
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:40-2:00
Murkland 203

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Office hours: Wednesdays 11:30-12:30 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 2013, 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, literature, art and theater.

Required Texts (all available at the Durham Book Exchange):
Søren Kirkegaard, Fear and Trembling (Penguin Classics, 1986. Originally 1843)

Students should either purchase or have access to the MLA Handbook.

Suggested Texts:
The New Oxford Annotated Bible
Michael Harvey, The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003)

Requirements

1. Two in-class tests (15% each = 30%). The first is on Tuesday, October 8th. The second is on Thursday, November 14th. These will consist of essays about the readings.
2. A **Research Proposal (15%)** due on **Tuesday, October 29**th. This proposal should state the topic of your paper, your general argument, and a preliminary bibliography.

3. A **Class Presentation (15%)** on your paper. We will present these toward the very end of the semester.

4. A **Research Paper (30%)** due on **the last day of class**.

5. **Class preparation and participation (10%)**. You must come to class having read the material and having thought about it. Bring questions you have, both answerable and not, to class. You are responsible for looking up the definitions of any unfamiliar words or terms from the readings in a dictionary.

**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)

**Course Schedule**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 8/27</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 8/29</td>
<td>READING AND WRITING ABOUT THE BIBLE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begin reading the Book of Genesis in its entirety</td>
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<td>T 9/3</td>
<td>GENESIS AS A BIBLICAL BOOK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Finish reading Genesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 9/5</td>
<td>VISIT TO THE LIBRARY: Meet at Library Classroom 421 at 12:30</td>
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<td>Begin reading assignments for next class</td>
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<td>T 9/10</td>
<td>CREATION STORIES</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gilgamesh at</td>
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<td>Enuma Elish at</td>
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Excerpt from Atrahasis at
http://www.gatewaysstobabylon.com/myths/texts/enki/atraha1.htm

“Big Bang Theory” in the Encyclopedia Britannica

“Evolution” in the Encyclopedia Britannica
http://www.britannica.com.libproxy.unh.edu/EBchecked/topic/197367/evolution (read first introductory section and scroll down 1/3 of the page to “Religious Criticism and Acceptance”)

From the Scopes Trial transcript:
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
http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/evolution.htm

R 9/12     ADAM, EVE, AND THE GARDEN
             Re-read Genesis 1-5 closely and consider the questions given in class.
             Come prepared to answer them.

             New Testament: Romans 5:12-21; I Timothy 2:11-15
             Selections from Augustine, Aquinas, The Council of Trent, Calvin, The
             Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception (on Blackboard)

R 9/19     LILITH AND FEMINIST INTERPRETATION OF EDEN
             Medieval Documents on Lilith
             Judith Plaskow, “The Coming of Lilith: Toward a Feminist Theology”
             Ursula K. LeGuin, “She Unnames Them”
             Phyllis Trible, “Eve and Adam: Genesis 2-3 Re-Read”
             (all assignments on Blackboard)

T 9/24     EDEN REIMAGINED: Paradise Lost
             Read Introduction and begin reading the text

R 9/26     EDEN REIMAGINED: Paradise Lost

T 10/1     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

R 10/3     NOAH
             “Noah and the Ark in Jewish, Christian and Muslim Tradition” Biblical
             Archaeologist 1984 (Dec): 224-239 (Blackboard)
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.

T 10/8  TEST #1

R 10/10  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 (on Blackboard)
Chapter 7 of Abrahm on Trial (on Blackboard)

T 10/15  THE BINDING OF ISAAC
Read Genesis 22 extremely closely
Begin reading Søren Kirkegaard, Fear and Trembling

R 10/17  THE BINDING OF ISAAC: The Nature of Faith
Fear and Trembling

T 10/22  THE BINDING OF ISAAC: Gender considerations; Isaac and Christianity
Carol Delaney, “Abraham and the Seeds of Patriarchy” (Blackboard)
Chapter 14 of Death and Resurrection of the Beloved Son (on Blackboard)

R 10/24  SODOM AND GOMORRAH: Homosexuality in the Bible and Beyond
Hebrew Bible: Re-read Genesis 19. Read Leviticus 18 and 20; Judges 19-21; Ezekiel 16:49-50
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 6:9; 2 Peter 2:4-10; and Romans 1:18-32
Online:

T 10/29  JACOB/ISRAEL

*Research Proposal Due*
Re-read Genesis 26-35

R 10/31  THE RAPE OF DINAH
Re-read Gen 34
Begin reading Anita Diamant’s The Red Tent
THE RAPE OF DINAH: Women in Genesis
Finish reading The Red Tent

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS
Re-read Genesis 37-50
Watch on Blackboard: “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”

NO CLASS – VETERAN’S DAY MAKEUP CLASSES

TEST #2

ISRAEL IN EGYPT: THE EXODUS
Hebrew Bible: Exodus 1-15

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: NO CLASS

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

CLOSING AND CONCLUSIONS
*Final papers due*

Potential Paper Topics:

Genesis imagery or interpretation in:
   Herman Melville’s Moby Dick
   John Steinbeck’s East of Eden
   The Quran
   The New Testament
   Goethe’s Faust
   Margaret Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale
   The Book of Jubilees
   Franz Kafka’s The City Coat of Arms
   C.S. Lewis’ Out of the Silent Planet
   Thomas Mann’s Joseph and His Brothers

Other topics:
   A detailed analysis of a small passage from Genesis
   A longer study on one of the topics discussed in class
   The representation of biblical stories in children’s books
   Eve or Adam in Christian, Jewish or Muslim tradition
Jacques Derrida on the Tower of Babel  
The binding of Isaac in art  
Feminist interpretations of Abraham, Eden, or other passages  
Genesis and ancient Near Eastern creation myths  
Films on Genesis  
“Dominionism” in American politics  
The character of Lilith in *True Blood*