

THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES--RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2DD3

(Fall 2006--Carter)

Instructor: Dr. Philippa Carter
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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

An examination of selected texts from the Pentateuch and their significance for Ancient Israelite religion and modern thought.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Robert Alter, *The Five Books of Moses*

GRADING:

Three in-class quizzes @ 5% each	15%	Four in-class assignments @ 10% each	40%
Journal article critique	35%	Participation	10%

NOTES:

Quizzes

- These quizzes will be 10 or 20 multiple choice questions.
- They will be on material covered previously in class.
- They will be held during the first ten minutes of class in the first half of the course.

In-class assignments

- These assignments will engage the readings already covered in class.
- They will be held during the tutorial hour.
- They will consist of two topics and students must choose one.
- Notes and textbook may be used.

Critique of journal article

- In this assignment students will track down an article from a peer-reviewed journal or published collection and critique the argument therein.
- Details of appropriate articles will be found on WebCT once the course is underway.
- A photocopy of the article must be included when the assignment is submitted.

The required readings in this course are extensive and must be undertaken in preparation for each class. Students will be expected to have overall familiarity with the five books of the Pentateuch and Alter's commentary by the end of the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

Sep 7	Introductory Issues--Reading the Pentateuch	
Sep 14	The Law of God Read: Alter, 539-672	
Sep 21	The Law of God	Quiz #1
Sep 28	The History of the Pentateuch and Its Interpretation Read: Alter, ix-xlvi	

Oct 5	The Book of Numbers Read: Alter, 675-866	<i>In-class #1</i>
Oct 12	The Book of Numbers	
Oct 19	In the Beginning Read: Alter, 9-57	<i>Quiz #2</i>
Oct 26	The Story of Abraham Read: Alter, 58-205	<i>In-class #2</i>
Nov 2	The Story of Joseph Read: Alter, 206-296	
Nov 9	The Story of Moses Read: Alter, 299-535	<i>In-class #3</i>
Nov 16	The Story of Moses	<i>Journal Article Review due</i>
Nov 23	The Story of Israel Read: Alter, 869-1060	<i>Quiz #3</i>
Nov 30	The Story of Israel	<i>In-class #4</i>

turnitin.com

Class ID: **1549482**

Enrollment password: **moses**

University Senate Statement on Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course we will be using a web-based service (turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their reviews electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor with a ***note explaining why they are declining to***

participate. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., Google search, etc.).