

**University of Calgary**  
**Faculty of Arts**  
**Department of Religious Studies**  
**RELS 301 L01: Studies in Hebrew Bible / Old Testament**  
**Course Outline, Winter 2012**

**Instructor:** Dr. L. Eslinger  
**Course days and time:** MWF 10:00-10:50am  
**Classroom:** SH 288  
**Office:** SS 1334  
**Office hours:** M 3:30-4:30pm  
**Telephone:** 403-220-3281  
**E-mail:** [eslinger@ucalgary.ca](mailto:eslinger@ucalgary.ca)

**Textbooks**

Attridge, Harold W., ed. 2006. *The HarperCollins Study Bible*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco.  
Collins, John J. 2007. *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

**Course activities and objective**

In RELS 301 students read literature about and from the Hebrew Bible. The objective of the course is for students to come to an understanding of the nature of religion, generally, and of the religion of ancient Israel in particular. All study is done in English translation (New Revised Standard Version English translation, *The HarperCollins Study Bible*).

Secondary objectives arising from learning activities:

1. To develop reading and analytical skills arising from close readings of assigned primary and secondary texts (in-class as well as pre-class preparation).
2. To develop skills in contributing to group discussion and advancing thought about a common focus (the ancient religious literature of the Bible) (in-class and Blackboard virtual discussions).
3. To develop writing (organization and development of an argument; efficient editing strategies; critical penetration skills) and thinking skills arising from group discussion.

**Weekly class activities**

1. Reading and reflecting on the assigned readings (preparation prior to class and in-class).
2. Group discussion of the readings (in-class and Blackboard virtual discussions).
3. Written in-class responses to set questions arising from the assigned readings.

**Evaluation**

1. (35%) written weekly critical reflections (in-class) arising from the assigned primary readings in the Hebrew Bible (*The HarperCollins Study Bible*).
2. (35%) written weekly critical reflections (in-class) arising from the assigned secondary readings from J.J. Collins *Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*.
3. (30%) discussion participation (active learning [20%] and attendance [10%]); assessed weekly.

*\*There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam for this course.*

**Grading scale**

A+ >96; A >90; A- >85; B+ >80; B >75; B- >70; C+ >65; C >60; C- >55; D+ >50; D >45; F <44.

### **Academic Honesty**

Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity (*University Calendar*, see index item, "Misconduct, academic").

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

### **Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQ's about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>. Instructions for using the Digital Drop Box are available here: [http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6\\_1/student/bbbs\\_r6\\_1\\_student/digital\\_drop\\_box.htm](http://library.blackboard.com/docs/r6/6_1/student/bbbs_r6_1_student/digital_drop_box.htm).

### **Gnosis**

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

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

### **Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative**

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### **Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints). Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Safewalk**

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.