

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

Graduate Programs—NEW COURSE PROPOSAL¹

 UGPC APPROVAL _____
 UFS APPROVAL _____
 SCNS SUBMITTAL _____
 CONFIRMED _____
 BANNER POSTED _____
 CATALOG _____

 DEPARTMENT: LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS &
 COMPARATIVE LITERATURES

COLLEGE: ARTS & LETTERS

RECOMMENDED COURSE IDENTIFICATION:

 PREFIX LIT COURSE NUMBER 6408 LAB CODE (L or C)

 (TO OBTAIN A COURSE NUMBER, CONTACT [MJENNINGS@FAU.EDU](mailto:mjennings@fau.edu))

 COMPLETE COURSE TITLE: **MYTH AND THE BIBLE**
EFFECTIVE DATE

(first term course will be offered)

 SPRING, 2015

 CREDITS²: 3

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION: STEPHANIE DALLEY, *MYTHS FROM MESOPOTAMIA*; ROBERT SEGAL, *MYTH: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION*; SIMON PARKER, *UGARITIC NARRATIVE POETRY* (OTHER READINGS FROM WILLIAM HALLO, *THE CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE*, AND JAMES PRITCHARD, *ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN TEXTS RELATING TO THE OLD TESTAMENT* WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY); *THE BIBLE* (ANY EDITION)

GRADING (SELECT ONLY ONE GRADING OPTION): REGULAR X SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY
COURSE DESCRIPTION, NO MORE THAN THREE LINES: THIS COURSE WILL EXPLORE THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF MYTHOLOGY, FOCUSING ON ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN TRADITIONS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE OLD TESTAMENT, PARTICULARLY THE EARLY CHAPTERS OF GENESIS

PREREQUISITES^{*}: GRADUATE STANDING

COREQUISITES^{*}:
REGISTRATION CONTROLS (MAJOR, COLLEGE, LEVEL)^{*}:

* PREREQUISITES, COREQUISITES AND REGISTRATION CONTROLS WILL BE ENFORCED FOR ALL COURSE SECTIONS.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED TO TEACH THIS COURSE: PH.D. IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

 Faculty contact, email and complete phone number:
 Frederick Greenspahn, greenspa@fau.edu,
 (561)297-0645

 Please consult and list departments that might be affected by the new course and attach comments.³

English

Approved by:

 Department Chair:
 College Curriculum Chair:
 College Dean:
 UGPC Chair:
 Graduate College Dean:
 UFS President:
 Provost:
Date:
 11/01/13
 11/05/13
 11/06/13
 11/13/13
 11-29-13

1. Syllabus must be attached; see guidelines for requirements:
www.fau.edu/provost/files/course_syllabus.2011.pdf
2. Review Provost Memorandum: **Definition of a Credit Hour**
www.fau.edu/provost/files/Definition_Credit_Hour_Memo_2012.pdf
3. Consent from affected departments (attach if necessary)

Email this form and syllabus to UGPC@fau.edu one week before the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

MYTH AND THE BIBLE (LIT 6408, 3 credits)

Spring, 2015; W 7:10-10 p.m., CU 123

F.Greenspahn (greenspa@fau.edu)

CU 232L; (561)297-0645

ofc hrs: M-F 10:30 or by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will explore the role and significance of mythology, focusing on ancient Near Eastern traditions and their relationship to the Old Testament, particularly the early chapters of Genesis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will become familiar with common themes in ancient Near Eastern mythological literature and their reflexes, including similarities and differences, in the Bible.

PREREQUISITES: graduate standing

REQUIRED READINGS: Students are expected to have read the assigned material prior to the class session at which it is to be discussed and to bring a Bible (any translation is acceptable) to each meeting. In addition to the Bible, the following required texts are available in the University bookstore:

Stephanie Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia* (Oxford University Press, 1989)

Simon Parker, *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry* (Society of Biblical Literature, 1997)

Robert Segal, *Myth: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2004)

Other required readings, which are noted in the assignments below, can be found in William Hallo, *The Context of Scripture* ("Hallo") or James Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament* ("Pritchard"), both which are available at the University library, or on the course's Blackboard website as marked with asterisks on the course outline below.

There will be two written assignments, each of which will constitute 40% of your grade. The first, which should be approximately ten double-spaced pages long, is to be an overview, describing how one modern scholar understands myths. Possible subjects include Mircea Eliade, James Frazier, S.H. Hooke, Carl Jung, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Bronislaw Malinowski, and Edward B. Tylor. The papers are due on February 18.

The second paper should be a research project of approximately 25 double-spaced pages on any relevant topic of your choosing. A written proposal, listing the topic and a preliminary bibliography, is due in class on January 21. The paper itself is due on April 15; a rough draft may be turned in by March 18 for initial feedback. Grades for papers that are turned in late will be lowered 5%. A brief (10 minute) synopsis of your findings will be presented orally during the "Final Exam" time slot on April 29.

The remaining 20% will be based on attendance, with 5% taken off for the second and each subsequent absence.

EVALUATION: Scholar overview: 40%
Research paper: 40%
Attendance: 20%

GRADING SCALE:

92-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+		
90-92	A-	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D	0-59	F
		80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-		

No grade below B will count towards a graduate degree.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Electronic devices, such as laptops and cell phones, may not be used during class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) – in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie – LA 240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter – SR 110 (561-799-8010); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 117 (772-873-3441) – and follow all OSD procedures. <http://osd.fau.edu/>

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg_4.001_5-26-10_Final.pdf.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

January 7 – Definition and Orientation

Genesis 1:1-2:4

Exodus 16

*Stephanie Dalley, “Near Eastern Myths and Legends,” chapter 4 of *The Biblical World*, ed. John Barton, vol. 1, pp. 41-64.

January 14 – Biblical References to Pagan Mythology

Genesis 11:1-9

1 Kings 18

Isaiah 14; 44:9-20; 46

Jeremiah 44

Ezekiel 18

Psalm 115

“The Epic of Creation” (Dalley, pp. 233-74)

II. MYTHOLOGY IN ISRAEL

January 21 – Relics in the Bible

Genesis 6:1-4

Deuteronomy 32:7-9

1 Kings 22

Jeremiah 23

Ezekiel 14:12-23

Psalms 29, 82

Job 15

“Aqhat” (Parker, pp. 51-78)

“The Birth of the Gracious Gods” (Parker, pp. 208-14)

“The Sumerian King List” (Pritchard, pp. 265-66)

term paper proposals due

January 28 – The Holy Mountain

Genesis 2-3; 28

Isaiah 66

Ezekiel 28:11-19; 47:1-12

Psalms 48, 132

“Enki and Ninhursag” (Pritchard, pp. 37-41)

“The Eridu Genesis” (Hallo, vol. 1, pp. 513-15)

“The Baal Cycle” (Parker, pp. 87-164)

“Atrahasis” (Dalley, pp. 9-35)

February 4 – Royal Mythology

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Judges 8:22-23

1 Samuel 8

2 Samuel 7

Isaiah 11

Zechariah 14:1-9

Psalms 2; 72; 89

February 11 – The Enemies of God

Isaiah 27:1

Habakkuk 3:8-15

Psalms 74; 93

Job 7:12; 9:1-13; 26

III. GENESIS AND MYTH

February 18 – Creation

Genesis 1-4

Psalms 8

Proverbs 3, 8

“From The ‘Memphite Theology’” (Hallo, vol. 1, pp. pp. 21-23)

“Dumuzi and Enkimdu” (Pritchard, pp. 41-42)

“Adapa” (Dalley, pp. 184-87)

first paper due

February 25 – The Flood

Genesis 6-10

“The Epic of Gilgamesh” (Dalley, pp. 50-125, 136-51)

March 4 – no class

March 11 – Primal History

Genesis 15

The Israelite Transformation of Myth and Ritual

Exodus 12

Leviticus 23-24

Deuteronomy 16:9-12

IV. MYTH AND EPIC

March 18 – In Illo Tempore

Exodus 32-33

Deuteronomy 10:1-5

1 Samuel 4

1 Kings 12

Ezekiel 43

March 25 – The Exodus

Genesis 16

Exodus 1-17

1 Samuel 22

1 Kings 19

Isaiah 43; 51; 63:7-14

Hosea 2

Psalms 77; 114

V. MYTHOLOGICAL MOTIFS IN LATER ISRAELITE THOUGHT

April 1 – The Divine Warrior

Exodus 14-15
 Deuteronomy 33
 Joshua 2
 Judges 5
 Amos 5:18-20
 Habakkuk 3
 Zephaniah 1:14-18
 Psalms 18; 24

April 8 – Exile

Isaiah 10-11; 13; 34-35; 43
 Jeremiah 6; 25; 31; 50
 Ezekiel 29
 Nahum 1
 Psalm 107
 Matthew 1

April 15 – The Return of Mythology

Genesis 18
 Job 1-2
 Daniel 7-12
 Revelation 12-13
 Philippians 2:1-11

Research papers due

April 29 – Presentations

Bibliography

- Robert Ackerman, *The Myth and Ritual Theory: J.G. Frazer and the Cambridge Ritualists* (New York: Garland, 1991)
- Bertil Albrektson, *History and the Gods, An Essay on the Idea of Historical Events as Divine Manifestations in the Ancient Near East and in Israel* (Lund: Gleerup, 1967).
- Bernard F. Batto, *Slaying the Dragon, Mythmaking in the Biblical Tradition* (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992).
- Peter G. Bietenholz, *Historia and Fabula, Myths and Legends in Historical Thought from Antiquity to the Modern Age* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994)
- Umberto Cassuto, "The Israelite Epic" in *Biblical and Oriental Studies* (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1973-75), vol. 2, pp. 69-109
- Brevard S. Childs, *Myth and Reality in the Old Testament* (London: SCM Press, 1960).
- Percy S. Cohen, "Theories of Myth," *Man* new series 4 (1969) 337-53.
- Adela Yarbro Collins, *Cosmology and Eschatology in Jewish and Christian Apocalypticism* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1996).
- Adela Yarbro Collins, *The Combat Myth in the Book of Revelation* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2001).
- Frank Moore Cross, *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic, Essays in the History of the Religion of Israel* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1973).

- Frank Moore Cross, *From Epic to Canon, History and Literature in Ancient Israel* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998).
- John Day, *God's Conflict with the Dragon and the Sea* (Cambridge University Press, 1985).
- Marcel Detiene, *The Creation of Mythology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986).
- Mircea Eliade, *Images and Symbols, Studies in Religious Symbolism* (New York: Sheed and Ward, 1969).
- Mircea Eliade, *Cosmos and History: The Myth of the Eternal Return* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1971).
- J.J. Finkelstein, "Bible and Babel," *Commentary* 26 (1958) 431-44.
- Michael Fishbane, *Biblical Myths and Rabbinic Mythmaking* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).
- Henri Frankfort, *Before Philosophy, The Intellectual Adventure of Ancient Man*. (Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1949).
- Theodor Gaster, *Myth, Legend and Custom in the Old Testament* (New York: Harper & Row, 1969).
- William W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger, Jr., *The Context of Scripture: Canonical Compositions, Monumental Inscriptions, and Archival Documents from the Biblical World* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1997-2002).
- Samuel N. Kramer, *Mythologies of the Ancient World* (New York: Doubleday, 1961/89).
- Yehezkel Kaufmann, "The Bible and Mythological Polytheism," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 70 (1951) 179-97.
- Yehezkel Kaufmann, *The Religion of Israel* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1960).
- G.S. Kirk, *Myth, Its Meaning and Function in Ancient and Other Cultures* (Cambridge University Press, 1970).
- W.G. Lambert, "A New Look at the Babylonian Background of Genesis," *Journal of Theological Studies* 16 (1965) 287-300.
- Bruce Lincoln, *Theorizing Myth: Narrative, Ideology, and Scholarship* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999)
- John McKenzie, *Myths and Realities: Studies in Biblical Theology* (Milwaukee; Bruce Publishing Co., 1963).
- James B. Pritchard, *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1969).
- John W. Rogerson, *Myth in Old Testament Interpretation* (Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, 134; Berlin: De Gruyter, 1974).
- Thomas A. Sebeok, *Myth: A Symposium* (Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1958).
- Robert A. Segal, *Encountering Jung on Mythology* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998)
- Robert A. Segal, *The Myth and Ritual Theory: An Anthology* (Malden: Blackwell, 1998).
- Robert A. Segal, *Ritual and Myth: Robertson-Smith, Frazer, Hooke, and Harrison* (New York: Garland, 1996).
- Robert A. Segal, *Structuralism and Myth: Lévi-Strauss, Barthes, Dumezil, and Propp* (Garland, 1996).
- Robert A. Segal, *Theorizing About Myth* (Amherst; University of Massachusetts, 1999).
- Jean Seznec, *The Survival of the Pagan Gods, The Mythological Tradition and its Place in Renaissance Humanism and Art* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1953).
- Mark S. Smith, *The Early History of God, Yahweh and the Other Deities in Ancient Israel* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2002).
- Mark S. Smith, *God in Translation: Deities in Cross-Cultural Discourse in the Biblical World* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008).
- Mark S. Smith, *The Memoirs of God: History, Memory, and the Experience of the Divine in Ancient Israel* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004).
- Mark Smith, *The Origins of Biblical Monotheism: Israel's Polytheistic Background and the Ugaritic Texts* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).
- Ivan Strenski, *Four Theories of Myth: Cassirer, Eliade, Lévi-Strauss, and Malinowski* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1987).
- Michael Tilly, *Jerusalem – Nabel der Welt, Überlieferung und Funktionen von Heiligtumstraditionen im antiken Judentum* (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2002).