

*Scripture and Tradition 19 (SCTR 19:43373; core UC31; 4 units)****Religions of the Book***

Fall 2008

Instructor: Janet Giddings**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:50 to 1:35 p.m.**Class Location:** O'Connor 207**Office:** Kenna 317**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays after class, 1:45-2:45 p.m.**Phone:** 551-3000 x 4273**E-mail:** jgiddings@scu.edu**Course Description**

This course examines the history and religious traditions of the Hebrew Bible, giving attention to geography, politics, and belief systems of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and their development in history. The course also focuses on developing appropriate tools for the study of religion.

Welcome from Professor Giddings

I would like to welcome all of you to Santa Clara University and to this exciting course of study. The course is important to both your scholarship and your practical life as a global participant. We will begin the course with a study of Abraham as he is the foundational figure in each of the three major western religions. We will use him as our guide noting his importance and comparing his role respective to each tradition. I look forward to working with you this quarter and will support your efforts for success. Please visit me often.

Learning Objectives (LO)	Assignment which supports objective
LO 1: describe historical context, ideas, symbols; ethical systems	Discussions of reading assignments from textbook; Paper on the significance of Abraham in the 3 religious traditions; Quiz; research on Ethics in Christianity
LO 2: recognize and appreciate origins of religious communities, worship, ritual, rites, gender, ethnic, race, and class, as indicated in respective scriptures.	Reading and discussion of scripture assignments; Scriptural component in major research paper on each tradition.
LO 3: research, gather, and assess information and data on topics related to respective religious traditions	Research paper and annotated bibliography on each religious tradition; Class presentation on research.
LO 4: General: critical thinking and communication skills.	Through literary (scriptural) analysis; writing and editing your own work; compiling research; presenting work that logically follows a thesis.

Learning Outcomes:

By fully participating in this course you will

- become acquainted with scriptural criticism noting style, context, audience, theology, interpretation, and ethical standards as they develop in each tradition
- learn key terms, names, and periods of historical, theological and ritual importance,
- gain knowledge of religious experience as it is reflected through each tradition,
- develop a sensitivity to and appreciation for the historical and theological uniqueness of each tradition as well as their shared components
- gain confidence in speaking and discussing each tradition as you add depth of knowledge through your own critical research, and
- exercise your writing skills by editing drafts and polishing your work to produce a final paper.

Purpose of the Core Course in Religious Studies

At Santa Clara University, the study of religious belief and practice in various cultural contexts (including your own) is one of the central features of the Core Curriculum. This has always been important in Jesuit Catholic education, which is why this is just the first of three Religious Studies courses you will take while studying here at SCU.

Study Units

1. Abraham of three faiths (Feiler)
2. Judaism, selected scripture, study of tradition and ethics (Bible; Corrigan)
3. Christianity, selected scripture, study of tradition and ethics (Bible; Corrigan)
4. Islam, selected scripture, study of tradition and ethics (Qur'an; Corrigan)
5. Selected handout by Firestone (from professor Giddings)
6. Presentations by groups: sites and symbols (fieldwork)

Required Texts (4) (and handouts from professor)

Abdullah Yusuf, Ali. *Qur'an, in translation*. Berkeley: Publishers Group West.
(ISBN: 1-879402-29-7)

Corrigan, John. Et al. *Jews, Christians, Muslims: A Comparative Introduction to Monotheistic Religions*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1997. (ISBN: 10:0023250925)

The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha. NRSV. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. (ISBN: 0-19-528478-X)

Feiler, Bruce. *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. (ISBN: 0-06-052509-6)

Firestone, Reuven. *Journeys in Holy Lands: The Evolution of the Abraham-Ishmael Legends in Islamic Exegesis*. Chapter 1. (handout)

Grading Policy and Student Responsibility (100 points possible)

5 points: Informed participation. This means you come to class having read the assigned reading, you engage in discussion, ask good questions, and consider the ideas of others in light of your own response.

5 points: 3 page response paper (Feiler) with Bibliography

5 points: Group Assignment: Ethics in Christianity article (research)

30 points: 3 exams @ 10 pts. each

30 points: Three part research at 3 pages each for Judaism, Christianity, Islam; annotated bibliography for each section.

15 points: Final draft of the research paper with Introduction and Conclusion added.

5 points: Presentation of research.

5 points: assessment of presentations (must be present for all presentations to earn the points)

Extra Credit

Generally extra credit opportunities are offered during a quarter. However, extra credit is factored into a grade at the professor's discretion. Extra credit will not be used in lieu of assignments.

Attendance

The best way to earn 100 points is to attend all class sessions. You will lose points for multiple absences.

Accommodations and Support at SCU

The Drahmman Advising Center is the destination for Advising, Learning tools, Tutoring, Disability Resources, and International Student Resources.

<http://www.scu.edu/drahmann>

Specifically for Disabilities:

The Office of Disabilities Resources has been designated by the University to ensure access for all students with disabilities to all academic programs and University resources. Reasonable accommodations are provided to minimize the effects of a student's disability and to maximize the potential for success. Our goal is to support the college student to participate fully in campus life, its programs and activities.

In order to obtain services from DR, a student must register with the office.

Call: 554-4318 or,

<http://www.scu.edu/advising/learning/disabilities>

Academic Integrity

I expect your moral standard to fit the Jesuit tradition and the work you produce will be your own. When you consult, ponder, or borrow the ideas of others you must give them credit by citing them in your work. Even if you read something while researching and then decide not to use it, you are required to place it on your Works Consulted list. This is ethical scholarship.

I will evaluate all work for its integrity by utilizing the tools available at SCU (Turnitin.com) for instance. Please ensure your work is properly sourced. I will help you when we have our meetings regarding your research paper.

Remember: Wikipedia is NOT an appropriate research source for university scholarship.

However, if you should consult it for ideas, you *must* add it to your Works Consulted list.

Classroom Decorum

My teaching style is informal, respectful, and fun. I enjoy teaching and interacting with students. Since discussion is essential to this course I want to make sure everyone understands the parameters: respect for each scholar in the room. We each bring our unique perspective to the learning experience; we each speak in our own way, and the style in which we learn is our own. Let us rejoice in our diversity! Let us have fun!