

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies
Winter 2005

05/01/06

RELS 301 L95 - Studies in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament
Instructor: Mr. Eli Reich
Location: Calgary Jewish Centre
Time: Tuesdays 18:30-21:20
Office Hours: Tuesday 10-10:45; Thursday: 12:30-13:15.
Campus Office: SS 1322
Phone: 220-3285
e-mail: reiche@shaw.ca

Textbooks:

1. Patrick D. Miller, *Religion of Ancient Israel*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.
2. The Jewish Study Bible, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Course Description:

This course will focus on religious life, practice and ideology during the period in which the Hebrew Bible took shape. Our approach will be critical, historical and academic. The framework is the discipline of Religious Studies. The Hebrew Bible will be studied in light of Miller's *Religion of Ancient Israel*, the commentaries of The Jewish Study Bible, and the additional perspective of the instructor.

Core Competencies:

Students can expect to gain a general understanding of central beliefs, rituals and institutions of the religion of ancient Israel. The course will contribute to an understanding of the complex cultural processes that produced this religion, and its relation, in turn, to the Hebrew Bible. The problematic link between social reality (ancient Israel) and cultural representations (Hebrew Bible) will be a constant theme.

Course Requirements:

The course will be a combination of lectures and class discussion. The discussions in class will rest on the assumption that students have prepared the selected readings. The readings will consist of Miller's *Religion of Ancient Israel* and linked biblical passages announced in class, prepared with the commentaries of The Jewish Study Bible. Some short handouts may be required, too.

- Class participation will count for 5% of the grade.
- All students will submit a reasoned reflection, a page long, on the reading for the week, once every two weeks. This will count for 10% of the grade.
- There will be an in-class midterm exam on March 1, which will count for 25 % of your grade.
- A 5-page research essay is due on April 12. Each student has to meet with me to discuss the topic chosen no later than March 29. The topic has to be submitted for approval, with bibliography, at this meeting. Papers (topic & bibliography) that have not been submitted and approved, will not be accepted at the due date. The essay has to reflect the approach, sources, and textbooks studied in the course, and will account for 30% of the grade.
- There will be a **registrar scheduled** final exam (cumulative), which will account for 30 % of your grade.

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:

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

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 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.

Withdrawing from courses:

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

Recording of lectures:

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 Programme:

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 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>.

SCHEDULE

Jan 11 Introduction.

Jan 18 Israel's God: Miller, pp. 1-23. Biblical passages & commentary.

Jan 25 The Divine World: Miller pp. 23-40. Biblical passages & commentary.

Feb 1 Orthodoxy? : Miller, pp.46-62. Biblical passages & commentary.

Feb 8 The Cult: Miller, pp. 62-79. Biblical passages & commentary.

Feb 15 State Religion, Miller, pp. 80-105. Biblical passages & commentary.

March 1 Types of Sacrifice, Miller, pp. 106-130. Biblical passages & commentary.

March 8 Holiness, Miller, pp. 131- 144. Biblical passages & commentary.

March 15 Holiness and Purity, Miller, pp. 144-161. Biblical passages & commentary.

March 22 The Priest, Miller, pp. 162-174. Biblical passages & commentary.

March 29 The Prophet, Miller, pp. 174-189. Biblical passages & commentary.

April 5 The King, Miller, pp. 189-197. Biblical passages & commentary.

April 12 The Sage. Cultic Participation, Miller, pp. 197-207. Biblical passages & commentary.

Examination to be scheduled by the Registrar – April 19-30.