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| **RS 101: The Bible**  **Spring 2017 – California State University, Northridge**  **Classroom – Syllabus (2/19/2017)**  Instructor: Timothy Kuns  Email: [timothy.kuns@csun.edu](mailto:timothy.kuns@csun.edu)  Classroom: Juniper Hall, Room 1202  Dates: 1/23/2017 – 5/12/2017  Days and Times: Monday and Wednesday, 11:00am – 12:15am  Office Hours: Mon. and Wed., 10:00 – 10:50 am in SN 419 – Please make and confirm appointments by email.  Religious Studies Department Office SN 224 | | | | |
| Course Description: This course is a survey of the basic content and major themes of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), New Testament, and Apocryphal writings. | | | | |
| RS 204 Course Student Learning Objectives – students will be able to:   * Demonstrate familiarity with the basic contents and major themes in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Apocrypha. * Describe the main events, people, and political and religious institutions (priesthood, kingship, prophecy) of the societies that produced biblical literature. * Demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in the historical, geographical, social, and political context in which biblical books were constructed. * Recognize and to articulate (orally and in writing) the difference between academic approaches to the Bible and a personal, devotional approach. * 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. | | | | |
| General Education Student Learning Objectives – 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. Specifically, students will be able to:   * Explain and reflect critically upon the human search for meaning, values, discourse and expression in one or more eras/stylistic periods or cultures; * Analyze, interpret, and reflect critically upon ideas of value, meaning, discourse and expression from a variety of perspectives from the arts and/or humanities; * Produce work/works of art that communicate to a diverse audience through a demonstrated understanding and fluency of expressive forms; * Demonstrate ability to engage and reflect upon their intellectual and creative development within the arts and humanities; * 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; * Describe and explain the historical and/or cultural context within which a body of work was created or a tradition emerged. | | | | |
| Religious Studies Department Student Learning Objectives: This course will address most of the following learning objectives. Students will be able to:  • Recognize and to articulate (orally and in writing) the difference between an academic approach to religion and a personal, devotional approach.  • Demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in recognizing the major contributors to the modern study of religion and their models/theories from philosophy, theology, the history of religions, and the social sciences.  • Understand the following terms in their conventional, popular usage, and then discuss the variety of ways that religious studies scholars have critiqued, expanded, or problematized these: religion, religious, myth, ritual, symbol, philosophy, subjectivity, objectivity, secular/secularization, cult, sect, mysticism, theism, atheism, polytheism, monotheism, spirituality, magic, paganism, animism, canon, religious violence, post-colonialism, individualistic compared to community-based religions.  • Explain and give basic examples of the social function of religion with regard to gender, ethnicity, and nationality.  • Recognize religiosity in an aspect of modern culture such as different forms of media, art, music, films, politics, sports, and the public discourse on science.  • Demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in describing several specific religious traditions, including their historical development, major beliefs and practices, and demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in interpreting religious texts and rituals from each religious tradition. | | | | |
| Required Textbooks and Resources:  Sumney, Jerry, L. *The Bible: An Introduction, 2nd edition*. 2014. Minneapolis: Fortress Press  An English Translation of the Bible. (Recommended: *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*. 2010) Other translations such as the NIV, NASB, RSV, are permissible. However the King James Version and various paraphrase versions of the Bible are not permitted. Please bring your Bible to every class session. N.B. For purposes of navigation the Bible is divided into chapters and verses, e.g. Genesis 12:3 means the book of Genesis, chapter 12, verse 3. Additionally, Genesis 12-15 means Genesis chapters 12 through 15 and Genesis 12:1-3 means Genesis chapter 12, verses 1 through 3.  http://bibleodyssey.org | | | | |
| Evaluation: Students will be graded on all assigned reading and lecture material by means of quizzes, two midterms, and a final. Additionally, class participation and attendance will be incorporated into the quiz portion of the class grade.  Quizzes, class participation and attendance – 25%  Midterm 1 – 25%  Midterm 2 – 25%  Final Exam – 25% | | | | |
| Grading: Grading will be based on the following scale  94-100 = A 77-79 = C+  90-93 = A- 74-76 = C  87-89 = B+ 70-73 = C-  84-86 = B 60-69 = D  80-83 = B- <60 = F | | | | |
| Plagiarism and cheating: Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated and will result in failing the class. Additionally, faculty members are required to report incidents of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Refer to the most recent addition of the Student Handbook for a more complete discussion of Cheating and Plagiarism. | | | | |
| Accommodation for Disabilities: If you require special accommodation for a disability, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office or the National Center on Deafness (DCOD). The DRES office is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110 and can be reached at (818) 677-2684. NCOD is located on Bertrand Street in Jeanne Chisholm Hall and can be reached at (818) 677-2611. | | | | |
| Personal Difficulties: If you are having personal difficulties (e.g. health, emotional issues, or family problems) during the semester which interfere with your ability to perform the necessary assignments or attend classes, please notify me as soon as possible. | | | | |
| Email Communications: Please use the following convention in the Subject Line when communicating with me by email: RS204 – <your name as registered for the class> - <brief reason for the email>  An example:  Subject: RS101 – John Doe – Schedule an Appointment | | | | |
| Moodle: Please consult Moodle regularly for course updates, news, and handouts. Class materials, lecture notes, discussion posts, articles, etc will normally be posted on Monday and Wednesday afternoon. See: <https://moodle.csun.edu/> | | | | |
| Course Requirements:  Students must complete reading assignments prior to class. Regular class attendance is as essential as the assigned reading. You will be tested on both lectures and reading assignments. | | | | |
| **WEEKLY SCHEDULE (PROVISIONAL)** | | | | |
| **WEEK** | **DATES** | **SUMNEY** | **BIBLE** | **NOTE** |
| 1 | 1/23-29 | Course Introduction  1. The Bible: A Gradually Emerging Collection | Genesis 1-11 |  |
| 2 | 1/30-2/5 | 2. From Then to Now: The Transmission of the Bible | Genesis 12-50 |  |
| 3 | 2/6-12 | 4. The Pentateuch, Part 1: Genesis | Exodus  Leviticus |  |
| 4 | 2/13-19 | 5. The Pentateuch, Part 2: Exodus – Deuteronomy | Numbers  Deuteronomy |  |
| 5 | 2/20-26 | 6. The Israelites Tell Their Story: Interpretations of National Disasters – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel | Joshua  Judges  ~~Ruth~~  1 and 2 Samuel | MT 1 |
| 6 | 2/27-3/5 | 6. The Israelites Tell Their Story (cont,) 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra Nehemiah | 1 and 2 Kings  ~~1 and 2 Chronicles~~  Ezra and Nehemiah  ~~Esther~~ |  |
| 7 | 3/6-12 | 7. Israel’s Prophetic Tradition – Classical Prophets, Prophets before, during, and after the Exile | Isaiah  Jeremiah  Ezekiel  Daniel  Minor Prophets |  |
| 8 | 3/13-19 | 8. Israel’s Wisdom Literature and Esther – Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes  9. Israel’s Response to God – Psalms, Song of Solomon | Job  Proverbs  Ecclesiastes  Psalms  Song of Solomon |  |
|  | 3/20-26 | **SPRING**  **BREAK** | |  |
| 9 | 3/27-4/2 | 10. Between the Testaments: From Alexander the Great to the Time of Jesus  11. The Gospels: Their Composition and Nature | Mark,  Matthew | MT 2 |
| 10 | 4/3-9 | 12. Four Views of Jesus: Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John | Luke  John |  |
| 11 | 4/10-16 | 13. The Story Continues: The Acts of the Apostles (Acts) | Acts |  |
| 12 | 4/17-23 | 14. Pauline Letters: Paul’s Advice to Early Churches – 1 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Philemon, and Romans | 1 Thessalonians  1 Corinthians  2 Corinthians  Galatians  Philippians  Philemon  Romans |  |
| 13 | 4/24-30 | 15. Disputed Pauline Letters: Advice to the Churches in Paul’s Name – 2 Thessalonians, Colossians, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus | 2 Thessalonians  Colossians  Ephesians  1 Timothy  2 Timothy  Titus |  |
| 14 | 5/1-7 | 16. Hebrews and the General Epistles: Messages for Broader Audiences – Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude | Hebrews  James  1 Peter  2 Peter  1 John  2 John  3 John  Jude |  |
| 15 | 5/8-12 | 17. Revelation: John’s Apocalyptic Vision – The Revelation of John (Revelation) | Revelation |  |
| Finals | 5/13-19 | **Final Exam – Wednesday, May 17, 10:15 – 12:15pm** | | Final |
| **END OF SYLLABUS** | | | | |