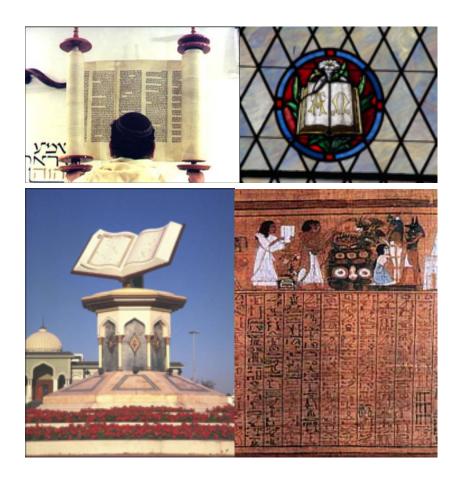
Fall 2014 REL 611 Scriptures

Thursdays 12:30-3:15 p.m. in HL 504

Instructor: <u>JIM WATTS</u> (Ph.D.) Office: 501 HL; Phone: 443-5713 E-mail: <u>jwwatts</u>



This seminar will explore the various forms and functions of scriptures, primarily in Judaism, Christianity and Islam We will start with the phenomena of scriptures in modern cultures and trace them back through early modern, medieval and late antique cultures. The seminar will end by exploring the religious, literary, and political factors that affected the development and canonization of scripture in ancient Judaism and early Christianity, and shaped the idea of authoritative scripture in all three Western religious traditions.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to discuss in class all the required readings (listed below after **Assignment**) and as much additional literature (listed as **Background**) as necessary to understand the developments under discussion. In addition, each student will (1) prepare and present a report on one additional book or set of essays (listed after **Report**), and (2) write a substantive and original research paper on a subject related to the course topic, presenting the class with a preliminary summary during the last class meetings. The finished research papers are due on or before May13th. The students work will be evaluated on the basis of class participation (20%), the oral and written book report (20%), the research paper (50%). Late papers and reports will not be eligible for "A" grades.

Required Texts:

- F. E. Peters, *The Voice, the Word, the Books: The Sacred Scripture of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims.* (Princeton, 2007)
- Brian Malley, *How the Bible Works: An Anthropological Study of Evangelical Biblicism* (AltaMira, 2004)
- William A. Graham, *Beyond the Written Word: Oral Aspects of Scripture in the History of Religion* (Cambridge, 1987)
- Jack Goody, The Logic of Writing and the Organization of Society (Cambridge, 1986)
- Vincent L. Wimbush, White Men's Magic: Scripturalization as Slavery (Oxford, 2012)

The assigned articles, except biblical texts and those marked by a minus (-), are available electronically

through Blackboard. The required textbooks are for sale in the Bookstore and also available on reserve in Bird Library. For further resources relevant to the topic of this course, consult the **Background** readings, the other articles in the collections cited below and also the annotated bibliography in *Canonization and Decanonization* 435-506.

Topics and Readings (for full citations, see <u>bibliography</u> below):

Day	Торіс	Texts:
Aug 28	Introductions	Assignment: Graham, "Scripture" Peters, <i>Voice</i> 1-37, 271-276
Sep 4	The Texts of Scriptures	 Assignment: W.C. Smith, "The Study of Religion and the Study of the Bible" Watts, "Three Dimensions of Scriptures," <i>IB&T</i> Malley, <i>How the Bible Works</i> (all) Pulis, "In the Beginning" Background: Greenberg, "On the Political Use of the Bible in Modern Israel" Neil, "Criticism and Theological Use,"<i>CHB</i> 3:238-293
Sep 11	The Performance of Scriptures	Assignment: Peters, Voice 247-70Graham, Beyond the Written Word (all)Yoo, "Public Scripture Reading Rituals"Background: Kassam, "Signifying Revelation in Islam"Gold, Making the Bible Modern 10-24- Halbertal, People of the Book 129-34
Sep 18	NO CLASS	Prepare for next week!
Sep 25	The Iconicity of Scriptures	Assignment: Peters, Voice 219-46Marty, "America's Iconic Book"Iconic Books & Texts (all)Watts, "Iconic Books and Texts"Browse The Iconic Books Blog;Report: Myrvold, Death of Sacred TextsBackground: - Legendre, "La totémisation de la société"Kinnard, "Buddhist Bibliolators"
Oct 2	Bible in Late Modernity & Postmodernity	Assignment: Moore & Sherwood, "Biblical Studies 'After' Theory" (3 articles) Hill, "Charles Augustus Briggs, Modernism and the Rise" Sugirtharajah, "Known Knowns and Unknown Unknowns" Beal, "Reception History and Beyond" Pasulka, "Premodern Scriptures in Postmodern Times" Report: Bielo, <i>The Social Life of Scriptures</i>
Oct 9	Bible in Early Modernity	Assignment: Kugel, "The Bible in the University" Heyman, "Canon Law and the Canon of Scripture" Wimbush, <i>White Men's Magic</i> (all) review Malley, "Bible in British Folklore," <i>IB&T</i> Background: -Bainton, "Bible in the Reformation," <i>CHB</i> 3:1-37

		-Crehan, "Bible in the Roman Catholic Church," <i>CHB</i> 3:199-237
		- Levenson, "Theological Consensus or Historicist
		Evasion?" Creensnehn "Diblical Scholars"
		Greenspahn, "Biblical Scholars"
Oct 16	Medieval Islam, Translations, & Manuscripts	Assignment: Peters, <i>Voice</i> 120-51 Goering, "Introduction to Medieval Christian Biblical Interpretation" Walfish, "Introduction to Medieval Jewish Biblical Interpretation" McAuliffe, "Introduction to Medieval Interpretation of the Qur'an" Pulcini, <i>Exegesis as Polemical Discourse</i> 13-56 Morey, <i>Book and Verse</i> 1-8 Kessler, "The Book as Icon" Report: Morey, <i>Book and Verse</i> Background: Al-Azmeh, "The Muslim Canon" Sweetman, "Beryl Smalley and Performative Reading" - Borg, "Canon and Social Control" - Dijk, "Bible in Liturgical Use," <i>CHB</i> 2:220-251 -Articles under "Vernacular Scriptures," <i>CHB</i> 2:338-491 - Halbertal, <i>People of the Book</i> 90-128, 137-144 - Wheeler, <i>Applying the Canon in Islam</i>
Oct 23	Ancient Christianity & Book Myths	Assignment: - Luke 1-2; 2 Timothy 3:14-17Peters, Voice 105-19, 152-218Miller, "Words with an Alien Voice"Humfress, "Judging by the Book"Van der Horst, "Sortes: Sacred Books"Parmenter, "The Bible as Icon: Myths of Divine Origins"Report: Klingshirn & Safran, The Early Christian BookBackground: Childs, "The Problem of the Christian Bible"Rapp, "Holy Texts, Holy Men, Holy Scribes"- Lamb, "Bible in the Liturgy," CHB 1:563-586- Barton, Holy Writings, Sacred Text
Oct 30	Rabbinic Judaism & Competing Canons	Due: Paper topics and texts Assignment: 2 Maccabees 7 Mishnah Berakhot 1:1-4; 4:1-7 Halbertal, <i>People of the Book</i> 45-89 Alexander, "Homer, the Prophet" Rutgers, "Importance of Scripture" 287-303 Zevit, "The Second-Third Century Canonization" Background: -Vermes, "Bible and Midrash," <i>CHB</i> 1:199- 231 Neusner & Green, <i>Writing with Scripture</i>
Oct 30	Guest Lecture: "How We Got Four Gospels"	Pheme Perkins, Boston University 3 p.m., Noble Room, Hendricks
		Assignment: Peters, <i>Voice</i> 38-79 Sheppard, "Canon" J.Z. Smith, "Sacred Persistence"

Nov 6	Literary & Religious Canons	J.Z. Smith, "Canons, Catalogues and Classics" Rothberg-Halton, "Canonicity in Cuneiform Texts"? Kooij, "The Canonization of Ancient Books" Lang, "The 'Writings': A Hellenistic Literary Canon" Barton, <i>Holy Writings, Sacred Text</i> , 106-130 Background: Lust, "Quotation formulae and Canon in Qumran" Ulrich, "The Bible in the Making"
Nov 13	Literacy & Orality	Due: Paper thesis, bibliography and outlineAssignment: Foster, tr., "Pious Scholar"Peters, Voice 80-104Goody, Logic of Writing, 1-103, 127-85.Carr, Tablet of the Heart, 3-14, 20-34, 81-83, 99-109, 161-73, 193-98, 287-97.Background: - Davies, Scribes and Schools
Nov 20	Icons & Books	 Assignment: - Exodus 24, Deuteronomy 31; 2 Kings 22-23; Nehemiah 8 Levinson, <i>Deuteronomy</i> vii-viii, 3-22, 144-157 Van der Toorn, "The Iconic Book" Watts, "Political and Legal Uses" Sarefield, "Symbolics of Book Burning" W.C. Smith, "Scripture as Form and Concept" Background: - Wiseman, "Books in the Ancient Near East" <i>CHB</i> 1:30-48 Watts, "Rhetoric of Scripture" - Hallo, <i>The Context of Scripture</i>
Nov 27	Thanksgiving Break No Class	If in San Diego for AAR & SBL, check out: SCRIPT panel:
Dec 4	Paper presentations	
Dec 15	Research Papers Due	

Course Bibliography:

(see also the topically categorized bibliography on iconic books)

Collections of essays:

- The Bible and the American Myth: A Symposium on the Bible and the Construction of Meaning (Macon: Mercer University Pres, 1999)
- *The Biblical Canons* (Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium), ed. J-M Auwers and H. J. de Jonge (Louven: Peeters, 2003)
- *The Cambridge History of the Bible (CHB),* 3 vols., eds P. R. Ackroyd, C. F. Evans, S. L. Greenslade and G. W. H. Lampe (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1963, 1969, 1970) (available in Bird Library *Reference* section and in the stacks)
- The New Cambridge History of the Bible (NCHB), 2 vols. to date (Cambridge: Cambridge

- University Press, 2012, 2013)
- *Canonization and Decanonization*, with An Annotated Bibliography by J. A. M. Snoek, eds. A. van der Kooij, K. van der Toorn (Leiden: Brill, 1998)
- *The Death of Sacred Texts: Ritual Disposal and Renovation of Texts in World Religions*. Ed. Kristina Myrvold (London: Ashgate, 2010).
- *The Early Christian Book*. Ed. William E. Klingshirn and Linda Safran (Washington: Catholic University of America Press, 2007).
- Iconic Books and Texts (IB&T), ed. J. W. Watts (Sheffield and Bristol: Equinox, 2013)
- The Image and the Book: Iconic Cults, Aniconism and the Rise of Book Religion in Israel and the Ancient Near East, ed. K. van der Toorn (Louven: Peeters, 1997)
- *The Impact of Scripture on Early Christianity*, ed. J. den Boeft & M. L. van Poll-van de Lisdonk (Leiden: Brill, 1999)
- Kanon in Konstruktion und Dekonstruktion, ed. Becker et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2011).
- *Text, Image and Otherness in Children's Bibles*, ed. C. Vander Stichelle and H. S. Pyper (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012)
- *The Social Life of Scriptures*: Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Biblicism. Ed. James S. Bielo. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2009)
- *Theorizing Scriptures: New Critical Orientations to a Cultural Phenomenon*. Ed. Vincent L. Wimbush. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2008)
- The Use of Sacred Books in the Ancient World, ed. L.V. Rutgers et al (Leuven: Peeters, 1998)
- With Reverence for the Word: Medieval Scriptural Exegesis in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, ed. J. D. McAuliffe, B. D. Walfish, and J. W. Goering (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003)

Books and articles:

- Aichele, George. *The Control of Biblical Meaning: Canon as Semiotic Mechanism*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity, 2001.
- Akenson, Donald Harmon. *Surpassing Wonder: The Invention of the Bible and the Talmuds* (Chicago, 1998).
- Al-Azmeh, A. "The Muslim Canon from Late Antiquity to the Era of Modernism" in *Canonization and Decanonization* 191-228.
- Alexander, Philip S. "'Homer the Prophet of All' and 'Moses our Teacher': Late Antique Exegesis of the Homeric Epics and of the Torah of Moses," in *Use of Sacred Books* 127-142.
- Alter, Robert. *Canon and Creativity: Modern Writing and the Authority of Scripture* (New Haven: Yale, 2000).
- Arnold, Phillip. "Paper Rituals and the Mexican landscape." In *Representing Aztec Ritual: Performance, Text, and Image in the Work of Sahagún*. Edited by Eloise Quiñones Keber. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2002. 227-250.
- Arnold, Phillip. "Black Elk and Book Culture." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 67 (1999) 85-111.
- Arnold, Philip P. "Indigenous 'Texts' of Inhabiting the Land: George Washington's Wampum Belt and the Canandaigua Treaty," *Postscripts* 6 (2010), 277-289 = *IB&T*, 361-372.
- Bainton, Roland H. "The Bible in the Reformation," CHB 3:1-37.
- Balbir, Nalini. "Is a Manuscript an Object or a Living Being? Jain Views on the Life and Use of Sacred Texts." In Myrvold, *Death of Sacred Texts* (2010), 107-24.
- Barton, John. *Holy Writings, Sacred Text: the Canon in Early Christianity* (Louisville: WJK, 1997)
- Beal, Timothy. "Reception History and Beyond: Toward the Cultural History of Scriptures," *Biblical Interpretation* 19 (2011) 357-372.
- Beal, Timothy. "The End of the Word as We Know It: The Cultural Iconicity of the Bible in the Twilight of Print Culture," *Postscripts* 6 (2010), 165-184 = *IB&T*, 207-224.

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- Bell, Catherine. "Scriptures—Text and Then Some." In *Theorizing Scriptures*, 23-28.
- Brown, Michelle P. *The Lindisfarne Gospels: Society, Spirituality and the Scribe* (London: British Library, 2003).
- Biderman, Shlomo. *Scripture and Knowledge: An Essay on Religious Epistemology* (Leiden: Brill, 1995).
- Borg, M.B. ter. "Canon and Social Control," in *Canonization and Decanonization* 411-423.
- Broo, Måns. "Rites of Burial and Immersion: Hindu Ritual Practices on Disposing of Sacred Texts in Vrindavan." In Myrvold, *Death of Sacred Texts* (2010), 91-106.
- Brown, Michelle P. ""Images to be Read and Words to be Seen: The Iconic Role of the Early Medieval Book," *Postscripts* 6 (2010), 39-66 = *IB&T*, 93-118.
- Burton-Christie, Douglas. The Word in the Desert: Scripture and the Quest for Holiness in Early Christian Monasticism. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Camp, Claudia V. "Possessing the Iconic Book: Ben Sira as Case Study," *Postscripts* 6 (2010), 309-329 = *IB&T*, 389-406.
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- Carr, David M. *Writing on the Tablet of the Heart: Origins of Scripture and Literature* (New York: Oxford, 2005).
- Casson, Lionel. Libraries in the Ancient World. New Haven: Yale, 2001.
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- Clines, David J.A. *The Bible and the Modern World* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997)
- 3:199-237.
- Chireau, Yvonne P. "Conjuring Scriptures and Engendering Healing Traditions." In *Theorizing Scriptures: New Critical Orientations to a Cultural Phenomenon*. Ed. V. L. Wimbush. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2008. 119-27.
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- Cornelius, Izak. "The Many Faces of God: Divine Images and Symbols in Ancient Near Eastern Religions," in *The Image and the Book* 21-43.
- Coward, Harold. Sacred Word and Sacred Text: Scripture in World Religions (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988)
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- Crehan, F.J. "The Bible in the Roman Catholic Church from Trent to the Present Day," CHB
- Cressey, D. "Books as Totems in Seventeenth-Century England and New England." *Journal of Library History* 21/1 (1986) 92-106.
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