

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

RELS 273 L01
Introduction to the Bible

OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2010

Logistics	Time	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - 1:00 to 1:50pm
	Location	CHC 105
	Instructor	Dr. David A. Bergen SS 1308 dabergen@ucalgary.ca 403-220-7063
	Office Hours (<i>appointment recommended</i>)	MWF, 2:00 to 3:00pm TR, 12:30 to 1:30pm
	Textbooks	<i>HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV)</i> David M. Carr and Colleen M. Conway (2010) <i>An Introduction to the Bible: Sacred Texts and Imperial Contexts</i> Additional PDF materials may be posted in Blackboard (“Course Documents”)
Course Description	<p>In this course we will undertake an unorthodox survey of a collection of Ancient Near Eastern literature (aka “the Bible”), a collection which has been appropriated as the mythological foundation for western religion. In doing so, various texts will be interrogated threefold for matters pertaining to what, when, and why. First, we will analyze this literature synchronically for its literary qualities (= the <i>what</i>). Then we will explore the diachronic dimensions of the biblical writings (= the <i>when</i>). Finally, we will investigate hyperchronically some of the evolved/adapted biological motivations that gave rise to the fabrication of this collection (= the <i>why</i>). As befits a humanities program, this introductory survey is but a means to an end: namely, to understand one (parochial) instance of the human animal’s capacity to think symbolically and in turn to fall prey to its own mythological constructs.</p> <p>This course follows the academic mandate set out by Bruce Lincoln: <i>When one permits those whom one studies to define the terms in which they will be understood, suspends one’s interest in the temporal and contingent, or fails to distinguish between ‘truths,’ ‘truth-claims,’ and ‘regimes of truth,’ one has ceased to function as a historian or scholar. In that moment, a variety of roles are available: some perfectly capable (amanuensis, collector, friend and advocate) and some less appealing (cheerleader, voyeur, retailer of import goods). None, however, should be confused with scholarship.</i> (“Theses on Method,” <i>Method and Theory in the Study of Religion</i> 8, 225-7; 1996)</p>	
Student Responsibilities	Attend, Understand, Analyze—three fundamental academic tasks	

Learning Assessment

Two equally-weighted midterm exams (Oct 15 and Nov 15)	30%
Two equally-weighted writing assignments (due Oct 18 and Nov 17)	30%
Registrar-scheduled final exam (two hours)	40%

NOTE:

- while it is permissible to register in this class as late as the end of the second week, it is not advisable. If you have joined the class late, you should realize that significant course material has already been presented and that your late arrival places you at some disadvantage.
- this course is a critical academic introduction to the study of the Bible—it is not a “Sunday School” course. Familiarity with the Bible is not a guarantee (nor conversely, a prerequisite) for success in RELS 273.
- tests and assignments must be written/submitted on the dates scheduled. No exceptions will be made, except for death, significant illness, or domestic affliction (corroborated by a valid, original note from a physician or counselor). You should contact the instructor within twenty-four hours of a missed exam or deadline.
- please note that the University of Calgary regulations strictly prohibit the following during examinations (the penalty for which is suspension or expulsion or such other penalty as may be determined):
 - speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever;
 - bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, or document not authorized by the examiner;
 - leaving answer papers exposed to view
 - attempting to read other student’s examination work.
- the assessments offered in this course will be geared to rewarding students who are conscientious in their attendance, participation, and preparation of classes.
- computers should be used for note-taking purposes only. Extra-curricular computer activities will result in the suspension of computer privilege, perhaps even for the entire class.
- if you are anticipating a class absence you should find a classmate willing to loan his/her notes; no lecture notes will be available from the instructor.
- recording of lectures is not permitted, except by special permission.
- a 5%/day late penalty will be levied for all late submissions. Late submissions must be placed in the Department’s assignment drop-box (SS 1301), where they will be date-stamped.
- class schedule, readings, and additional relevant materials will be posted online
- you must “back up” all submissions ; no concessions

Grading Scale

A numerical grade is assigned for each course requirement. Following the final graded component, a letter grade is assigned, using the department-approved table of equivalencies:

A+ 100-96	B+ 84.9-80	C+ 69.9-65	D+ 54.9-53
A 95.9-90	B 79.9-75	C 64.9-60	D 52.9-50
A- 89.9-85	B- 74.9-70	C- 59.9-55	F under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

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. If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor **two weeks** before the scheduled date.

Course Withdrawal

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Lecture Recording

Recording any part of any lectures in any form must be first approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Safewalk Program

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 403-220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Gnosis

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.