



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION
COURSE OUTLINE
Block Week Winter 2022**

COURSE NUMBER: RELS 344-01

COURSE NAME: The Bible as Literature

CLASSROOM LOCATION: Lectures delivered online via Zoom

CLASS DAYS & TIMES: MTWRF 09:00 - 17:30 via zoom

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT INCLUDING UCALGARY EMAIL & PHONE: Craig Ginn, PhD
cwcginn@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: During block week MTWRF 17:30-18:00. The instructor will meet with students after class via zoom. After block week, the instructor will be available by appointment. Please contact the instructor via email to make an appointment.

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY: Email must be sent through your 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 24 hours before a deadline. The instructor will reply to emails on business days.

COURSE CALENDAR STATEMENT: 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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will explore the Bible (consisting of the Hebrew Bible and Christian New Testament) through a survey of its key figures, major episodes, themes, and literary styles. The writings of the Hebrew will be against the background and cultural context of Israelite religion and Judaism. The writings of the New Testament will be explored against the background and cultural context of Jesus' ministry and the later emergence of Christianity. Course material will introduce students to the cultural context of the writers and the process of redaction and canonization. Various perspectives will be explored relating to the nature of the Bible, methods in higher criticism and approaches to interpretation. The reception of the Bible will be considered as an inspired/inspiring scripture and as a work of human literature.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- discuss the historical backdrop and development of the Bible
- identify literary genres of the Bible
- recognize cultural distinctives evident in the biblical narrative

- explain the composition and canonization of the Bible
- implement critical methods in the study of the Bible
- explore the cultural-universal and descriptive-prescriptive paradigm
- distinguish modern hermeneutical approaches to the Bible
- distinguish perspectives related to the nature of the Bible
- explore the reception of the Bible in western culture and religious traditions

LEARNING RESOURCES: *Literary Study of the Bible: An Introduction*. Christopher Hodgkins. New Jersey and West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell, 2020.

Note: The textbook is required as listed above. If a student has access to an online version that is without page numbers, it is the responsibility of the student to synchronize the readings with the required textbook.

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

Additional web-based resources and readings will be posted on D2L.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS: There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca). In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;

A current and updated web browser;

Webcam (built-in or external);

Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;

Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;

Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

CLASS SCHEDULE: Posted on D2L

EXAMINATIONS: *This course has a final examination scheduled for February 12.*

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS:

Assessment	Date	Weight (%)
Test 1	Access to Test 1 on D2L from 5:00 pm January 3 until 5:00 pm January 4. (Based on course materials from January 3).	5%
Test 2	Access to Test 2 on D2L from 5:00 pm January 4 until 5:00 pm January 5. (Based on course materials from January 4).	10%

Test 3	Access to Test 3 on D2L from 5:00 pm January 5 until 5:00 pm January 6. (Based on course materials from January 5).	10%
Test 4	Access to Test 4 on D2L from 5:00 pm January 6 until 5:00 pm January 7. (Based on course materials from January 6).	10%
Test 5	Access to Test 5 on D2L from 5:00 pm January 7 until 5:00 pm January 8. (Based on course materials from January 7).	10%
Written Assignment	Students must submit their assignment as a word document in Dropbox between January 24-28	25%
Final Exam	Access to the Final Exam on D2L from 8:00 am February 12 until 8:00 February 13. (The final exam is comprehensive, based on all course materials including lectures, films, textbook readings, and Bible readings.	30%

TESTS 1-5: Tests 1-5 for this course are completed online. Each test will be available for a 24-hour period on D2L from 5:00 pm until 5:00 pm the following day. Tests are timed, requiring students to complete the test within a specified time limit.

Tests are not “open book.” Students are not permitted to consult any course materials while completing any of the module tests. The use of course materials during a test constitutes academic misconduct. Students must complete on-line tests individually. Collaboration with other students in taking tests is not permitted and constitutes academic misconduct.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam will be completed online. The final exam will be available for a 24-hour period D2L from 8:00 am February 12 until 8:00 February 13. (5:00 pm until 5:00 pm the following day). Tests are timed, requiring students to complete the test within a specified time limit.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT:

Select from ONE of the following:

1. Interpretation. Select a passage from EITHER the Hebrew Bible or New Testament. Compare and contrast three differing interpretations.
2. Translation. Select a passage from EITHER the Hebrew Bible or New Testament and discuss how three different translations affect meaning.
3. Artistic Influence. Discuss the use of EITHER the Hebrew Bible or New Testament in music, movies, visual art, OR literary works.
4. Social influence. Discuss the use of EITHER the Hebrew Bible or New Testament in law, ethics, social morality, OR politics.

Length: 1500-1800 words. A word count must be clearly identified at the end of the assignment. Do not exceed 1800 words. Assignments that exceed 1800 words will be deducted 5% per 100 excess words. The assignment must be double spaced. Chicago, MLA, or APA are acceptable citation formats.

Due: Students must submit their assignment as a **word document** in Dropbox between January 24-28. Assignments submitted after January 28 will be deducted 5% per day.

WRITING ASSISTANCE: For assistance in writing, students are advised to consult Writing Support.

https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect

FINAL GRADES: The instructor will implement a standard measure of adjustment (.5%) for final 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. Only final grades are adjusted (individual tests and assignments will not be rounded up). There are no extra assignments for this course. Students will not be given an opportunity to resubmit assignments or retake tests to increase their grade.

WEIGHTING OF ASSESSMENTS: The weighting for assessments is identified above. The weighting of assessments will not be changed to accommodate individual student requests.

REVIEWING TESTS: The online tests for this course display the student's final score. Individual test answers are not displayed. For students interested in seeing individual test answers, please make an appointment with the instructor at the end of the term after all tests are completed. At that time, you can review all your test answers via zoom.

INABILITY TO COMPLETE A TEST WITHIN THE ACCESS TIME PERIOD: If a student does not complete a test within the test access time period due to illness or an emergency, except in the case of extenuating circumstances, the student must report the incomplete test to the instructor within 24 hours. If a makeup test is approved by the instructor, the student must take the initiative to arrange a time to complete the test within one week from the date the test access closed.

GRADING: A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned based 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

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING: All written assignments will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the writing support services in the Learning Commons. For further information, please refer to the official online University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, E. Course Information, E.2: Writing Across the Curriculum:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS: Please submit all assignments electronically in the dropbox in D2L. Please submit assignments as a word document. Assignments should have a file name as follows: “First Name Last Name Description of Assignment” (e.g., Alex Smith Research Assignment). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59 pm on their due date. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

CONDUCT: Please be courteous during zoom sessions and in email correspondence.

As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS: Lectures will be delivered via Zoom. Zoom will be used for office hours to meet individually with students also.

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss course material as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor’s permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/> .

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These

recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK: Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION: It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

RESEARCH ETHICS: not applicable

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-

sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY: Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION: All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

MEDIA RECORDING:

Media recording for lesson capture - The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

NOTE: Students are encouraged to type questions in the chat section of zoom.

Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices - The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

Media recording for the assessment of student learning - The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY: The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please visit the Registrar's website at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk