



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION  
COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2023**

**COURSE NUMBER: RELS 344**  
**COURSE NAME: The Bible as Literature**

**CLASSROOM LOCATION: SS 541 (Social Sciences, Room 541)**  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/calendar-scheduling/room-ss-541>

**CLASS DAYS & TIMES: Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays, 1400–1450 (normally in person)**

**INSTRUCTOR: George Ferzoco, [george.ferzoco@ucalgary.ca](mailto:george.ferzoco@ucalgary.ca) (office hours to be established)**

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL POLICY: The instructor will only be opening e-mails sent from a @ucalgary.ca address; e-mails sent from other domains (e.g., gmail.com) may be deleted unopened. The instructor will respond on Mondays to Fridays to e-mails sent on Mondays to Fridays. Response will normally be within 2 business days of receipt; if you have not received a response within that time frame, please send a (gentle) reminder. This correspondence is of a **business** nature, so you are expected to write by starting with 'Dear George' or 'Dear Professor'; do not begin with 'Hey' or 'Yo' (as some seem to do habitually).**

**Please include the subject of your email and clearly identify yourself by your first name and your surname, your UCID number, and the course and section in which you are registered.** Please do not send email enquiries related to dates and deadlines. Students shall refer to the university calendar, course outline, and D2L for schedule and other information. Enquiries related to tests or assignments must be sent no less than 48 hours before a deadline.

**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 Hours: 3 units; (3-0)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course will deal with the Christian Bible. In addition to the above, the notion and content of selected 'apocryphal' books will be examined and the changing history of biblical interpretation and reception will be studied. Suitably, the course will contain a study of a major literary work in order to reflect upon the profound influence of literary aspects of the Bible itself.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

1. Acquired a clear understanding of literary contexts of the Bible.
2. Acquired, through reasoned arguments based on evidence, an informed understanding of how Christians – and others – have read and understood Biblical narrative.
3. Acquired skills through written assignments and class discussion of how to present, analyse and evaluate complex ideas and arguments.

### LEARNING RESOURCES

There is one required text for this unit:

*The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha. New Revised Standard Version.* General editor: Michael Coogan. Published by Oxford University Press.

You should use the most recent edition (the fifth, published 2018) but you may use the previous one (the fourth, published 2010). The fifth edition (ISBN 9780190276041) is on sale in the University Bookstore; the older (and smaller and more dated) edition is online via the University Library. All other readings will be available electronically via either the University of Calgary Library or on D2L.

### LEARNING REQUIREMENTS AND LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

The D2L site for this course will contain required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2l.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca)). Some classes will be devoted to screenings of videos. For the online portions of this course, in order to successfully engage in your learning experience, you 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 and Zoom application
- a webcam
- a microphone and speaker or a headset with microphone
- a current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled
- stable broadband internet connection

### CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS – main dates [subject to change]

**9 January** – first class

19 January – last day to drop without financial penalty; end of refund period

20 January – last day to add or swap a course

27 January – tuition fee payment deadline

**7 February** – Assignment #1 (worth 25% of final grade): essay (650 words)

19–25 February – term break (no classes)

**7 March** – Assignment #2 (worth 25% of final grade): essay (650 words)

**27 March** – Assignment #3 (worth 25% of final grade): essay (650 words)

**12 April** – Assignment #4 (worth 25% of final grade): essay (650 words)

Further details of assignments, and criteria for assessment, will be made available on D2L. There is no Registrar's scheduled final exam.

## MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If you miss a required component of the course, you must contact me in writing within 24 hours to discuss options to submit for that component. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

## 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. Below you will find: letter grade; numerical mark range; and grade point value

<b>A+ 96–100 4.0</b>	<b>B 75–79 3.0</b>	<b>C- 55–59 1.7</b>
<b>A 90–95 4.0</b>	<b>B- 70–74 2.7</b>	<b>D+ 53–54 1.3</b>
<b>A- 85–89 3.7</b>	<b>C+ 65–69 2.3</b>	<b>D 50–52 1.0</b>
<b>B+ 80–84 3.3</b>	<b>C 60–64 2.0</b>	<b>F 0–49 0.0</b>

A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each element separately in order to pass the course.

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content. See also <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>.

### Adjusted 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+). Such adjustments will take place after everyone has completed the tests and their marks have been entered.

Do not send emails asking the instructor to increase or 'round up' or 'bell' everyone's final grade (including your own, of course). Also, do not tell the instructor you: 1) always get higher marks in your other courses; 2) must get a certain grade in order to get your degree or to be admitted to another program; 3) should get a higher mark because you worked very hard.

## EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING

As noted above, all written assignments will be assessed in good part 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. Please be sure to consult a manual of style for your written assignments. I am happy with whatever one you use, but you need to indicate to me which one you are using. If you need recommendations, the latest edition of either of the following would be fine: *The Chicago Manual of Style*; *MLA Handbook*; *Turabian: A Manual for Writers*.

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:

### ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions.

### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all assignments electronically via the Dropbox in D2L. **Assignments must be submitted in Word.** Assignments must have a file name as follows: "Surname, GivenName - RELS 387 Assignment numeral" (e.g.: Smith, Alex - RELS 387 Assignment 2). Assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm 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

Students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. 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>

In general, please be courteous toward other students in the course, and to the instructor. Be respectful of people's feelings, and of classroom facilities (e.g., do not put feet up on chairs or desks), or unduly take up desk space.

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.

Be respectful of your instructor's voice and hearing; to this end, you must sit closer to the front of the class than the back, and speak loudly and clearly when asking questions. (Of course, do not enter into discussions with classmates during lectures unless otherwise instructed.)

Be respectful of classroom space. Seating in the course is reserved for students registered in the course. Guests are permitted to attend a lecture if seats are available. All guests must obtain the permission of the instructor in advance to attend a lecture.

Be considerate of the shared learning environment. Avoid distracting behavior and activities. Focus on objective inquiry. While critical evaluation is permitted in this course, students are encouraged to steer inquiries toward objective investigation rather than confessional or adversarial agendas.

**Students who flagrantly or repeatedly abuse these any of these guidelines of conduct (including in reference to what follows below) will be asked to leave the class; the Security Office will be called if the instructor deems it to be necessary.**

### USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

Be aware that if you care about your marks, then all things being equal you will not use your notebook computer to take notes in class, as studies consistently demonstrate that students who use pen/pencil and paper in class outperform those who use electronic devices. Under no circumstances must anyone use notebook computers during class for email, Facebook, or other social or recreational activities; indeed, you are discouraged from using notebook computers in class at all. Cell phones must be turned

off during the entire class time. This means, obviously, that texting during class is not permitted. Similarly, taking pictures in the classroom is not permitted, including picture-taking of data projector images and slides. No video or audio recording is permitted. Students who 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; repeated incidents of this nature may result in students being instructed not to attend classes in person at all.

Recording of lectures is prohibited without the consent of the instructor. According to Academic Regulation 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.”**

### **GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS (SHOULD SUCH SESSIONS BE REQUIRED)**

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 relevant course topics 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. 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.

### **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 me.

## **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:**

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>

### **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>.

### **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