

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

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2018

Course: RELS 344-01 Bible as Literature
Time: TR 9:30-10:45
Instructor: Craig W. C. Ginn, PhD
Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30 by appointment; additional hours by appointment
Office: SS 516
E-mail: cwcginn@ucalgary.ca
Telephone: (403) 220-5695

Required Text(s):

The Bible: The Basics. John Barton. New York, NY: Routledge, 2010, Print.

Bible Readings: Sections from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament will be assigned. Students will be directed to online sources.

Additional readings will consist of journal articles. Readings will be posted on D2L.

Course Description:

“An exploration of the various literary genres that make up the sixty-six books of the Bible, understood as a compilation of human literature reflecting millennia of communal struggle, vision, and engaged reception.” – U of C Calendar

This course will explore the Bible (consisting of the Hebrew Bible and Christian New Testament) through a survey of its major episodes, themes, and literary styles emphasizing the particular significance of the Hebrew Bible to Jewish readers and the New Testament to Christian readers. Matters of reception will be discussed, including its reception by western culture and other western religious traditions such as Islam, Mormonism, and Jehovah’s Witnesses. Course material will introduce students to the historical context(s) of the writers, the process of redaction and canonization, methods in higher criticism, and a variety of hermeneutical approaches.

*No prerequisites required to take this course

Online elements for this course:

Accessing D2L, online texts, and websites.

Core Competencies:

Upon completion of this course, students will become familiar with:

- the historical backdrop and development of the Bible
- literary genres of the Bible
- the religious and social institutions evident in the Bible
- the canonization of the Bible
- critical methods in the study of the Bible
- cultural-universal and descriptive-prescriptive understandings expressed in the Bible
- modern hermeneutical approaches to the Bible
- doctrinal understanding of the Bible as a source of inspiration
- the reception of the Bible in western culture and religious traditions

Course Requirements:

Assessment	Date	Weight (%)
Assignment #1	February 15 Due at the beginning of class (9:30)	20%
Midterm Exam	March 1	30%
Assignment #2	April 5 Due at the beginning of class (9:30)	20%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by the Registrar's Office	30%

Final Examination Period:

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. Students must be available to write the final exam on the day and time set by the Registrar's Office, up to the last day of the examination period as specified in the Academic Schedule. The dates of the final exam period are April 16-26. A final exam cannot be deferred for misreading the final examination schedule or accommodating travel plans or work schedules. Valid reasons include illness or personal emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction. Students with three exams in 24 hours may defer one of their exams to the deferred final examination period. For further information see Deferred

Exams <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

Assignment #1 Hebrew Bible:

Select from one of the following:

1. Interpretation. Select a passage from the Hebrew Bible and discuss three differing interpretations.
2. Translation. Select a passage from the Hebrew Bible and discuss how three different translations affect meaning.
3. Artistic Influence. Discuss the use of the Hebrew Bible in music, movies, visual art, or literary works.
4. Social influence. Discuss the use of the Hebrew Bible in law, ethics, social morality, or politics.
5. Other ideas? Students may propose a different assignment topic. Proposals must be submitted for approval by the instructor by 4:30 pm on February 8.

Length: 800-1000 words. A word count must be clearly identified at the end of the assignment. Do not exceed 1000 words. Assignments that exceed 1000 words will be deducted 5% per 100 excess words. The assignment must be double spaced. Chicago, MLA, or APA are acceptable citation formats.

Due at the beginning of class (9:30) on February 15. For students unable to attend class on February 15, there is a drop box for assignments at the Department of Classics and Religion located on the 5th floor of the Social Sciences Building.

Assignment #2 New Testament:

Select from one of the following:

1. Interpretation. Select a passage from the New Testament and discuss three differing interpretations.
2. Translation. Select a passage from the New Testament and discuss how three different translations affect meaning.
3. Artistic Influence. Discuss the use of the New Testament in music, movies, visual art, or literary works.
4. Social influence. Discuss the use of the New Testament in law, ethics, social morality, or politics.
5. Other ideas? Students may propose a different assignment topic. Proposals must be submitted for approval by the instructor by 4:30 pm on March 29.

Length: 800-1000 words. A word count must be clearly identified at the end of the assignment. Do not exceed 1000 words. Assignments that exceed 1000 words will be deducted 5% per 100 excess words. The assignment must be double spaced. Chicago, MLA, or APA are acceptable citation formats.

Due at the beginning of class (9:30) on April 5. For students unable to attend class on April 5, there is a drop box for assignments at the Department of Classics and Religion located on the 5th floor of the Social Sciences Building.

Writing Assistance:

The instructor will not read through or evaluate an assignment in advance of the due date. If a student would like to present a rough draft of an assignment to the instructor in advance of the due date, the student may arrange appointment with the instructor. The instructor will read select sections of the draft and advise the student according to the grading expectations and, if applicable, the marking rubric. All meetings to review a rough draft must be requested by email no less than one week before the applicable submission deadline. Therefore, requests to review a rough draft of Assignment #1 must be received by email on or before February 8. Requests to review a rough draft of Assignment #2 must be received by email on or before March 29. Do not email the rough draft to the instructor. For assistance in writing, students are advised to consult Writing and Learning Services.

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, usually used 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

Adjusted Grades:

The instructor will implement .5% as a standard measure of adjustment for grades. For example, a final grade of 64.5% (C) will be rounded up to 65% (C+). Please do not send email inquiries asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' your final grade.

Policy with regard to missed assessments:

If a student misses a test, the student must provide the instructor with supporting documentation (note from doctor, counselor, accident report, etc.) within 48 hours of the absence. If documentation is not provided within 48 hours, the student will not be provided an opportunity to make up the test and will receive a numerical mark of zero for the missed test.

Policy with regard to late submissions:

Late submissions of assignments are deducted 15% per day. Students seeking an extension for an assignment must make a written request by email at least 48 hours before the deadline.

Extra Assignments:

There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to submit extra work or retake tests to increase their grade.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

Please be courteous toward other students in the course. For students who raise questions during class, please contribute to the resourceful use of classroom time by limiting the number of questions you ask in each class. While evaluative inquiries are permitted, students are encouraged to steer their inquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

Expectations for email correspondence in this course:

Email must be sent from a U of C email account. Please do NOT send from other accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail.

Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by name and the course you are registered in. Please do not send email inquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and final exam schedule for schedule information. Inquiries related to exams or assignments must be sent no less than 48 hours before a deadline.

The instructor will reply to emails on business days.

Electronic Device Policy:

Laptops are permitted during class if used for the purpose of taking lecture notes. Do not use laptops during class for email, Facebook, or other social or recreational activities. Cell phones must be turned off during the entire class time. Texting during class is not permitted. Taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted, including picture-taking of data projector images and slides. Students that distract the instructor or other students due to the misuse of electronic devices during class will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the lecture.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulations E.6, "With the permission of the instructor, students may tape record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a Release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered." Regulation E.6 includes the notification to students, "Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion." Regulation E.6 includes a statement on the Copyright Act: "The Copyright Act and the copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors."

Office hours:

Office hours are structured in 15-minute appointments. Sign-up sheets for appointments are posted on the instructor's door at SS 516. If a student is not able to meet with the instructor during office hours, the student may request to meet at an alternative time during department hours. Appointments for meetings outside of office hours must be requested in person before or after class, followed by an email confirmation. If a student requires an extended meeting, the student must make an appointment outside of the instructor's scheduled office hours during department hours. Generally extended meetings will not exceed 30 minutes and will be scheduled on a weekly basis according to the instructor's availability. Appointments for extended meetings must be requested in person before or after class, followed by an email request identifying the list of items the student would like to discuss. Note: The instructor will not be available for office hours during Reading Week (February 18-25).

Syllabus:

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

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, or librarian staff.

Student Accommodations

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

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.

Freedom of Information and Privacy

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP): <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act indicates that assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your express permission. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone

else without your permission. As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number on each subsequent page.

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.