HUMA 500: Critical Methods in the Humanities/ Critical Methods in Cultural Studies:
The Book of Genesis in History and Tradition
Mondays and Wednesdays 12:40-2:00
DeMeritt Hall 253

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Office hours: Fridays 12:00-2:00 and
by appointment

This course allows students to do extended, in-depth research on one topic throughout the
semester. It is designed to help Humanities majors, European Cultural Studies majors, and
university students in general master the art of serious paper writing in the humanities. The
Humanities Program also hopes that this course will prepare and encourage more liberal arts
students to apply for UROP and IROP grants, which require the submission of a research
proposal as part of the application process. Students write a final research paper of 15-20 pages.
This course will address one main topic, and students will choose the focus of their research
from an area within that general topic. For Fall 2014, the course topic is: The Biblical Book of
Genesis in History and Tradition.

Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Sodom and Gomorrah -- these and other foundational
western stories come from Genesis, the first book of the Bible. In this class we will read
the book closely and consider its ancient Near Eastern background, its literary features,
and the ways various stories have been portrayed and interpreted in religious traditions,
philosophy, politics, literature, art and theater.

Required Texts (all available at the Durham Book Exchange):
Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic
Michael Harvey, The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003)

Suggested Texts:
The New Oxford Annotated Bible
Gordon Harvey, Writing with Sources: A Guide for Students (2nd Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett,
2008)
Students should either purchase or have access to the MLA Handbook.

Requirements

1. Ten weekly writing assignments (30% -- 3% each). 2 page essays due on most
Mondays. You will hand them in via two routes: you will bring a hard copy to class, and
you will email me another copy. I need an electronic version so that I can print out the paper, or parts of the paper, for the whole class to discuss. Whatever gets shared with the class will be anonymous. We will spend part of Wednesday’s classes editing, reviewing and discussing aspects of these papers.

2. A midterm paper of 5-7 pages (15%) due on **October 13**.

3. A Research Proposal (5%) due on **November 3**. This proposal should state the topic of your paper, your general argument, and a preliminary bibliography.

4. A Class Presentation (10%) on your paper. We will present these toward the very end of the semester.

5. A Final Paper (30%) due on the last day of class.

6. Class preparation and participation (10%). You must come to class having read the material and having thought about it. Bring any questions you have, both answerable and not. You are responsible for looking up the definitions of any unfamiliar words or terms from the readings in a dictionary. **You must bring a copy or print-out of the text for the day with you to class. You may not use computers in class.**

**Plagiarism**

The University of New Hampshire defines plagiarism as:

The unattributed use of the ideas, evidence, or words of another person, or the conveying of the false impression that the arguments and writing in a paper are the student's own. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following: 1. The acquisition by purchase or otherwise of a part or the whole of a piece of work which is represented as the student's own; 2. The representation of the ideas, data, or writing of another person as the student's own work, even though some wording, methods of citation, or arrangement of evidence, ideas, or arguments have been altered; 3. Concealment of the true sources of information, ideas, or argument in any piece of work.

Plagiarizing in this class will result in failure and will be reported to the Dean of your home college. You may, and are encouraged to, study with fellow classmates, but all written materials must be your own work. For further information, see the link below and consult with the instructor. We will discuss plagiarism in one of the class sections.

[http://www.unh.edu/vpsas/handbook/academic-honesty](http://www.unh.edu/vpsas/handbook/academic-honesty)

**Documented Disabilities**

The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). Contact DSS at (603) 862-2607
or disability.office@unh.edu. If you have received an Accommodation Letter for this course from DSS, please provide it to me privately so that I can review those accommodations with you.

**Course Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>W. 9/3</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE</td>
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| M. 9/8 | APPROACHES TO READING AND INTERPRETING  
Begin reading the book of Genesis in its entirety  
**First short paper due** |
| W. 9/10 | GENESIS AS A BIBLICAL BOOK  
Finish reading the book of Genesis |
| M. 9/15 | BIBLICAL AND ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN CREATION MYTHS  
Re-read Genesis 1-2:4a  
Enuma Elish at [http://www.class.uh.edu/mcl/classics/3308/EnumaElish.html](http://www.class.uh.edu/mcl/classics/3308/EnumaElish.html)  
**Second short paper due** |
| W. 9/17 | CREATION STORIES AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE  
From the Scopes “Monkey” trial  
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/evolut.htm  
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/tennstat.htm  
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/day7.htm  
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/day8.htm  
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scopes/bs.htm |
| M. 9/22 | ADAM, EVE AND THE GARDEN  
Re-read Genesis 2:4b- Genesis 3  
**Third short paper due** |
| W. 9/24 | VISIT TO THE LIBRARY **Meet at Library Classroom 421 at 12:40**  
Begin reading assignments for next class |
New Testament: Romans 5:12-21; 1 Timothy 2:11-15
Selections from Augustine, The Council of Trent, Calvin
(Blackboard)

**Fourth short paper due**

**W. 10/1**

**LILITH AND FEMINIST INTERPRETATION OF EDEN**
Medieval Documents on Lilith
Judith Plaskow, “The Coming of Lilith: Toward a Feminist Theology”
Ursula K. LeGuinn, “She Unnames Them”
(all readings on Blackboard)

**M. 10/6**

**PARADISE LOST**
Read Prologue and Invocation in Book I; Selections from Books iv, v, vii and viii (Blackboard)

**Fifth short paper due**

**W. 10/8**

**PARADISE LOST**
Selections from Books ix-x (Blackboard)

**M. 10/13**

**THE STORY OF NOAH**
Re-read Gen 6:1-9:17
“Noah and the Ark in Jewish, Christian and Muslim Tradition”
*Biblical Archaeologist* 1984 (Dec): 224-239 (Blackboard)

**Midterm paper due**

**W. 10/15**

**NOAH IN AMERICAN CULTURE**
*Assignment:* Go to a library or bookstore and find a children’s book about Noah’s Ark. Bring it to class and be prepared to explain how it is similar to or different from the biblical text and why you think that might be.

**M. 10/20**

**NOAH IN THE MOVIES**
Watch “Noah” (2014) on Blackboard

**Sixth short paper due**
W. 10/22  CAIN AND ABEL, THE TABLE OF NATIONS, AND THE CURSE OF HAM
   Re-read Genesis 4-6, 9-11
   Review of two books on the curse of Ham at
   https://byustudies.byu.edu/showtitle.aspx?title=7674

M. 10/27  ABRAHAM AND COVENANT
   Re-read Genesis 12-25
   In the New Testament, read Galatians 2:15-4:7, 4:21-5:1; Romans 4:1-25
   Read Quran 37:83-113 (Blackboard)

   **Seventh short paper due**

W. 10/29  THE BINDING OF ISAAC
   Re-read Genesis 22 extremely closely
   View art works of Genesis 22 on Blackboard
   Begin reading selection from Søren Kirkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* (Blackboard)

M. 11/3  THE BINDING OF ISAAC: Faith and Morality
   *Fear and Trembling*, “Problema One” (Blackboard)

   *Research proposal due*

W. 11/5  SODOM AND GOMORRAH: “SODOMY” IN THE BIBLE AND BEYOND
   New Testament: 1 Corinthians 6:9; 2 Peter 2:4-10; and Romans 1:18-32
   Online:
   Bowers v. Hardwick at
   and dissent:
M. 11/10  JACOB/ISRAEL
   Re-read Genesis 26-35
   Begin reading Anita Diamant’s *The Red Tent*

   **Eighth short paper due**

W. 11/12  JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS
   Re-read Genesis 37-50
   Continue reading *The Red Tent*

M. 11/17  THE RAPE OF DINAH: Women in Genesis
   *The Red Tent*

   **Ninth short paper due**

W. 11/19  THE RAPE OF DINAH: Women in Genesis
   Finish reading *The Red Tent*

M. 11/24  JOSEPH ON THE STAGE
   Watch on Blackboard: “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”

   **Tenth short paper due**

W. 11/26  **NO CLASS – SCHOOL FOLLOWS FRIDAY SCHEDULE**

M. 12/1  CLASS PRESENTATIONS
   Work on papers and presentations

W. 12/3  CLASS PRESENTATIONS
   Work on papers and presentations

M. 12/8  CLASS PRESENTATIONS
   Work on papers and presentations

W. 12/10  CONCLUSIONS
   *Final paper due*