

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
SUMMER 2005**

05/07/05 - Revised

Introduction to the Bible RELS 273 L60
Instructor: Mr. Eli Reich
Class Time: M/W, 11:00 a.m.-13:45 p.m.
Office/Hours: SS 1322/TBA
Phone: 220-3285
Email: reiche@shaw.ca

Required Texts:

- 1) *Gospel Parallels*: NRSV Edition by Jr., Burton H. Throckmorton, Nelson, 1992.
- 2) E. P. Sanders, *The Historical Figure of Jesus*, Penguin, 1996.
- 3) *Jewish Study Bible*, Michael Fishbane, editor, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Course Description:

Selected readings and topics from the Bible in English translation. The course introduces the Bible's role as a foundational text for Judaism and Christianity. Topics include: beginnings, ideologies, law, narrative and history, interpretation and re-interpretation. This course will introduce you to the Bible and the academic modes of reading this classical text. By the term "Bible" we mean the two major parts found in the English edition: the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Since the Hebrew Bible is an anthology of ancient Hebrew religious literature, we will only discuss selected chapters in depth. The selections are grouped according to themes. In the New Testament we will focus on major books. The interplay found in the Bible of religious ideas, literary imagination, and historical reality presents us with a challenging case study in cultural interpretation.

Core Competencies:

Class participants can expect to gain a general understanding of the literary forms, themes and posited historical backgrounds of the Bible. Students will begin to understand the complex cultural processes that eventually produced the Bible, and receive hands-on experience of the challenges and discoveries that await the patient, critical and open-minded interpreter. A variety of perspectives will be utilized, ranging from the disciplines of Religious Studies and biblical Criticism, to Contemporary Literary Theory and Cultural Studies.

Course Requirements:

The course will be a combination of lectures and class discussion. The discussion in class will rest on the assumption that students have prepared the selected readings.

There will be an **in-class mid-term** exam on July 20, which will count as 30% of your grade. Each student will select a paper topic in consultation with the Instructor no later than Aug 3, and submit a five-page paper on Aug 10, that will count as 30% of your grade. There will be a **Registrar scheduled final examination**, worth 40%.

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation:

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Recording of lectures:

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Safewalk Programme:

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

Schedule of meetings and readings.

Key to abbreviations: JSB = Jewish Study Bible; Sanders = Sanders, Historical Figure of Jesus; Throckmorton = Gospel Parallels, edited by Throckmorton.

July 4: What is the Bible? JSB: Adele Berlin and Marc Brettler, “Historical and Geographical Background to the Bible”, pp. 2048- 2062; JSB :Adele Berlin and Marc Brettler, *The Modern Study of the Bible*, pp. 2084-2096.

July 6: Beginnings: **A:** Genesis 1-2:4a; Genesis 2:4b-24; 4:8-16; 4:20-22, 26; Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 7, 10, 12, 17-20, 22-23; 8:6, 8-12, 20-22; Genesis 11; **B:** Psalms 104; **C:** Exodus 1-2:25; 7: 1-7; 12:21-37; Judges 17-21. JSB: Marc Brettler, *Torah*, pp. 1-7; Jon Levenson, *Genesis* pp. 8-11.

July 11: Temple & Sacrifice & Priesthood: **A:** Genesis 4:2-5; **B:** Genesis 8:15-22; **C:** Genesis 28:10-22; **D:** Exodus 25-27:19; 29:42b-46; 40:33-38; Leviticus 9:23-24; **E:** I Kings 8; **F:** Psalms 15; 23; 24; 93; **G:** Ezekiel 8-11, 43:1-7; **H:** Ezra 1, 3.: JSB: Stephen Geller “Religion of the Bible” pp. 2021-2040; JSB: Jonathan Klawans, *Concepts of Purity in the Bible*; Baruch Schwartz, *Leviticus* pp. 203-206.

July 13: The Prophet: **A:** Jeremiah 1; 7, 26; **B:** Exodus 3:1-8, 16-17; 4:1-4; 6-7, 10-12; **C:** Isaiah 6; **D:** Amos. JSB: Marc Brettler, *Nevi'im* , pp. 451-461; Benjamin Sommer, *Isaiah* pp. 780-784; Marvin Sweeney, *Jeremiah* pp. 917-920; Ehud Ben Zvi, *Amos*, pp. 1176-1177.

July 18: Narrative Ideology: Genesis 34 and JSB commentary; Genesis 37, 39-47:12; Book of Ruth, pp. Adele Reinhartz, *Ruth*, pp. 1578-1579 and her running commentary to the book.

July 20: From Covenant to Torah: **A:** Gen 2:15-17; Genesis 9:8; **B:** Exodus 19:2b-9; 19; 20: 1-20; 21:1; 24: 3-8, 12, 15a, 18b; 31:18; 32:1-24; 32:30-35; 34:1, 4, 28; **C:** Psalm 1, 19; **D:** II Kings 22; **E:** Nehemiah 8-9. JSB: Benjamin Sommer, *Inner-biblical interpretation*; Hindy Najman, *Ezra* pp. 1666-1671; Marc Brettler, *The Canonization of the Bible* ; Adele Berlin and Marc Brettler, *Psalms*, pp. 1280-1284.

July 27 The Human Condition & Faith:

Psalm 8; Job 28; Isaiah 11: 1-9; Song of Solomon; Ecclesiastes 1-6; 12. JSB: Mayer Gruber, *Job* pp. 1499-1505; Elsie Stern, *Song of Songs* pp. 1564-1566; Peter Machinist, *Ecclesiastes* pp. 1603-1606. Genesis 12, 22 with commentary on selected passages; Deuteronomy 4-6; 26:1-11; 1 Sam 8; Deut 17:14-20. JSB: Bernard Levinson, *Deuteronomy* pp. 356-363 and on the selected passages; David Stern, *Midrash and Midrashic Interpretation*; Avigdor Shinan, *The Bible in the Synagogue* .

Aug 3: Introduction to New Testament and the Gospel of Mark: All of the Gospel of Mark (in *Throckmorton*); *Sanders*, chapters: 2, 6, 7, 9. Look up the passages referred to by Sanders (in *Throckmorton*).

Aug 8: Gospel of Matthew: All of the Gospel of Matthew (in *Throckmorton*); *Sanders*, chapters: 11-13;

Aug 10: Gospel of Luke: All of the Gospel of Luke (in *Throckmorton*); *Sanders*, chapters 14-15;

Aug 15: Sanders, chapters 16-17, and the relevant chapters in *Throckmorton (The Days in Jerusalem # 196- end)*.