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THEO 086-130 (Summer 2018)
ADAM AND EVE IN THEOLOGY AND IMAGE

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course looks at the story of Adam and Eve, especially as it is found in the Bible's Book of Genesis. It examines the history of Muslim, Jewish, Christian and non-religious interpretations of the story, as well as contemporary issues related to it. These issues include humans' role in the natural world, the meaning of death, evolution/creationism, moral decision-making, the origins of evil, gender relations, race relations, and sexuality.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Identify varying interpretive assumptions that readers have made about the biblical text, and recognize one's own assumptions as well.
- Identify words and passages in Genesis 1-3 that lend themselves to a variety of translations and interpretations, and become familiar with a number of those translations
- Become familiar with the diversity of Christian and Jewish interpretations of the text
- Understand and articulate varying understandings of the relation between religion and science
- Identify manifestations of the story of Adam and Eve in art, poetry, and popular culture, and compare those manifestations to the biblical text itself in a way that demonstrates familiarity with the history of interpretations

COURSE READINGS:

- Various readings available on-line via CANVAS (canvas.georgetown.edu)
- Kvam, ed., *Eve and Adam* (Bloomington: Indiana U. Press, 1999), ISBN: 0253212715

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Weekly Small Assignments (e.g. Discussion Board posts, online quizzes)	20%
Paper (4-5 pages, double-spaced)	20%
Midterm Exam (5-6 pages, double-spaced)	30%
Final Exam (5-6 pages, double-spaced)	30%

**WEEK ONE (Monday, June 4- Saturday, June 9)
Reading and Rereading Genesis 1-3**

Note: This module will become available on Monday, May 28, 2018.

A. Learning Objectives:

- Learn key terms scholars use when talking about the Bible
- Learn how to cite particular biblical verses and passages
- Learn about the Bible itself, where it comes from, who its authors might have been, and how scholars approach it.
- Identify varying assumptions that readers have about the biblical text, and recognize whatever assumptions you might have as well
- Identify words and passages in Genesis 1-3 that lend themselves to a variety of translations, and become familiar with a number of those translations

B. Assignments:

1. Watch a short video in which your instructor explains a little about the Bible and shows you how to look up biblical passages.
2. Before you begin to read, look at and/or print up the "Journal of Key Passages" that you will use to keep track of how various authors/speakers treat important passages in the text of Genesis 1-3.
3. Do the assigned reading for this Module. Keep notes in your journal.
Reading:
 - a. F. K. Just, "A Glossary of Important Terms for Biblical Studies"
 - b. K. Kvam, *Eve and Adam*, 1-40 (Note: this will take a long time!)
 - c. T. Sanders, *Approaching Eden*, 11-30
4. Watch five short videos giving different perspectives on Genesis 1-3.
5. Fill out the worksheet and submit it to me NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY NIGHT (JUNE 6) AT 11:59 P.M. (Eastern Time).
6. Take the short quiz as many times as you like, and submit it NO LATER THAN SATURDAY NIGHT (JUNE 9) AT 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time).

**WEEK TWO (Sunday, June 10- Saturday, June 16)
Reading and Rereading Genesis 1-3 (Again)**

Note: This module will become available on Sunday, June 3, 2018.

Learning Objectives:

- Continue to Identify varying assumptions that readers have about the biblical text, and recognize whatever assumptions you might have as well
- Continue to Identify words and passages in Genesis 1-3 that lend themselves to a variety of translations, and become familiar with a number of those translations
- Analyze images to see which translations they seem to depend on or illustrate

Assignments:

1. Do the assigned reading for this Module.

Reading:

- a. Reread Kvam, 15-40
- b. Kvam, 430-44
- c. Translation by Alter
- d. Translation by Korsak

2. Keep notes in your journal.

3. Watch the two PowerPoint presentations (each about 11 minutes) on how various images represent Genesis 1-3

4. Submit comments on images of the creation of the woman via VoiceThread no later than WEDNESDAY (JUNE 13) at 11:59 P.M. (Eastern Time).

5. Take the short quiz as many times as you like, and submit it NO LATER THAN SATURDAY NIGHT (JUNE 16) AT 11:59 P.M. (Eastern Time)

WEEK THREE (Sunday, June 17- Saturday, June 23)
Early Jewish Interpretations

Note: This module will become available on Sunday, June 10, 2018.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand key terms related to early Jewish understandings of the text
- Become familiar with a variety of Jewish interpretations of and retellings of the story of Adam and Eve
- Become familiar with the figure of Lilith as she emerges in Jewish interpretations of the story, in art, and in popular culture

Assignments:

1. Do the assigned reading for this Module.

Readings:

- a) Kvam, 421-30
 - b) Handout on Key Terms related to Jewish Interpretations of the Biblical Text
 - c) Ginzberg, *The Legends of the Jews* (Volume 1, Chapter 2), 49-102.
2. Keep notes in your journal.
3. Watch the presentation on how Lilith is represented in art and in popular culture (14 minutes)
4. Watch the children's cartoon about Adam and Eve (25 minutes)
5. Pick ONE difference between the cartoon and the biblical story, and write a short (4-5 page) paper on why that one difference matters. The paper is due **NO LATER THAN SATURDAY (JUNE 23) AT 11:59 P.M. (Eastern Time)**.
 NOTE: You can submit one page (double-spaced) of your essay for feedback. The last date for submitting your work for feedback is Friday, June 22 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

**WEEK FOUR (Sunday, June 24- Saturday, June 30)
Early Christian Readings, and Original Sin**

Note: This module will become available on Sunday, June 17, 2018.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand key terms related to early Christian readings of the text
- Become familiar with a variety of early Christian interpretations of and retellings of the story of Adam and Eve
- Understand the concept of Original Sin as it appears in the writings of Augustine and in contemporary Christian thought

Assignments:

1. Do the assigned reading for this Module.

Readings:

- a) Kvam, 108-19, 130-32
- b) Pagels, 127-50
- c) Augustine, *City of God*, 456-77

2. Keep notes in your journal.

3. Watch clips from *Genesis: A Living Conversation* (11 minutes)

4. Watch the presentation on Original Sin (15 minutes)

5. Watch the presentation about the serpent (18 minutes)

6. Fill out the worksheet and submit it to me **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY NIGHT (June 27) AT 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time.**

7. Take the short quiz as many times as you like and submit it **NO LATER THAN SATURDAY NIGHT (June 30) AT 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time**

WEEK FIVE (Sunday, July 1- Saturday, July 7)
Christian Medieval Interpretations, and Eve and the Virgin Mary

Note: This module will become available on Sunday, June 24, 2018. HOWEVER, the Midterm Exam will only become available on Thursday, July 5.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand key terms related to Christian understandings of the Virgin Mary
- Identify important symbolic presentations of the Virgin Mary in art
- See how the contrast between Eve and Mary finds its way into contemporary advertising
- Understand how medieval Christian writers reflected on the story of Adam and Eve

Assignments:

1. Do the assigned reading for this Module.

Readings:

- a) Jerome: Letters to Eustochium and Demetrias
- b) Warner, 34-67
- c) Kvam 169-72, 225-48

2. Keep notes in your journal.

3. Watch the presentation on how the Virgin Mary is represented in art (18 minutes).

4. Watch two video clips about images of women in advertising (Total 11 minutes).

5. TAKE THE MIDTERM EXAM and submit it NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, JULY 7 AT 11:59 P.M. (Eastern Time).

WEEK SIX (Sunday, July 8- Saturday, July 14)
The Sistine Chapel, the Harrowing of Hell, and *Paradise Lost*

Note: This module will become available on Sunday, July 1, 2018.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand key passages of Milton's *Paradise Lost*
- Analyze elements of Michelangelo's ceiling of the Sistine Chapel

Assignments:

1. Do the assigned reading for this Module.

Readings:

- a. Steinberg, "Eve's Idle Hand"
 - b. Anderson, 1-20
 - c. Ancient Homily: "The Lord Descends Into Hell"
 - d. Kvam 249-61, 287-304 (Note: This will take a long time to read)
2. Keep notes in your journal.
3. Watch the video from the Khan Academy about the Sistine Chapel ceiling (7 minutes).
4. Watch the presentation on the Sistine Chapel ceiling (12 minutes).
5. Watch a presentation on *Paradise Lost* (20 minutes).
6. Watch a lecture on *Paradise Lost* from a Yale professor (11 minutes).
7. Watch a presentation on the Harrowing of Hell (13 minutes).
8. Submit comments on images of the Sistine Chapel via VoiceThread no later than WEDNESDAY (JULY 11) at 11:59 P.M. (Eastern Time).
9. Submit comments on the video of *Paradise Lost* via VoiceThread no later than SATURDAY (JULY 14) at 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time)

WEEK SEVEN (Sunday, July 15- Saturday, July 21)
The Scopes Trial

Note: This module will become available on Sunday, July 8, 2018.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand key concepts related to genetics and evolutionary theory
- Become familiar with a number of views on the relation between religion and science
- Understand factors leading up to and emerging from the Scopes trial

Assignments:

1. Do the assigned reading for this Module.

Readings:

- a. Gould, *Ever Since Darwin*, 11-13
 - b. Tillich 85-113
 - c. Moran, 1-27
2. Watch a clip from the documentary *Questioning Darwin* (15 minutes)
3. Watch a clip from *In Search of History: The Scopes Monkey* (17 minutes)
4. Watch two presentations on the thought of Paul Tillich (Total 40 minutes)
5. Fill out the worksheet and submit it to me NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY NIGHT (July 18) AT 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time
6. Fill out the second worksheet and submit it to me NO LATER THAN SATURDAY NIGHT (July 21) AT 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time

WEEK EIGHT (Sunday, July 22- Friday, July 27)**Utopias**

Note: This module will become available on Sunday, July 15, 2018. HOWEVER, the Final Exam will only become available Tuesday, July 24.

Learning Objectives:

- Become familiar with a variety of utopian movements founded in Genesis 1-3
- Understand how the movie *Pleasantville* incorporates and comments on Genesis 1-3

Assignments:

1. Do the assigned reading for this Module

Readings:

- a. Sanders 171-90
- b. Mercadante, "The God Behind the Screen"

2. Watch the movie *Pleasantville*.

3. TAKE THE FINAL EXAM and submit it NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 27 AT 11:59 P.M. (Eastern Time).

NOTES

1. In keeping with the emphasis in this class on your own thoughts and ideas, academic honesty is expected. **ANY INSTANCE OF CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM WILL BE REFERRED TO THE HONOR COUNCIL.** Any work found to have been plagiarized will receive a failing grade.

2. **Work turned in late will lose 5% per day.** Exceptions will be made **ONLY** in case of serious illness. No work will be accepted if it is over one week late.