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RELS 101-01-02-03, Introduction to the Biblical Tradition, Fall 1998

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES 101; Sections 1, 2, and 3
LIFE THEN AND NOW:
INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLICAL TRADITION

Fall, 1998
B Hour (MWF 9:10-10:10)

Professor Mark W. Muesse
Professor Gail P.C. Streete
Professor Carey E. Walsh

Introduction: Course Description and Methods

Religious Studies 101 is an introduction to the “Life” sequence of courses through the academic study of the Bible and biblical themes. The course focuses on an important biblical theme and traces its development through history, utilizing the principal methodologies of the study of religion. These particular sections of the course will focus upon the Exodus, a powerful foundational story for the biblical Hebrews and their Scripture. The ‘Exodus’ carries over into the New Testament as a ‘charter story’ of God’s willingness to liberate human beings from bondage and hence becomes a crucial paradigm for subsequent theological reflection and the theological interpretation of history. Through the themes of pilgrimage and myth and ritual, the Exodus is connected to other Western and non-Western religious traditions.

The course will be organized around three modules, each representing an approach to the study of religion: textual analysis, theological reflection, and comparative investigation. Each module will consist of lectures and plenary sessions in which all sections meet together, and small group discussion sessions (colloquia). Lectures and plenary sessions will be held in the Orgill Room in Clough Hall or in the Blount Lecture Hall in Buckman Hall.

Texts (available in the Bookstore)

New Oxford Annotated Bible (NOAB). New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Michael Walzer, Exodus and Revolution. New York: Basic Books, 1985.

Mircea Eliade, The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion. Trans. by Willard R. Trask. New York: Harper & Row, 1959.

The Family Haggadah. Trans. by Nosson Scherman. Brooklyn: Mesorah Publications, 1981; 1994.

Course pack for Religious Studies 101, Sections 1, 2, 3 (Reader)

Course Requirements

The final grade for this course will be comprised of the following:

1) Preparation and participation. Students are expected to read the day’s assignment before class and to be prepared to participate actively in class discussion. Attendance and class participation will be 20% of the course grade.

2) Writing assignment. Students will submit a 3-4 page paper (double-spaced, typed or printed) written according to instructions that will be announced later in the semester. The paper is expected to conform to accepted mechanical and grammatical guidelines.

The paper will count for 20% of the course grade. Papers to be rewritten will be returned two weeks after their original submission. Rewrites will be due on the last day of class. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

3) Tests. There will be two tests on the reading material, lectures, plenary sessions, and films, given on the dates noted in the calendar below. Each test will be 20% of the course grade.

4) Final examination. The final examination will be given on the date established by the College. It will count 20% towards the course grade.

Attendance Policy

Many important features of this course will be imparted in class meetings, through lectures and discussions. It is essential, therefore, that students take responsibility for attending classes as scheduled. Each student will be permitted three absences during the semester. Absences beyond that, for whatever reason, will result in a reduction in the class participation and attendance grade (see above).

Passing Grade

The minimal grade required to pass this course is a D-.

Office Information

Dr. Muesse's office is located in 203 Clough. His office hours are:
His campus phone is: 3589. His E-mail ID is: MUESSE.

Dr. G. Streete's office is located in 406 Clough. Her office hours are: MWF 10:30-11:30; TuTh 3:00-4:00 and by appointment.
Her campus phone is: 3742. Her E-mail ID is: GSTREETE.

Dr. Walsh's office is located in 400 Clough. Her office hours are
Her campus phone is: 3578. Her E-mail ID is: WALSH.

N.B.: If you cannot contact your colloquium leader during his or her regularly scheduled office hours, *please make an appointment* at a mutually acceptable time. If you cannot keep your appointment, please phone in advance. We regularly check our voice mail for messages.

Course Calendar

AUGUST

Aug. 21-25 Orientation	26 (First class day) Introduction to the course: Colloquium	28 What is Religion? Lecture, Dr. Muesse Orgill Room Read: Hall, "Religion As a Field of Study" (Reader)
31 TEXTUAL ANALYSIS: Setting the Context: Colloquium Read: NOAB, xxxv-xxxvi; Genesis 1-3 (NOAB)		

SEPTEMBER

	<p>2 Setting the Context: Colloquium Read: “Eve, Adam’s Rib” and Cady Stanton, “Comments on Genesis” (Reader)</p>	<p>4 Setting the Context: Read: Genesis 4-12 (NOAB)</p> <p>All colloquium sections meet in Orgill Room for showing of “Genesis” videotape.</p>
<p>7 LABOR DAY RECESS</p>	<p>9 Setting the Context: Colloquium Review: Gen. 4-12</p>	<p>11 Setting the Context (FOUNDER’S DAY) Colloquium Read: Gen. 15-18; 20-22</p>
<p>14 What Is Scripture? Colloquium Read: Hall, “Scripture” (Reader); NOAB (end) 388-392</p>	<p>16 What Is Scripture? Lecture: Dr. Walsh Orgill Room Read: Gomes, “A Matter of Interpretation” (Reader)</p>	<p>18 Israel and Egypt: Colloquium Read: Gen. 37:1-46:8 (NOAB)</p>
<p>21 Israel and Egypt: Read: Marantz, “Did the Exodus Really Happen?” (Reader) All colloquium sections meet in Orgill Room for showing of “Testament” videotape) ROSH HASHANAH (Jewish New Year) begins sundown, 9/20. “Days of Awe” begin) NOTE: Those who are observing the High Holidays should notify their colloquium leaders.</p>	<p>23 Exodus: Colloquium Read: Exodus 1-10 (NOAB)</p>	<p>25 Exodus: Colloquium Read: Exodus 11-19 (NOAB)</p>
<p>28 Exodus and Sinai: Lecture: Dr. G. Streete Orgill Rm. Read: Exod. 20-24 (NOAB)</p>	<p>30 Exodus and Sinai: Film, “The Ten Commandments,” Orgill Room Read: Exod. 25; 32-34 (NOAB) YOM KIPPUR (Day of Atonement)</p>	

OCTOBER

		<p>2 Exodus: Colloquium (Discussion of film and test review)</p>
<p>5 TEST 1</p>	<p>7 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: Exodus and Prophecy: Lecture: Dr. Walsh Blount Lecture Hall Read: Hosea 1-4 (NOAB)</p>	<p>9 Exodus and Prophecy: Colloquium: Read: Isaiah 40-55 (NOAB); Jeremiah 31</p>
<p>12 Exodus, New Covenant, New Israel: Colloquium Read: Ehrman, "What Is the New Testament?" (Reader); Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24 (all NOAB)</p>	<p>14 Exodus and the New Israel: Colloquium Read: NOAB (NT) viii-1 Matthew 1-4 (NOAB)</p>	<p>16 Exodus and the New Israel: Colloquium Read: Matthew 5-7 (NOAB)</p>
<p>19 FALL RECESS</p>	<p>21 FALL RECESS</p>	<p>23 Exodus and the New Israel: Colloquium Read: NOAB (NT) 76; Luke 1-4; Acts 7 (NOAB)</p>
<p>26 Paul Among Jews and Gentiles: Lecture: Dr. G. Streete Orgill Room</p>	<p>28 Paul Among Jews and Gentiles: Colloquium Read: Romans 1-4, 9-11 (NOAB)</p>	<p>30 Paul Among Jews and Gentiles: Colloquium Read: Stendahl, "Paul Among Jews and Gentiles" (Reader)</p>

NOVEMBER

<p>2 TEST 2</p>	<p>4 Exodus and Revolution: Exodus and Revolution: Lecture: Dr. Muesse Orgill Room Read: Walzer, <u>Exodus and Revolution</u>, 3-17.</p>	<p>6 Exodus and Revolution: Colloquium Read: Walzer, 19-70</p>
<p>9 Exodus and Revolution: Colloquium Read: Walzer, 73-98</p>	<p>11 Exodus and Revolution Colloquium Read: Walzer, 101-149</p>	<p>13 Liberation Theology: Lecture: Dr. G. Streete Orgill Room Read: Brown, "Unexpected News," 38-48, 89-104 (Reader)</p>
<p>16 Liberation Theology: Colloquium Read: Cardenal, "Jesus in Nazareth" (Reader) (Film, "Romero," Scheduled for Tuesday Nov. 17 evening, starting at 6:00 p.m., Orgill Room)</p>	<p>18 Liberation Theology: Colloquium Read: Cone, "Introduction," <u>God of the Oppressed</u>, 1-15 (Reader)</p>	<p>20 Liberation Theology: Colloquium Read: Plaskow, "Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective" (Reader)</p>
<p>23 NO CLASS (Professors at Annual Meeting)</p>	<p>25 THANKSGIVING</p>	<p>27 RECESS</p>
<p>30 COMPARATIVE RELIGION: Patterns of Being Religious Lecture: Dr. Walsh Orgill Room Read: Eliade, <u>The Sacred and the Profane</u>, 8-18: Walker, "God Is Inside You and Inside Everybody Else," Reader.</p>		

DECEMBER

	<p>2 The Sacred and the Profane: Colloquium Read: Eliade, 20-65.</p>	<p>4 The Sacred and the Profane: Colloquium Read: Eliade, 68-113</p>
<p>7 Myth and Ritual: Colloquium Read: <u>The Family Haggadah</u>; Cantor, “Jewish Women’s Haggadah” (Reader)</p>	<p>10 (LAST DAY OF CLASS) Exodus and Pilgrimage: The Hajj Lecture: Dr. Muesse Orgill Rm. Read: “Abraham & Ishmael in the Holy Land” (Reader); “Mecca” from Haley, <u>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</u> (Reader)</p>	<p>12</p>