

## Religious Studies 101: The Bible

Fall 2014

Elaine Goodfriend, Ph.D.

Monday and Wednesday, 8 – 9:15 (13440), SH 384, and 11 – 12:15 (14212) in JR 214.

### Instructor – Student Communication:

a. The best way to communicate with me outside of class is through email:

[elaine.goodfriend@csun.edu](mailto:elaine.goodfriend@csun.edu).

b. You can leave a message at the Department of Religious Studies 677-3392.

c. My office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 12:30—1:30 and Tuesday and Thursday, 11 – 12 in SN 418. My phone number is 818 677-6875 during office hours. If you plan to come to office hours, it's a good idea to contact me in advance, either in class or via email.

d. I will send you up-dates, announcements, warnings, etc., through moodle.csun.edu. Make sure you can access this site right from the start. That is where you will find your quizzes.

### **RS 101. The Bible – This course is a survey of the basic content and major themes of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), New Testament, and Apocryphal writings.**

These are the Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with the basic contents and major themes in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Apocrypha.
2. Students will be able to describe the main events, people, and political and religious institutions (priesthood, kingship, prophecy) of the societies that produced biblical literature.
3. Students will demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in the historical, geographical, social, and political context in which biblical books were constructed.
4. Students will be able to recognize and to articulate (orally and in writing) the difference between academic approaches to the Bible and a personal, devotional approach.
5. Students will be able to demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in the dominant theories regarding the compilation of biblical texts and the literary history of the Hebrew Bible, Apocrypha, and New Testament.

Required Books1. Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha (Paperback) This version is recommended. You may use other translations but please do not use a Bible with antiquated English, such as the King James Bible. Sorry – no electronic Bibles may be used in class.

2. *Exploring the Bible*, by Stephen L. Harris. Second edition; McGraw-Hill, 2013. You may also use the 1<sup>st</sup> edition. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is available at Matador Bookstore. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition can be purchased online. There are also four copies available at the Reserve section of the Oviatt Library. You can also use an electronic version for half price, or rent it.

3. There are materials for class discussion posted on moodle; always print it and bring it to class.

Requirements1. Final Exam. There will be one exam, a cumulative final exam which is worth 20% of your grade. You will receive an extensive and detailed study guide at least one week before the exam. The top grade is 100 points.

2. Quizzes. You will have weekly quizzes for another 70% of your grade. There will be 15 quizzes offered. Only the top 12 quiz grades will count. Each quiz is worth 25 points for a quiz total of 300 points. There are 15 weeks in the semester, so figure that almost every week you will have some kind of homework to do.

There are two kinds of quizzes:

a. Ten online multiple-choice, with unlimited time, and these are available at moodle.csun.edu. The deadline for these is generally Monday 9 A.M. (Don't hit "submit" until you are all done with the quiz; the other option is "save without submitting.")

b. "Take-home" assignments which must be typed and handed in, generally on Monday. There will be 5 of these, and these will generally be 2 – 3 page assignments. The questions are found on moodle. These will be graded on the amount of effort you invest in reading, thinking, and writing. The purpose of these quizzes is to get you to write! Guidelines for writing will be posted and you should take these very seriously.

In general, expect the reading for each quiz to take 2 – 3 hours. You have to read and find the answers; sometimes that means reading one short paragraph but other times you will have to read a few pages in your textbook or a whole long chapter in the Bible. These quizzes are the most important component of your grade; take them seriously. Don't attempt to have a friend in the class who has already done the quiz attempt to do yours: no two online quizzes are the same and the questions and answers are scrambled. If the quiz is a "take-home," you may not work with other students. If your answers are the same or in similar wording, neither of you will get credit. If you end up doing less than 12 quizzes your grade will be significantly lower.

3. Oral Presentation in class on a chapter of the Bible. 10%. The chapters will be assigned at random, meaning you can't choose the one you like. Guidelines for the 5 – 10 minute presentation will be posted. You must come discuss the subject with me prior to your presentation or you only get half credit (5 out of 10 points).

Note on grading: your grades will be available on moodle, which will also compute your grade based on the following:

The grading scale for the course is as follows. Plus/minus grades are given (but not A+): 90-100 – A, 80-89 – B, 70-79 – C, 60-69 – D, Below 60 F.

4. Participation and Attendance

a. Attendance: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Missing more than three (3) classes will result in a lowered grade (1 point per absence). Every two times you arrive late will count as 1 point subtracted from your final grade. If you have two or less absences and no tardies, I will add 2 points to your final grade. If you must leave early, notify me in advance. If you are late for class, confirm with me right after class that you were present. Claims to have been late will not be accepted at a later date. If you are absent for a medical or other compelling reason, offer me written evidence and the absence will not be counted against you. If I see you texting in class, I will count that as an absence and not tell you about it.

b. Since you will be taking the quizzes and doing the reading before class, you will be expected to participate in class discussion. I will call on you at random to give input and you will be expected to participate actively in small-group discussions as well. Your participation will contribute to your grade. 5. BRING YOUR BIBLE TO EVERY CLASS, and I mean every class. If you don't have your Bible I will count this as an absence. Since I don't allow laptops or electronic Bibles, you have to have a real book!6. Extra Credit: There are various ways you can get extra credit (4 points total):

a. Visit me during office hours! Make an appointment and come for a short visit (10 minutes max!) to get acquainted, and get 1 point extra credit.

b. There will be a lecture or movie sponsored by CSUN which is in some way relevant to Bible or Religious Studies. Get my permission, attend it and write up a one or two page summary and response

7. WARNINGS: a. Plagiarizing will be penalized with a grade of F. This means that you cannot copy the work of your fellow student. If you have the same answers as another student, even if you change the words a bit, I will assess it as plagiarizing. Taking information from the internet without offering a footnote will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment and a disciplinary report sent to the Office of Student Affairs.b. Behavior that is in any disruptive will not be tolerated in class. If your behavior is repeatedly disruptive, your misconduct will be reported to Office of Student Affairs.

c. Before class begins, turn your cell phones off, and take care of all your bodily needs. Put your cell phone away during class or I will ask you to leave. For texting in class, see 4a above. Don't put your head on your desk.

d. You may NOT use a laptop in class. This rule is intended to enhance your learning as well as the focus of the students sitting in back of you. If you feel you can't do without it, you have to sit in the front seat and sign a contract that you understand that if you are using your laptop in an unauthorized way, you will take a 20% grade penalty.

e. The Instructor reserves the right to modify/supplement readings and assignments in order to facilitate learning.

**Topics and Assignments:**

a. Each book of the Bible is broken up into chapters and each chapter is divided into numbered verses. All the numbers below, such as Genesis 12-13, are the numbers of chapters, not verses. b. The readings listed below should be read BEFORE the day under which they are listed.

Topics and Assignments:

Monday, 8/25: Introduction to RS 101 & The Bible. Readings: Genesis 1, so bring your Bibles to class.

Wednesday, 8/27: Creation: Genesis 1-3, part 1. Readings: Genesis 1-3; *Exploring*, 3-17, 67-70.

Monday, 9/1: Labor Day

Wednesday, 9/3: Genesis – Before Abraham. Readings: Genesis 4 – 12; *Exploring*, 31-40, 46-49, 70-71.

Monday, 9/8: Genesis – Abraham.  
Readings: Genesis 12 – 25; *Exploring*, 71-73, 53-66.

Wednesday, 9/10: Genesis – The Ancestors of Israel: Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.  
Readings: Genesis 27-30, 34-35, 37- 50; *Exploring*, 73-76.

Monday, 9/15: Israel in Egypt.  
Readings: Exodus 1-12; *Exploring*, 77-81

Wednesday, 9/17: Israel's Legal Tradition.  
Readings: Exodus 19-23, Leviticus 18-19; *Exploring*, 41-44, 82-90.

Monday, 9/22: Israel's Wilderness Heritage.  
Readings: Exodus 25, 32-34, Numbers 1, 10-14, 16, 20-25; *Exploring*, 84-85, 90-93.

Wednesday, 9/24: The Book of Deuteronomy.

Readings: Deuteronomy 1, 4-7, 12, 15, 17, 20-22, 34, 2 Kings 22-23; *Exploring*, 94-100.

Monday, 9/29: Joshua and the Emergence of Israel.

Readings: Joshua 1-3, 5-6, 9-12, Judges 1; *Exploring*, 106-112.

Wednesday, 10/1: The Book of Judges. Readings: Judges 2, 4-5, 11, 13-16, 19-21; *Exploring*, 114-119.

Monday, 10/6: The Emergence of Kingship: Saul and David.

Readings: 1 Samuel 1-3, 8-11, 15-18, 24-25, 27; *Exploring*, 121-124.

Wednesday, 10/8: David as King.

Readings: 1 Samuel 31, 2 Samuel 1-2, 4-7, 11-13, 15, 18, 21, 1 Kings 1; *Exploring*, 125-128.

Monday, 10/13: From Solomon to Ezra: United Monarchy, Division, Destruction, and Return.

Readings: 1 Kings 3, 5-6, 11-12, 18, 21, 2 Kings 2, 17, 18, 21-25, Ezra 1-2, 7, 9, Nehemiah 2, 8; *Exploring*, 129-143, 196-200.

Wednesday, 10/15: The Prophet Isaiah.

Readings: 2 Kings 16-18; Isaiah 1-11, 20, 40-45, 53; *Exploring*, 158-163, 181-183.

Monday 10/20: The Book of Job, part 1.

Readings: Proverbs 7, 10; Job 1-3, 9; *Exploring*, 208-219.

Wednesday, 10/22: The Book of Job, part 2.

Readings: 18-22, 38-42.

Monday, 10/27: Writings: Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, and Ruth.

Readings: Ecclesiastes 1-3, 6, 9, Song of Songs 1, 3, 5, 7; Ruth, 1-4; *Exploring*, 219-223, 227-228.

Wednesday, 10/29: The World in Which Christianity Originated.

Readings: *Exploring*, 265-290.

Monday, 11/3: Telling Jesus' Story: The Gospel of Mark.

Readings: Mark 1-16; *Exploring*, 291-306.

Wednesday, 11/5: The Gospel of Matthew.

Readings: Matthew 1-10, 24-27.

Monday, 11/10: The Gospel of Luke.  
Readings: Luke 1-4, 10, 15; *Exploring*, 329-339.

Wednesday, 11/12: The Passion Narrative.  
Readings: posted on moodle; print out for class.

Monday, 11/17: The Synoptic Problem  
Readings: *Exploring*, 307-319. Do pdf posted on moodle on "Comparing the Gospels."

Wednesday, 11/19: The Gospel of John.  
Readings: John 1-11, 18-21; *Exploring*, 336-349.

Monday, 11/24: Class cancelled.

Wednesday, 11/26: The Book of Acts.  
Readings: Acts 1-10, 15-16, 27-28; *Exploring*, 350-361.

Monday, 12/1: Paul and the Gentile Mission.  
Readings: Romans 3-5, Galatians 3-5, 1 Corinthians 7-15; *Exploring*, 363-382.

Wednesday, 12/3: Paul and the Gentile Mission, part 2.  
Readings: Romans 3-5, Galatians 3-5, 1 Corinthians 7-15; *Exploring*, 363-382.

Monday, 12/8: The Book of Revelation & "Our Biblical Legacy."  
Readings: Revelation 1-2, 6-8, 12-14, 19-22; *Exploring*, 412-423; *Exploring*, chapter 39, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition only.

Final Exams: Wednesday, 12/10 at 10:15 and Monday, 12/15 at 8 AM.

This course is a G.E. (General Education) course in the Arts and Humanities. The goal of this course: Students will understand the rich history and diversity of human knowledge, discourse and achievements of their own and other cultures as they are expressed in the arts, literatures, religions, and philosophy.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Explain and reflect critically upon the human search for meaning, values, discourse and expression in one or more eras/stylistic periods or cultures;
2. Analyze, interpret, and reflect critically upon ideas of value, meaning, discourse and expression from a variety of perspectives from the arts and/or humanities;
3. Produce work/works of art that communicate to a diverse audience through a demonstrated understanding and fluency of expressive forms;

4. Demonstrate ability to engage and reflect upon their intellectual and creative development within the arts and humanities;
5. Use appropriate critical vocabulary to describe and analyze works of artistic expression, literature, philosophy, or religion and a comprehension of the historical context within which a body of work was created or a tradition emerged;
6. Describe and explain the historical and/or cultural context within which a body of work was created or a tradition emerged.