

**COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
RELIGION PROGRAM: RELI 4851/5851**

SEMINAR: THE BIBLE IN PUBLIC LIFE

Instructor: Shawna Dolansky

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Office hours: 2a35 PA, Wed 9:30am – 11:30am

Office Phone: 520-2600 ex.(2103) *do not leave messages here*

Seminar: Wed 6:05-8:55PM

In this seminar we will examine the role of the Bible in religious public life, policy, and institutions in Canada and the United States. One thrust of this course will be to review the similarities and differences in religion in public life between the US and Canada, and discuss competing research that shows on the one hand higher secularism in Canada and less concern with bringing the Bible into political and social discourse and policy; and on the other, a rise of evangelical Christian conservatism influencing Canadian politics in ways similar to trends in the US over the past 30 years.

In the second half of the course we will look at modern discussions that make use of the Bible around the specific issues of: homosexuality/same-sex marriage; abortion; women's status; capital punishment; and the earth. While references exist with respect to documenting the use of the Bible in American political debates, public policy, and social discourse, less cohesive work is available for Canada: students will present research on these issues with respect to Canadian socio-political discourse and policy.

Required Texts:

1. Marci McDonald, *The Armageddon Factor*.
2. Mark Noll, *A History of Christianity in the US and Canada*.
3. Michael Adams, *Fire & Ice: The US, Canada, & the Myth of Converging Values*.
4. Richard E. Friedman and Shawna Dolansky, *The Bible Now*.

Evaluation:

4851 students:

1. weekly reflection papers on the readings, approximately 2 pages in length, worth 5% each for a total of 50%
2. joint presentation on the use of the Bible in public schools, worth 20%
3. term paper on the Bible in public life, due April 10, worth 30%

5851 students:

1. weekly reflection papers on the readings, approximately 2 pages in length, worth 5% each for a total of 50%
2. individual presentations (combining lecture and discussion leadership) on one of 5 issues, worth 25%
3. term paper write-up of presentation research, due April 17, worth 25%

Schedule

- Wed. Jan. 9 Introduction to the Course
- Wed. Jan. 16 US vs Canada: Religious History
Noll chapters 10-13
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/14512/US-vs-Canada-Different-Reads-Good-Book.aspx>
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/9016/worlds-apart-religion-canada-britain-us.aspx>
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canada-marching-from-religion-to-secularization/article1320108/>
- Wed. Jan. 23 US vs. Canada: Religion in Politics & Public Life
Noll ch 14-17, and 20
- Wed. Jan. 30 Guest lecture: Tom Sherwood
Adams ch 1-6; articles TBA
- Wed. Feb. 6 Canadian Evangelism: guest lecture Jonathan Malloy
McDonald ch. 1-4; also
http://www.jonathanmalloy.com/uploads/4/0/3/2/4032854/aston_paper_malloy.pdf
- Wed. Feb. 13 US vs. Canada: Similarities & Differences
McDonald ch. 5-11
- Wed. Feb. 20 BREAK WEEK
- Wed. Feb. 27 Homosexuality
BN Ch. 1; <http://www.wnd.com/2003/02/17314/>, <http://www.wnd.com/2003/09/20862/>
Grad student presentation: Homosexuality, the Bible, and Canadian Politics
- Wed. Mar. 6 Abortion
BN ch. 2
Grad student presentation: Abortion, the Bible, and Canadian Politics
- Wed. Mar. 13 Women's Status
BN ch. 3
Grad student presentation: Women, the Bible, and Canadian Politics
- Wed. Mar. 20 Capital Punishment
BN ch. 4
Grad student presentation: Capital Punishment, the Bible, and Canadian Politics
- Wed. Mar. 27 The Earth
BN ch. 5
Grad student presentation: The Earth, the Bible, and Canadian Politics
Undergrad presentations: The Bible in Public Schools
- Wed. Apr. 3 The Bible in Public Schools: remaining student presentations
@ 7:30 Guest Lecture: Adele Reinhartz (in Paterson 303)
Influence of the Bible on cultural perceptions of history, and historical conceptions of culture – the case of the Ten Commandments

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A+ = 90-100 (12) | B = 73-76 (8) | C - = 60-62 (4) |
| A = 85-89 (11) | B- = 70-72 (7) | D+ = 57-59 (3) |
| A- = 80-84 (10) | C+ = 67-69 (6) | D = 53-56 (2) |
| B+ = 77-79 (9) | C = 63-66 (5) | D - = 50-52 (1) |

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| F | Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points |
| ABS | Absent from final examination, equivalent to F |
| DEF | Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”) |
| FND | Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline. |

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 3, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 10, 2013**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please contact the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

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| College of the Humanities 520-2809 | 300 Paterson |
| Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809 | 300 Paterson |
| Religion Office 520-2100 | 2A39 Paterson |
| Registrar's Office 520-3500 | 300 Tory |
| Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850 | 302 Tory |
| Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 | 501 Uni-Centre |
| Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |
| Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |