

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016

Course	RELS 301 L01: Studies in The Hebrew Bible / Old Testament
Time	TR 12:30 pm – 13:45 pm
Instructor	Prof. E. Segal
Office Hours	Tuesday 13:45 PM – 14:45 PM or by appointment
Office	SS 548
E-mail	eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca
Telephone	403.220.3279

Required Text(s):

Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

Attridge, Harold W., Wayne A. Meeks, and Jouette M. Bassler, eds. *The HarperCollins Study Bible*. Student edition. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2006.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the diverse contents of the Hebrew Bible (also known as the “Old Testament” by Christians; “*Mikra*” or “*TaNaKh*” in Judaism), and to the historical conditions that gave rise to and shaped these writings, as these are understood by academic scholarship. You will be expected to become familiar with:

- selected aspects of the ancient Near Eastern context in which the biblical texts arose;
- the general contents of the Hebrew Bible, including its organization, distinct genres, story lines, and prominent characters, themes, and episodes;
- scholarly perspectives on ancient Israel’s formation and history, and the way that history shaped these writings; and
- different interpretive stances among various religious traditions and communities.

Core Competencies:

Students will work on the following skills: critical appraisal of arguments and theories; practical application of theories and concepts presented in course readings and lectures; and clear expression of ideas.

Course Requirements:

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
To be chosen by the student.	12 short (about 250 words) personal responses to class reading assignments (at least two apiece for each biblical genre) to be submitted prior to the class in question. A D2L dropbox will be set up to submit the responses.	50%
Mar 31, 2016	Research proposal with preliminary bibliography	10%
Apr 14, 2016	Research essay, approximately 2,000 words (seven double-spaced pages)	40%

There will be no Registrar-administered Final Examination in this course.

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, standardized within the Department of Classics and Religion:

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.

Electronic Device Policy:

Although respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed, if students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies or urgent matters only (i.e., under normal circumstances: never). Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices.

Syllabus:

A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

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 (section K, which can be found here:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.)If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

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.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at ascarts@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 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 Student Ombuds Office 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 for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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. 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.