yahwism"

- Thurs. Nov. 9           The Deuteronomistic History  
READ: WWTB ch. 4-9  
*Quiz 4*
- Tues. Nov. 14           The Documentary Hypothesis  
READ: WWTB ch. 10-14
- Thurs. Nov. 16           The Rise of Ancient Israel  
READ: 1 & 2 Samuel (all)
- Tues. Nov. 21           The Fall of Ancient Israel  
READ: 1 Kings (all); 2 Kings 1-10, 17-25  
*Quiz 5*
- Thurs. Nov. 23           Intro to the Prophets: Isaiah  
READ: Isa 1-11, 36-40, 42, 45, 48-53, 59-63, 65-66
- Tues. Nov. 28           Jeremiah  
READ: Jer 1, 3, 7, 11, 13, 16, 19-21, 23, 25-30, 36-45
- Thurs. Nov. 30           Ezekiel and Jonah  
READ: Ezek 1-5, 18, 23, 37; Jonah (all)  
*Quiz 6*  
***Exegetical paper due at BEGINNING of class.***
- Tues. Dec. 5            Intro to the Wisdom literature  
READ: Proverbs 1-10, 22-23; Ecclesiastes (all)
- Thurs. Dec. 7            Job  
READ: Job (all; you can skim the extended poetry of Job's "friends" in the middle part)



## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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

### Academic Integrity at Carleton

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Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the instructor 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the instructor 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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## Grading System at Carleton University

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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System Chart](#)

## Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

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Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## Statement on Class Conduct

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The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and

preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

## Deferred Term Work

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In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Exams

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Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office **no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination;** and
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and in cases of illness by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

**NEW FALL 2017:** WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

**Dates can be found here:** <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Department Contact Information

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**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)