REQUIRED TEXTS
Other readings will be distributed electronically.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
As the saying goes, if you search long enough in the Bible you can find support for just about any idea or form of behavior. When it comes to the subject of violence that search will not be very time consuming because virtually every biblical book acknowledges or endorses violent and aggressive behavior. Events throughout history testify to the fact that groups and individuals have sometimes turned to the Bible to justify acts of hostility toward others. This course will consider the presence of both human and divine violence in the biblical literature in order to better understand its impact on the ancient world and our own.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1) Attendance and class participation/preparation
Attendance is expected. Only through class attendance will you gain sufficient mastery of the course material to succeed on exams. More than four unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade.

Active class participation is also expected. The Life program is built on guided discussion of common readings. The readings on the attached schedule are to be completed prior to each class. Students are to come to class with the text, having read the material and being prepared to discuss and/or briefly write about it. Attendance/participation will account for 20% of your final grade.

2) Daily quizzes
There will be a quiz for each class period. This will be a set of questions related to the day’s reading that must be completed prior to the class meeting. The course has a website where the quizzes and other information can be found. Details about this website and how to access it will be given during the first few classes of the semester. Quizzes will account for 10% of your final grade.

3) Exams
There will be two exams during the semester (February 28 & April 24). Each of these exams will be worth 30%, with the total accounting for 60% of your final grade. There will be a final exam during finals week that will be worth 10% of your final grade.

GRADING
Your final grade will be determined based on the following scale:
A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), F (below 60)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>The Bible and Violence</td>
<td>READ: John J. Collins, “The Zeal of Phinehas: The Bible and the Legitimation of Violence”</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>Does Monotheism Lead to Violence?</td>
<td>READ: Schwartz, Introduction</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
<td>The Problem with Covenants</td>
<td>READ: Schwartz, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>The Problem with Land</td>
<td>READ: Schwartz, Chapter 2</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
<td>The Problem with Kinship</td>
<td>READ: Schwartz, Chapter 3</td>
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<td>January 31</td>
<td>War in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>READ: Niditch, Introduction</td>
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<td>February 5</td>
<td>War in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>READ: Niditch, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>War in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>READ: Niditch, Chapter 2</td>
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<td>February 12</td>
<td>War in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>READ: Niditch, Chapter 3</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>War in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>READ: Niditch, Chapter 4</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>War in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>READ: Niditch, Chapter 5</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
<td>War in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>READ: Niditch, Chapter 6</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td>War in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>READ: Niditch, Chapter 7</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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March 6  Spring Break

March 11  Violence in the Prophets
READ: Renita Weems, “‘You Have the Forehead of a Whore’: The Rhetoric of a Metaphor”

March 13  Violence in the Prophets
READ: Renita Weems, “‘Yet I Will Remember My Covenant with You’: The World of Romance and Rape”

March 18  Circumcision as a Violent Act
READ: Hugh S. Pyper, “Fleshing Out the Text”

March 20  Easter Break

March 25  The Bible and Racism
READ: Timothy K. Beal, “The White Supremacist Bible and the Phineas Priesthood”

March 27  No class

April 1  Jesus and Violence
READ: Richard A. Horsley, “‘By the Finger of God’: Jesus and Imperial Violence”

April 3  Violence and Matthew’s Gospel

April 8  Violence and John’s Gospel
READ: Adele Reinhartz, “Love, Hate, and Violence in the Gospel of John”

April 10  Violence and Paul

April 15  Peace in the New Testament

April 17  Violence in the New Testament
READ: Desjardins, pp. 62-110

April 22  Which Perspective Dominates?
READ: Desjardins, pp. 111-122

April 24  Exam #2