

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Creation

TERM: Spring 2019-20

PROFESSOR: Steven Tuell

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 20
AUDITORS: 5

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will consider the role played by creation faith in the Old and New Testaments, the mythic background against which that faith must be viewed, and the implications of the idea of creation for contemporary life and faith. In the first half of the term, students will read biblical creation texts from both the Hebrew Bible (Genesis 1—3, the Psalms, prophets and wisdom literature), and the New Testament (in particular, the prologue to John, the “cosmic Christ” passages from Ephesians and Colossians, and Revelation). These texts will be considered against the backdrop of ancient Near Eastern culture and religion, specifically creation mythology. The second half of the course will consider the relationships among the Bible, the theological concept of creation, the scientific study of origins, and our current climate crisis.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

This course will approach Scripture by means of the biblical theme of creation. By tracing three broad types of ANE creation myth (creation through combat, creation by fiat, and creation with hands) through the Bible, this course will show the broad sweep of the scriptural narrative. In the second half of the term, special speakers and focused topical study will emphasize the theological importance of creation as a biblical theme, and as it makes its impact upon Christian communities, particularly in our response to climate change.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Harold Attridge, ed., *HarperCollins Study Bible* (NRSV), HarperOne, 2006, ISBN: 978-0060786854, \$25.27
- William P. Brown, *The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science, and the Ecology of Wonder*, Oxford, 2010, ISBN: 978-0199730797, \$36.95
- S. Dean McBride, Jr. and William P. Brown, eds., *God Who Creates: Essays in Honor of W. Sibley Towner*, Eerdmans, 2000, ISBN: 978-0802846266, \$24.37

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

- A ten to twelve page exegetical essay on a biblical text dealing with creation (45% of the final evaluation).
- A student or a group will prepare a class presentation, based either on a biblical text or a research topic (35%).
- Students will also write a weekly position paper (a page or less; 20%).

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is expected.