Graduate Programs—NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

DEPARTMENT: LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS & COMPARATIVE LITERATURES

RECOMMENDED COURSE IDENTIFICATION:
PREFIX LIT COURSE NUMBER 6408 LAB CODE (L or C) __

(TO OBTAIN A COURSE NUMBER, CONTACT MJENNIG@FAU.EDU)

COMPLETE COURSE TITLE: MYTH AND THE BIBLE

CREDITS: 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: [Signature] Date: 11/01/13

College Curriculum Chair: [Signature] 11/06/13

College Dean: [Signature] 11/06/13

UGPC Chair: [Signature] 11/06/13

Graduate College Dean: [Signature] 11/29/13

UGPC Chair: [Signature] 11/06/13

UFS President: [Signature] 11/06/13

Provost: [Signature] 11/06/13

1. Syllabus must be attached; see guidelines for requirements: www.fau.edu/provost/files/course_syllabus_2011.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.

FAUnewcrseGrad—Revised September 2013
MYTH AND THE BIBLE (LIT 6408, 3 credits)
Spring, 2015; W 7:10-10 p.m., CU 123
F. Greenspan (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.

PREQREQUISITES: 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)

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:

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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

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


Peter G. Bietenholz, Historia and Fabula, Myths and Legends in Historical Thought from Antiquity to the Modern Age (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994)


