

Religious Studies 101: The Bible

Fall 2017

Elaine Goodfriend, Ph.D.

Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30 – 1:45, 2 – 3:15 in SH 384.

Instructor – Student Communication:

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

elaine.goodfriend@csun.edu or elainegoodfriend@gmail.com.

b. My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 11:15-12:15, and Monday and Wednesday 12:30 to 1 in Santa Susanna 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.

c. 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 Books

1. 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. 2nd edition; McGraw-Hill, 2013. You may also use the 1st edition. The 2nd edition is available at Matador Bookstore. The 1st 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.

Requirements

1. 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 19 quizzes offered. Only the top 15 quiz grades will count. Each quiz is worth 25 points for a quiz total of 375 points. There are 15 weeks in the semester, so figure that every week you will have some kind of homework to do. Quizzes are generally online multiple choice with unlimited time, but there are several assignments which count as quizzes which are to be typed, printed, and submitted to the Instructor in class.

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. No two online quizzes are the same and the questions and answers are scrambled. If you end up doing less than 15 quizzes your grade will be significantly lower. During the first week there is a quiz on this syllabus. Do it!

3. Oral Report: I will assign each student a topic for a 5-10 minute oral report on the subject. He/she has to meet with me beforehand to discuss the intent of the assignment and the sources of research. All meetings must be arranged and accomplished before Friday, 10/13. After the report, hand in your "talking points" in order to get credit. If you want to offer pictures and main ideas, you can use a Powerpoint presentation. (10% of your grade)

4. Participation and 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 three 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. 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! If I see you looking at your phone, I will assume you are texting.

6. Extra Credit: There are various ways you can get extra credit (3 points total):

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 4 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.

c. Pages in *Exploring* are listed according to the 2nd edition. If you are using the first edition, there is no more than a 5 page difference.

Dates & Assignments

T, 8/29: Introduction to RS 101 & The Bible.

Readings: Genesis 1 (bring your Bibles and print and bring "Different Approaches to the Bible" posted on canvas).

Th, 8/31: Creation and the Garden of Eden.

Readings: Genesis 1-3; *Exploring*, 3-17, 65-68.

T, 9/5: Genesis – Before Abraham.

Readings: Genesis 4 – 12; *Exploring*, 31-47, 69-71

Th, 9/7: Genesis – Abraham.

Readings: Genesis 12 – 25; *Exploring*, 71-73, 53-66.

T, 9/12: Genesis – The Ancestors of Israel: Isaac & Jacob.

Readings: Genesis 27-30, 34-35, 38; *Exploring*, 70-72.

Th, 9/14: Genesis – The Joseph Story.

Readings: Genesis 37-50; *Exploring*, 73-74

T, 9/19: Israel in Egypt.

Readings: Exodus 1-12; *Exploring*, 75-80

Th, 9/21: Class Cancelled.

T, 9/26: Israel's Legal Tradition.

Readings: Exodus 19-23, Leviticus 18-19; *Exploring*, 39-41, 80-83.

Th, 9/28: Israel's Wilderness Heritage.

Readings: Exodus 25, 32-34, Numbers 1, 10-14, 16, 20-25; *Exploring*, 86-92.

T, 10/3: The Book of Deuteronomy.

Readings: Deuteronomy 1, 5-6, 12, 17, 19-24, 34, 2 Kings 22-23; *Exploring*, 93-99.

Th, 10/5: Class Cancelled.

T, 10/10: Joshua and the Emergence of Israel.

Readings: Joshua 1-3, 5-6, 9-12, Judges 1; *Exploring*, 105-115.

Th, 10/12: Class Cancelled.

T, 10/17: The Book of Judges.

Readings: Judges 2, 4-5, 11, 13-16, 19-21; *Exploring*, 116-122.

Th, 10/19: "The Emergence of Kingship: Saul and David."

Readings: 1 Samuel 1-3, 8-11, 15-18; 1 Samuel 24-25, 27, 31, 2 Samuel 1-2. *Exploring*, 123-127.

T, 10/24: David as King.

Readings: 2 Samuel 4-7, 11-13, 15, 18, 21, 1 Kings 1; *Exploring*, 127-130.

Th, 10/26: "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*, 131-145, 199-206.

T, 10/31: The Prophet Isaiah.

Readings: 2 Kings 16-18; Isaiah 1-11, 20, 40-45, 53; *Exploring*, 162-167, 185-187.

Th, 11/2: The Book of Job,

Readings: Proverbs 7, 10; Job 1-3, 9, 18-22, 38-42; *Exploring*, 214-224.

T, 11/7: Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, and Ruth.

Readings: Ecclesiastes 1-3, 6, 9, Song of Songs 1, 3, 5, 7; Ruth, 1-4; *Exploring*, 224-228, 230-234.

Th, 11/9: The World in Which Christianity Originated & First Century Judaism.

Readings: *Exploring*, 269-294.

T, 11/14: Telling Jesus' Story: The Gospel of Mark.

Readings: Mark 1-16; *Exploring*, 295-310.

Th, 11/16: The Gospels of Matthew & Luke.

Readings: Matthew 1-10, 24-27; Luke 1-4, 10, 15; *Exploring*, 311-339. Do pdf on canvas, "Comparing the Gospels."

T, 11/21: The Gospel of John.

Readings: John 1-11, 18-21; *Exploring*, 340-353.

Th, 11/23: Thanksgiving.

T, 11/28: The Book of Acts.

Readings: Acts 1-10, 15-16, 27-28; *Exploring*, 354-366.

Th, 11/30: Paul's Gentile Mission.

Readings: Romans 3-5, Galatians 3-5, 1 Corinthians 7-15; *Exploring*, 367-387.

T, 12/5: Continuing the Pauline Tradition.

Readings: 2 Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus; *Exploring*, 396-405.

Th, 12/7: The Book of Revelation & "Our Biblical Legacy."

Readings: Revelation 1-2, 6-8, 12-14, 19-22; *Exploring*, 429-445, 2nd edition only.

Final Exam: Thursday, 12/14, 12:45 – 2:45, 3 – 5.

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.