

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 101, Sections 3 & 6 -- FALL 2004 – Prof. Streete**  
**TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS**  
**AUGUST – SEPTEMBER**

**COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:**

- Wed., Aug. 25 Introduction: Religion and Meaning  
Reading: MFK Fisher, "In the Beginning" (in class)
- Fri., Aug. 27 Story and Meaning:  
Reading: Aageson, "An Issue of Distance," 9-17; "The Bible and the Examined Life," 137-144; Weaver, Appendix I, 263-264
- Mon., Aug. 30 Experience and Story:  
Reading: Aageson, 19-25; Neusner, xix-xxii; 3-36
- Wed., Sept. 1 Torah and Meaning:  
Reading: Neusner, 37-75
- Fri., Sept. 3 "Ethics, Ethos and Ethnos":  
Reading: Neusner, 77-110
- Mon., Sept. 6 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
- Wed., Sept. 8 Torah and Theology:  
Reading: Neusner, 111-161; **1<sup>ST</sup> REFLECTION PAPER DUE**
- Fri., Sept. 10 Re-telling the Story:  
Reading: Weaver, 3-38
- Mon., Sept. 13 Experience and Story:  
Reading: Weaver, 39-87
- Wed., Sept. 15 Re-forming Community:  
Reading: Weaver, 89-134
- Fri., Sept. 17 Community Then and Now:  
Reading: Weaver, 135-155; **2<sup>ND</sup> REFLECTION PAPER DUE**
- GOD, TORAH, AND ISRAEL**
- Mon., Sept. 20 Creator and Created: FILM (in class): Bill Moyers' Genesis (Selection)  
Reading: Aageson, "What about Language?" 43-50; Aageson, "To Hear and To See," 51-62; NOAB, "Intro to the Pentateuch," 3-7 (HB); "Intro to Genesis," 9-10 (HB); Genesis 1-11 (NOAB)
- Wed., Sept. 22 God Chooses: "A Wandering Aramaean"  
Reading: Aageson, "Be It History or Literature?" 63-69; Genesis 12-35 (NOAB)
- Fri., Sept. 24 God Chooses: "Out of Egypt Have I Called My Son"  
Reading: Aageson, "The Bible: A Book or a Library?" 71-96; Genesis 37-50
- Mon., Sept. 27 God Chooses: "Let My People Go": The Exodus  
Reading: NOAB, "Intro to Exodus," 82-84 (HB); Exod. 1-19; Psalm 105: 26-42
- Wed., Sept. 29 God Chooses: "You Will Be My People": The Covenant  
Reading: Exod. 20-23 (NOAB); Aageson, "A Question of Purity," 113-125; NOAB, "Intro to Leviticus," 142-143 (HB); Leviticus 18 (NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to Numbers, 184-185 (HB); Numbers 5:11-31 (NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to Deuteronomy," 242 (HB); Deut. 5:1-6:25

## OCTOBER

Fri., Oct. 1 **1<sup>ST</sup> TEST**

### **WARRIORS, JUDGES AND KINGS: THE FORMER PROPHETS**

Mon., Oct. 4 Promise Fulfilled?

Reading: Aageson, "Digging in the Text and in the Dirt," 127-135; NOAB, "Intro to the Historical Books," 309-313 (HB); "Intro to Joshua," 314-316 (HB); Map on 317; Joshua 1-2, 6 (NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to Judges," 353-354 (HB); Judges 1-6; 19-21 (NOAB)

Wed., Oct. 6 "A King Like Other Nations"

Reading: NOAB, "Intro to 1 Samuel," 398-399 (HB); 1 Sam. 1-20; 24-31 (NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to 2 Samuel," 446 (HB); 2 Sam. 1-4 (NOAB)

Fri., Oct. 8 "The Ways of the King Over You"

Reading: 2 Sam. 5-7, 11-18 (NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to 1 Kings," 487-489 (HB); 1 Kings 1-3, 9-22 (NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to 2 Kings," 533 (HB); map on 535; 2 Kings 9-11; 17-25 (NOAB)

### **"THUS SAYS THE LORD": THE LATTER PROPHETS**

Mon., Oct. 11 "Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters"

Reading: NOAB, "Intro to the Prophetic Books," 969-973 (HB); NOAB, "Intro to Amos," 1302-1303 (HB); Amos 1:1-9:10 (NOAB)

Wed., Oct. 13 "You Are Not My People"

Reading: NOAB, "Intro to Hosea," 1278-1279 (HB); Hosea 1-4; 11 (NOAB)

### **ISRAEL FINDING GOD: THE WRITINGS**

Fri., Oct. 15 "Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?"

Reading: NOAB, "Intro to the Poetical and Wisdom Books," 721-725 (HB); "Intro to Proverbs," 904-905 (HB); Proverbs 1-9; 22:17-23:11; 31 (NOAB)

Mon., Oct. 18 **FALL RECESS**

Wed., Oct. 20 "Vanity of Vanities"

Reading: NOAB, "Intro to Ecclesiastes," 944-945 (HB); Ecclesiastes (all, NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to The Song of Solomon," 959-960 (HB); Song of Solomon (all, NOAB)

Fri., Oct. 22 "Oh, That I Knew Where I Might Find Him!"

Reading: NOAB, "Intro to Job," 726-727 (HB); Job 1-14; 26-31; 38-42 (NOAB)

Mon., Oct. 25 "Your God / My God"

Reading: Ezra 9-10 (NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to Ruth," 931 (HB); Ruth (all, NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to Jonah," 1321 (HB); Jonah (all, NOAB)

Wed., Oct. 27 **2<sup>ND</sup> TEST**

Fri., Oct. 29 **THE APOCRYPHA**

Reading: Aageson, "This Canon Has One 'N'," 101-110; NOAB, "Intro to the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books," 3-10 (AP); NOAB, "Intro to Judith," 32-33 (AP); Judith (all, NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to Sirach," 100-101 (AP); Sirach 24-25 (NOAB)

## NOVEMBER

### RENEWING THE COVENANT: THE NEW TESTAMENT

Mon., Nov. 1 Introduction to the New Testament  
Reading: NOAB, "Intro to the Gospels," 3-6 (NT); Aageson, "A Matter of Method," 27-33

### THE GOSPELS:

Wed., Nov. 3 "The Time Is Fulfilled"  
Reading: Aageson, "From a Hunch to a Hypothesis," 35-42; NOAB, "Intro to Mark," 56-57 (NT); Mark (all, NOAB)

Fri., Nov. 5 "Not to Destroy But to Fulfill"  
Reading: Aageson, "Like an Everflowing Stream," 77-84; NOAB, "Intro to Matthew," 7-8 (NT); Matthew 1-7; 16; 22-23 (NOAB)

Mon., Nov. 8 "Blessed Are the Poor"  
Reading: Aageson, "Let's Just Take It Literally," 85-91; NOAB, "Intro to Luke," 93-95 (NT); Luke 1-4; 6; 16-16; 24 (NOAB)

Wed., Nov. 10 Luke's Book II: Acts  
Reading: NOAB, "Intro to Acts," 183-185 (NT); Acts 1-10; 15; 17 (NOAB)

Fri., Nov. 12 "The Secret Words the Living Jesus Spoke": FILM: "Stigmata" (Selection)  
Reading: Aageson, "What Is Truth?" 93-110; Gospel of Thomas

Mon., Nov. 14 "In Him Was Life"  
Reading: NOAB, "Intro to John," 146-147 (NT); John 1-1; 20 (NOAB); NOAB, "Intro to the First Letter of John," 406-407 (NT); 1 John (all, NOAB)

### APOSTLE TO THE NATIONS: THE LETTERS OF PAUL

Wed., Nov. 16 "I Made You Apostle to the Nations"  
Reading: Aageson, "The Three Legs of Interpretation," 111-117; Acts 15; 17 (NOAB); NOAB, Map, 209 (NT); NOAB, "Letters/Epistles in the NT," 240-241 (NT); NOAB, "Intro to Philemon," 365-367(NT); Philemon (all, NOAB)

Fri., Nov. 18-Mon., Nov. 21 **INSTRUCTOR AT PROFESSIONAL MEETING; NO CLASSES**

Wed., Nov. 23-Fri., Nov. 25 **THANKSGIVING RECESS**

Mon., Nov. 29 "Let the Same Mind Be in You"  
Reading: NOAB, "Intro to Philippians," 328-329 (NT); Philippians (all, NOAB)

## DECEMBER

- Wed., Dec. 1 “Thanks Be to God, Who Gives Us the Victory”  
Reading: NOAB, “Intro to 1 Corinthians,” 267-269 (NT); 1 Corinthians 1-15 (NOAB)
- Fri., Dec. 3 “The Power of God for Salvation”  
Reading: NOAB, “Intro to Romans,” 242-243 (NT); Romans 1-8 (NOAB)
- Mon., Dec. 6 “I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel”  
Reading: Romans 9-16 (NOAB)
- Wed., Dec. 8 “Children, It Is the Last Hour”  
Reading: NOAB, “Intro to the Revelation to John,” 420-421 (NT); Revelation (all, NOAB)

## COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

### Course Description, Purpose, and Method:

Religious Studies 101 is designed as the introductory course to the “Life: Then and Now” sequence. As such, it has several aims. First, it introduces scholars to the academic study of the Bible as a central and influential sacred text in the West. Such a study is necessarily different from the sectarian, denominational, devotional or confessional approach offered by the synagogues or churches, although the interpretation of the Bible cannot be divorced from its meaning in a religious context. Second, the course introduces scholars to the contexts – historical, religious, literary and social – in which the various texts of the Bible arose. Third, it introduces the study of the idea of a scriptural canon and the processes by which the Jewish and Christian biblical canons were formed and closed. Fourth, the course introduces scholars to hermeneutics, the method of biblical interpretation over history and within various cultural contexts. Finally, it introduces scholars to the major questions involved in the study of religion in general and especially in the traditions known as “Abrahamic,” “Western,” or “Judaean-Christian.” The overall organizing principle of these sections of Religious Studies 101 is how the relationship between God and a people is portrayed and understood in the Jewish and Christian Scriptures and by those responsible for their composition and preservation.

No prior knowledge of the Bible, especially as a subject of academic study, is presumed. The class will consist of several types of instruction: information-giving (lecture, background reading); intensive reading and study of the primary texts assigned; response to, reflection on and discussion of the ideas contained and questions raised in these texts; and testing of the knowledge gained.

### Course Requirements:

The most important requirement of the course is *active* involvement, by which I mean reading the assignments and interacting with them critically in class discussions and in written work. This written work includes submitting one 3 X 5 card with a question, comment, or reflection on an aspect of the reading assigned for that day. Completing the following requirements will constitute the final grade.

**NOTE: ALL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THE COURSE.**

2 in-class tests, each 15%, for a total of 30% of the final grade

1 final examination, 20 % of the final grade

Class attendance and active participation for a total of 15% of the final grade ( includes the 3 X 5 cards)

2 “reflection papers” of one to two pages on the readings in Neusner and Weaver, for a total of 15% of the final grade

1 three to four page critical response paper on a topic to be assigned, completed according to stated guidelines, for 20% of the final grade

**N.B.:** All tests, final examination, papers, and comments or questions are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. **NO EXTENSIONS OR EXCEPTIONS OTHER THAN THE FOLLOWING:** If you are absent from class for travel to athletic competitions or for other college-sanctioned unavoidable purposes, I will need to know the occasion and you will have to make arrangements to make up the work missed. If you know that you will be traveling on a date when a test is being given, you will need to make

preparations to make up that test, preferably ahead of the scheduled time. ***The only other possible exceptions are serious personal illness or death in the family.*** If you are ill, you should arrange to have me notified as soon as possible, and to make up the work missed.

**Required Texts:**

Aageson, James W. *In the Beginning*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000.

Neusner, Jacob. *The Way of Torah: An Introduction to Judaism*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2004.

*The New Oxford Annotated Bible. With the Apocryphal/ Deuterocanonical Books*. New Revised Standard Version. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Michael D. Coogan, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

***[This is the only version of the Bible that will be used in this class. If you possess other versions or translations of the Bible for your personal use, they are not recommended for use in the classroom. You should bring this text to class with you on days for which the Bible is assigned reading.]***

Weaver, Mary Jo. With David Brakke and Jason Bivins. *Introduction to Christianity*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2998.

**Office Hours and Other Information:**

Dr. Gail P. C. Streete

Clough Hall 406

E-mail: [gstreete@rhodes.edu](mailto:gstreete@rhodes.edu)

Hours: MWF 9-10; Thurs 2-4, and by appointment

Office phone: 843-3742

### **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE**

I have received a copy of the syllabus and requirements for the course, and they have been fully explained to me. I understand that by continuing in this course and section I have given my consent to abide by the course requirements and guidelines.

Signature: