In this course we study the entire book of Genesis under the three large headings of Creation/Myth, Covenant/Promise, History/The Joseph Narrative. Special emphasis is given to key theological perspectives that emerge in the stories and narratives.

The goals of the course are: for the student

a) to be familiar adequately with all of the texts and stories of Genesis. This means that you will know the literal presentation of the entire book by your reading and rereading of the texts themselves in translation.

b) to appreciate the literary structure of several narratives for the purpose of their help in theological interpretation

c) to be able to evaluate the various perspectives of myth, covenant and history in light of the texts and the history of interpretation.

d) to be thoroughly familiar with a chosen text in Genesis from the point of view of literary analysis, history of interpretation and theological import. This will arise from your focus on a chosen text or topic for a major term paper.

A textbook for the course is not required, but I have ordered a number of copies of the NIBC Commentary on Genesis by John E. Hartley at the Crux Book Store at Wycliffe College. If you want to have a commentary ready at hand throughout the course, this is a convenient one for our purposes. But you will still need to consult various other commentaries, articles and works throughout the course.

Course Information:

Office hours: My office is located on the fourth level (3rd floor) Regis College, 100 Wellesley Street W, # 319.
Telephone: 416 922-5474 ext 249. E-mail: mf.kolarcik@utoronto.ca

I will try to be available in my office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 - 4 pm for discussions or clarifications. Otherwise, feel free to drop by whenever I am in the office or make an appointment during the week.

Assignments:

25% Assignment due on Tuesday October 19th, 2010. How would you respond, in the literary form of a letter, to an intelligent, wellread 17 year old, who told you that the biblical stories of creation are simply poorly written fables, and that these biblical stories should be replaced in the Bible with scientific narratives presenting evolution as an explanation for the unfolding of the universe? 3 pages, Times Roman 12pt, regular margins.

75% 1 term paper, 4000-5000 words (15-20 pages, double-spaced, TimesRoman12 pt), class participation in discussion. The paper is due on the Tuesday of Examination Week, December 14th, 2010. Please use Turabian guidelines for bibliographical notation (see the explanation that I provide on my webpage). If someone would prefer to present their research in a seminar form of one hour (rather than a term paper) that is possible during one of the last two classes, Nov 30th or Dec 7th (two at the most).

Grading:
A+ 90< mastery of materials presented in the lectures and semi
– well-written and well argued
– creative application of selected method to specific question or problem
– innovative/original contribution to the field of inquiry

A 85-8  – mastery of materials presented in the lectures and seminars,
– well-written and well argued
– creative application of selected method to specific question or problem

A- 80-84  – adequate comprehension of materials presented in the lectures and seminars,
– well-written and well argued
– productive application of selected method to specific question or problem

B+ 78-79  – comprehension of materials presented in the lectures and seminars
– some difficulties with written syntax and/or argumentation
– application of selected method to specific question or problem

B 75-77  – limited comprehension of materials presented in the lectures and seminars
– some difficulties with written syntax and/or argumentation
– application of selected method to specific question or problem

B- 70-74  – limited comprehension of materials presented in the lectures and seminars
– difficulties with written syntax and/or argumentation
– limited application of selected method to specific question or problem

Failure 69>  – considerable deficiencies in any of the three areas: comprehension, writing and argumentation, and application of methodology; plagiarism

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference databases solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

* An asterisk entry signifies a book placed on the reserve shelf for this course in the Regis College Library. On occasion I provide the call number of the book in the Regis Library after the bibliographical notation.

COMMENTS:ARY:
*BRUEGGEMANN, W. *Genesis, A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. John Knox, Atlanta: 1982. bs 1235 .3 b78
FRETHEIM, T.E. Creation, Fall and Flood, studies in Genesis 1-11. Minneapolis, Minn.: Augsburg, 1969. bs 1235.2 f7
HUMBERT, P. "Études sur le récit du Paradis et de la chute dans la Genèse." Neuchâtel: 1940.
PLASTARAS, J. Creation and Covenant,,Milwaukee: 1968. bs 1225 p71

GENERAL and SPECIFIC TOPICS:


FOKKELMAN, J. *Narrative Art in Genesis, Specimens of Stylistic and Structural Analysis*. SSN 17, Assen/Amsterdam: Van Gorcum, 1975. bs 1235 .2 f6


GOOD, E.M. *Irony in the Old Testament*. Shefield: Almond Press, 1981. bs 1199 i 71g 


JEANSONNE, S.P. *The Women of Genesis, From Sarah to Potiphar's Wife*. Fortress, Minneapolis, Minn.: 1990. bs 1235 .6 w 7 j43


