

Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

RELS 101-02 and 06, The Bible: Texts and Contexts, Fall 2007

Item Type	Syllabus
Authors	Streete, Gail P.
Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Rhodes College
Rights	Rhodes College owns the rights to the archival digital images in this repository. Images are made available for educational use only and may not be used for any non-educational or commercial purpose. Approved educational uses include private research and scholarship, teaching, and student projects. For additional information please contact archives@rhodes.edu . Fees may apply.
Download date	2025-04-28 22:40:38
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10267/1831

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 101, FALL 2007: SECTIONS 2 & 6
The Bible: Texts and Contexts
Professor Gail P. C. Streete
SYLLABUS
TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS*

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

INTERSECTING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH AND THE BIBLICAL TRADITION

- Wed., August 22: Introduction: Meaning in Religion
(Convocation) **Reading:** M.F.K. Fisher, "In the Beginning"; "Professor Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Classroom Behavior" (Both in my on-line folder)
- Fri., August 24: Making Meanings
Reading: Aageson, "An Issue of Distance," 9-17; "The Bible and the Examined Life," 137-144; Scholz, "Preface and Introduction," xiii-xiv; Cox, "Introduction" and Chapter 1, 1-23.
- Mon., August 27: Different Experiences, Different Meanings
Reading: Aageson, "Two Religions," 19-25; Cox, Chapters 2 & 3, 24-55; Scholz, 2-30.
- Wed., August 29: Experiences and Meanings: Encounters with God
Reading: Cox, Chapters 4 & 5, 56-80.
- Fri., August 31: Experiences and Meanings: Survival and Defense
Reading: Cox, Chapters 6 & 7, 81-111.
- Mon., Sept. 3: **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**
- Wed., Sept. 5: Meaning and Time:
Reading: Cox, Chapter 8, 112-132.
- Fri., Sept. 7: Meaning, Space and Time:
Reading: Cox, Chapters 9 and 10, 133-178.
- Mon., Sept.10: Meaning, Space and Time: The Holy City
Reading: Cox, Chapter 11, 179-210
- Wed., Sept. 12: Meaning in Death:
Reading: Cox, Chapters 12 & 13, 211-243
- Fri., Sept. 14: Meaning in Life:
Reading: Cox, Chapters 14, 15, 16, 244-276
1ST CRITICAL REFLECTION PAPER DUE
- GOD, TORAH, ISRAEL; THE CONTINUAL MAKING OF MEANING IN RELATIONSHIP**
- Mon., Sept. 17: Creator and Created:
Reading: Aageson, "What about Language?" 43-50; "To Hear and To See," 51-62; NOAB, "Introduction to the Pentateuch," 3-7 (HB); "Introduction to Genesis," 9-10 (HB); Genesis 1-11 (NOAB); Scholz, "Rhetoric of Gender," 48-50; 51-79
- Wed., Sept. 19: God Chooses: "A Wandering Aramaean Was My Ancestor"
Reading: Aageson, "Be It History or Literature?" 63-69; Genesis 12-35 (NOAB)

- Fri., Sept. 21: God Chooses: "Out of Egypt Have I Called My Son"
Reading: Aageson, "The Bible: A Book or a Library?" 71-96; Genesis 37-50 (NOAB); Scholz, "Race and Ethnicity," 171-174; 203-241
- Mon., Sept. 24: God Chooses: "Let My People Go": The Exodus
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to Exodus," 82-84 (NOAB); Exod. 1-19; Psalm 78:49-51; Psalm 105: 26-42 (NOAB); Scholz, "Rhetoric of Class," 309-312; 385-405
- Wed., Sept. 26: God Chooses: "You Will Be My People": The Covenant
Reading: Exod. 20-23 (NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to Leviticus," 142-143 (HB); Leviticus 18 (NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to Numbers," 184-185 (HB); Num. 5:11-31 (NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to Deuteronomy," 240-242 (HB); Deut. 5:1-6:25 (NOAB); Aageson, "A Question of Purity," 113-125; Scholz, "The Issue of Heterosexism," 137-164.
- Fri., Sept. 28: **1st TEST**

OCTOBER

KNOWING WHAT GOD WANTS: **The Former Prophets**

Mon., Oct. 1: Promise Fulfilled or Wish Fulfillment?
Reading: Aageson: "Digging in the Text and in the Dirt," 127-135; NOAB, "Introduction to the Historical Books," 309-313 (HB); "Introduction to Joshua," 314-316 (HB); Map on 317 (HB); Joshua 1-2; 6 (NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to Judges," 353-354 (HB); Judges 1-6; 19-21 (NOAB)

Wed., Oct. 3 "A King Like Other Nations"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to 1 Samuel," 398-399 (HB); 1 Sam. 1-20; 24-31 (NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to 2 Samuel, 446 (HB); 2 Sam. 1-4; 5-7; 11-18 (NOAB); NOAB, "The sons of David," chart on 486

Fri., Oct. 5 "The Trouble with Kings"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to 1 Kings," 487-489 (HB); 1 Kings 1-3; 9-22 (NOAB); Temple diagram, 499 (HB); NOAB, "Introduction to 2 Kings," 533 (HB); Map on 535; 2 Kings 9-11; 17-25 (NOAB)

The Latter Prophets

Mon., Oct. 8: "Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to the Prophetic Books," 969-973 (HB); NOAB, "Introduction to Amos," 1302-1303 (HB); Amos 1:1-0:10 (NOAB); Scholz, 320-326; 327-341

Wed., Oct. 10: "You Are Not My People"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to Hosea," 1278-1279 (HB); Hosea 1-4; 11 (NOAB)

ISRAEL SEEKING GOD: **The Writings**

Fri., Oct. 12 "Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to the Poetical and Wisdom Books," 721-725 (HB); "Introduction to Proverbs," 904-905 (HB); Proverbs 1-9; 22:17-23:11; 31 (NOAB); Scholz, 341-350.

Mon., Oct. 15: **FALL RECESS**

Wed., Oct. 17: "Vanity of Vanities?"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to Ecclesiastes," 944-945 (HB); Ecclesiastes (all, NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to the Song of Solomon (Song of Songs)," 959-960 (HB); Song of Solomon (all, NOAB)

Fri., Oct. 19: "Oh, That I Knew Where I Might Find Him!"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to Job," 726-727 (HB); Job 1-14; 26-31; 38-42 (NOAB)

Mon., Oct. 22: "Your God or My God?"
Reading: Ezra 9-10 (NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to Ruth," 391 (HB); Ruth (all, NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to Jonah," 1321 (HB); Jonah (all, NOAB); Scholz, 266-276.

Wed., Oct. 24: **2nd TEST**

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

GOD IN EXILE: **The Apocrypha**

Fri., Oct. 26: Judaism in Transformation and Confrontation
Reading: Aageson, "This Canon Has One N," 101-110; NOAB, "Introduction to the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books," 3-10 (AP); NOAB, "Introduction to Judith," 32-33 (AP); Judith (all; NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)," 100-101 (AP); Sirach 24-25 (NOAB); Scholz, 277-290

RENEWING THE COVENANT: THE NEW TESTAMENT

Mon., Oct. 29: Introduction to the New Testament
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to the Gospels," 3-6 (NT), chart on p. 5; Aageson, "A Matter of Method," 27-33; Scholz, 291-307

The Gospels:

Wed., Oct. 31: "The Time Is Fulfilled"
Reading: Aageson, "From a Hunch to a Hypothesis," 35-42; NOAB, "Introduction to Mark," 56-57 (NT); Mark (all, NOAB); Scholz, 113-136

Fri., Nov. 2: "Not to Destroy But to Fulfill"
Reading: Aageson, "Like an Everflowing Stream," 77-84; NOAB, "Introduction to Matthew," 7-8 (NT); Matthew 1-7; 16; 22-23 (NOAB); Scholz, 30-46; 351-367

Mon., Nov. 4: "Blessed Are the Poor"
Reading: Aageson, "Let's Just Take It Literally," 85-91; NOAB, "Introduction to Luke," 93-95 (NT); Luke 1-4; 6: 16-18; 24 (NOAB); Scholz, 313-320

Wed., Nov. 6: Luke's Book II: Acts
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to Acts," 183-185 (NT); Acts 1-10; 15, 17 (NOAB)

Fri., Nov. 8: "The Secret Words the Living Jesus Spoke"
FILM: "Stigmata" (Selection)
Reading: Aageson, "What Is Truth?" 93-110; Gospel of Thomas (Form of text to be announced and provided)

Mon., Nov. 12: "In Him Was Life"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to John," 146-147 (NT); John (all, NOAB); NOAB, "Introduction to the First Letter of John," 406-407 (NOAB); 1 John (all, NOAB)

Apostle to the Nations: The Letters of Paul of Tarsus

Wed., Nov. 13: "I Made You Apostle to the Nations"
Reading: Aageson, "The Three Legs of Interpretation," 111-117; Acts 15; 17 (NOAB); NOAB, "Letters/Epistles in the NT," 240-241 (NT); NOAB, "Introduction to Galatians," 309-310 (NT); Galatians (all, NOAB); Scholz, 175-202

Fri., Nov. 16 – Mon., Nov. 19: **PROFESSOR AWAY AT PROFESSIONAL MEETING**

Wed., Nov. 21 – Sun., Nov. 25: **THANKSGIVING RECESS**

Mon., Nov. 26: "Thanks Be To God, Who Gives Us the Victory"
Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to 1 Corinthians," 267-269 (NT); 1 Corinthians 1-15, concentrating on 7, 11 & 15 (NOAB)

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Wed., Nov. 28: "The Power of God for Salvation"

Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to Romans," 242-243 (NT); Romans 1-8 (NOAB); Scholz, 165-169; 368-384.

2ND CRITICAL PAPER DUE

Fri., Nov. 30 "For the Jew First, But Also to the Greek"

Reading: Romans 9-16 (NOAB)

Mon., Dec. 3: "Children, It Is the Last Hour"

Reading: NOAB, "Introduction to the Revelation to John," 420-421 (NT); Revelation 1-12 (NOAB)

Wed., Dec. 5: "Our Lord, come!"

Reading: Revelation 13-22 (NOAB)

FINAL PAPER DUE

* Please note that there may be variations, additions or deletions to this schedule as opportunities arise and our work allows; these will be kept to a minimum.

COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Course Description, Purpose, and Method:

Religious Studies 101 is designed as the introductory course in the foundational “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 for the West. Such a study is deliberately and necessarily different from the sectarian, denomination, devotional or confessional approach offered by synagogues, churches, “Bible” colleges or divinity schools, although the interpretation of the Bible can never be divorced from its meanings in religious contexts. Second, the course introduces scholars to the contexts – historical, literary, and cultural, as well as religious – in which the various texts of the Bible arose, were written, transmitted and interpreted. Third, it introduces the study of the idea of a scriptural “canon,” and the processes by which the Jewish and later the Christian canons were developed and eventually “closed.” Fourth, the course introduces scholars to hermeneutics, the method of biblical interpretation within various cultural contexts, including those of the present. Finally, it introduces scholars to major questions and problems of the relationship between the two great “religions of the Bible,” Judaism and Christianity. The overall organizing principle of RS 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 learning and instruction: information-giving (lectures, background reading); intensive and reflective reading and study of the primary texts assigned; critical response to, reflection on, and discussion of the ideas contained and questions raised in both primary and secondary texts; and testing of the knowledge gained.

Textbooks for Course (Required):

Aageson, James. *In the Beginning*. Westview Press, 2007.

Cox, Harvey. *Common Prayers*. Mariner Books, 2003.

New Oxford Annotated Bible. New Revised Standard Version. Augmented 3d. ed. Oxford, 2007.*

Scholz, Susanne, ed. *Biblical Studies Alternatively*. Prentice-Hall, 2002.

*** Note:** The Augmented edition has been ordered for this course. If, by chance, you have the 3d ed. Of the NOAB, that will probably be sufficient, but it must be the 3rd edition of the New Oxford Annotated Bible. If you have another Bible for your personal reading, you cannot use it for class.

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 discussion and in written work. Please remember that no discussion or argument can be fruitful unless it is well-informed. In addition to critical response papers and a longer paper that analyzes some topic relevant to the Bible, the written work will consist of the submission of **one 4 X 6 notecard** for each day’s assigned reading (not for each *individual* reading assigned for that day), focusing on one of the following questions: 1) What was most intriguing to me about this reading/tradition/practice? (May be several items); 2) What was the most difficult to understand, puzzling or shocking about this reading for me? These cards will serve as “prompts” for class discussion and be collected at the end of each class session. Replies will be sent via e-mail. Course requirements and their percentages are as follows:

1. Attendance and active participation, including submission of the note cards. (15%)
2. 2 in-class tests, each worth 15%, for a total of 30% of the final grade.
3. 2 “critical reflection” papers of one to two pages on the reading from Cox and Scholz (you may choose individual readings, chapters, or the overall Scholz book), for a total of 15% of the final grade.
4. 1 three to four page critical paper on a topic to be assigned, completed according to stated guidelines, for 20% of the final grade.
5. 1 final examination, 20% of the final grade.

ALL TESTS AND PAPERS ARE DUE ON THE DATES NOTED; THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. ALL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE FULFILLED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

Determination of Final Grades:

Percentages are noted as above. The range of grades is as follows;

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). D- is the minimum passing grade.

Please note: Grades are not the result of a negotiation between you and me. A grade will be re-examined *only if there is substantial evidence that it has been wrongly calculated*. The burden of proof is on you. Scholars are not “given” grades by me; they earn them.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

I have received a copy of the syllabus and requirements for the course, Religious Studies 101, Section 02 or 06, and they have been explained to me. By continuing in this course and section I consent to abide by the course requirements and guidelines.

Name (printed):

Signature:

August 24, 2007