

Religious Studies 101  
 Introduction to the Biblical Tradition  
 Fall, 1998  
 C hour, MWF 10:20-11:20  
 Professors Batey, Ingersoll, McKenzie

Description: Religious Studies 101 is an introduction to the "Life" sequence of courses through the academic study of the Bible and the traditions of its interpretation. Our section of the course will focus on the concept of the kingdom of God in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and recent interpretations of them, especially as we approach the new millenium in the year 2000. These three arenas represent the three units of the course.

Textbooks:

1. The New Oxford Annotated Bible (New York: Oxford University Press), 1991.
2. James R. Beasley, et al., An Introduction to the Bible (Nashville: Abingdon, 1991).
3. Thomas Robbins and Susan Palmer, Millenium, Messiahs and Mayhem: Contemporary Apocalyptic Movements (New York: Routledge, 1998). Abbreviated MMM on the calendar.

Evaluation:

There will be three exams, which will each count 25% toward the final grade. The grade for the remaining 25% will be supplied by a paper and presentation. Further information about the paper and presentation will be forthcoming.

Preparation for class, attendance, and participation are all expected. Each student is allowed four "free" absences for any reason. However, students are responsible for all information in classes that they miss. A student's final average will be reduced three points (one-third letter) for each absence beyond four. Each professor also reserves the right to adjust a student's final grade to reflect the student's preparation and participation.

Calendar

D=Discussion group, P=Plenary meeting. All plenary sessions will be held in the Orgill room (ground floor of Clough Hall) except those on October 2 and November 13, which will be in Blount auditorium, Buckman Hall.

INTRODUCTION

Wed 8/26 D—Introduction to discussion groups

Fri 8/28 P—Introduction to the course and the other professors

Mon 8/31 P—The cultural impact of the notion of the kingdom of God, Prof. Ingersoll  
 Read MMM, Introduction and Chapter 1

Wed 9/2 D—Recent "kingdoms" and the Bible

Fri 9/4 P—Film clips and discussion of recent "kingdoms"

Mon 9/7 Labor Day, no class

UNIT I: KINGDOM OF GOD IN THE HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT

Wed 9/9 P—Overview of the Bible and biblical scholarship, Prof. McKenzie  
 Read Beasley, pp. 22-28, 51-67.

Fri 9/11 D—Academic study of the Bible (Founder's Day Convocation)  
 Read Miller, "Reading the Bible Historically" (handout)

Mon 9/14	P—The ideal kingdom: Biblical stories of creation, Prof. McKenzie Read Genesis 1-3; Isaiah 51:9-11; and Enuma Elish (handout)	
Wed 9/16	D—The two creation stories in Genesis Review Genesis 1-3, read Viviano, "Source Criticism" (handout)	
Fri 9/18	P—Adam in New Testament interpretation, Prof. Batey	
Mon 9/21	P—Theocracy and the rise of the monarchy, Prof. McKenzie Read 1 Samuel 8-12 and Beasley, 135-139	
Wed 9/23	P—David the "ideal" king, Prof. McKenzie Read 1 Samuel 16-18; 24-26; 2 Samuel 1-4 and Beasley, 142-147	
Fri 9/25	D—David, the "ideal" king Read 2 Samuel 10-20	
Mon 9/28	P—Israelite prophecy, Prof. McKenzie Read Amos and Isaiah 6-8 and Beasley, 193-210	
Wed 9/30	D—Eighth century prophets Review the book of Amos	
Fri 10/2	P—Expectations for the future, Prof. McKenzie Read Isaiah 40-45 and Daniel 1-6 <b>In Blount Auditorium</b>	
Mon 10/5	D—Review for first exam, discussion of paper proposals	
Wed 10/7	D—Exam over Unit I and the glossary, map, and time line on the RS page	101 web
<b>UNIT II: THE NEW TESTAMENT KINGDOM OF GOD</b>		
Fri 10/9	P—The kingdom of God in the teachings of Jesus, Prof. Batey	
Mon 10/12	D—The nature of the kingdom in the Gospels	
Wed 10/14	D—Apocalyptic materials in the Gospels <b>Paper proposals due</b>	
Fri 10/16	P—Film on Jesus and the kingdom	
Mon 10/19	Fall break	
Wed 10/21	P—The apostle Paul, Prof. Batey	
Fri 10/23	D—Kingdom in the writings of Paul	
Mon 10/26	P—Eschatology in the New Testament, Prof. Batey	
Wed 10/28	D—Resurrection in Christian belief	
Fri 10/30	P—Film on apocalyptic thought and literature	
Mon 11/2	D—New Testament examples of apocalyptic	

Wed 11/4 D—Review for second exam

### UNIT III: THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN AMERICA

Fri 11/6 D—Exam over Units I and II

Mon 11/9 P—Christian churches and the kingdom, Prof. Ingersoll  
Read MMM, Chapters 9, 10, and 11

Wed 11/11 D—The kingdom of God in America

Fri 11/13 P—Secular visions of the kingdom of God, Prof. Ingersoll  
Read MMM, Chapters 6 and 7

**In Blount Auditorium**

Mon 11/16 P—New religious movements and violence, Prof. Ingersoll  
Read MMM, Chapters 13 and 14

Wed 11/18 D—The kingdom in modern American culture

Fri 11/20 D—Review for third exam

Mon 11/23 D—Exam over Units I-III

Wed 11/25 Thanksgiving, no class

Fri 11/27 Thanksgiving, no class

11/30 D—Presentations

12/2 D—Presentations

12/4 D—Presentations

12/7 D—Presentations

12/9 D—Presentations