

## Ethnicity, Race, and the Bible SCAR 3RB3

### Contact Information, Times, Locations

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Thiessen

Email: [matthew.thiessen@mcmaster.ca](mailto:matthew.thiessen@mcmaster.ca)

Office: University Hall 119

Time: Tuesdays, 12.30-2.20pm

Place: Burke Science Building B103

Tutorial Time: Tuesdays, 3.30-4.20

Tutorial Location: Temporary Building 13 Room 106

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/macrelstuds/>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/macreligiousstudies/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/macrelstuds?lang=en>

**Twitter:** @MattThiessenNT

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### Course Description

This course will examine the variety of ethnic discourses that exist within the Bible. In what ways did biblical writers construct ethnic identity and how has the Bible been used in modern racial ideologies?

### Required Reading

- A good translation of the Bible with deuterocanon or Apocrypha, such as the NRSV
- Various readings to which the instructor will provide access

### Assignments

- *Class Participation:* Students are expected to attend promptly and regularly, having prepared beforehand for each class (especially the tutorial). They will actively participate in a respectful and knowledgeable manner. For **every** class or tutorial that has a required reading, students must write a response, which will consist of 5 observations about the reading and two questions. **There are 29 such**

classes/tutorials, and students must turn in (ONLY in person and to the TA) a minimum of 26 to get full marks on this assignment. (30%)

- *Bibliography Assignment*: In preparation for the final paper, students will construct an annotated bibliography of sources (ask or research if you don't know what that is!) that they will use on the topic of their choice (in consultation with their TA). This bibliography should follow the format of the *SBL Handbook of Style* (see A2L for style sheet) and should consist of ten entries, of four to six sentences each. Bibliographies should be uploaded to A2L on **March 3**. (30%)
- *Term Paper*: Students will write an essay on a topic that they will choose (see Bibliography assignment) in consultation with the TA. Papers should be typed in 12 Time New Roman font, double-spaced, with footnotes (size 10 font), and margins no larger than one inch on all sides. They should be between **8 (full)** pages and **10** pages in length, followed by a bibliography that improves upon their bibliography assignment. The paper will be due on **March 31**, and should be uploaded to A2L. (40%)

### Tentative Course Schedule

1. Tuesday, January 10, 2023
  - a. Introduction
  - b. Syllabus
2. Tuesday, January 17, 2023
  - a. Genesis 1
  - b. Genesis 2
3. Tuesday, January 24, 2023
  - a. Genesis 9
  - b. Genesis 10-11
4. Tuesday, January 31, 2023
  - a. Genesis 12-26
  - b. Genesis 37-50?
5. Tuesday, February 7, 2023
  - a. Exodus 1-12
  - b. Deuteronomy
6. Tuesday, February 14, 2023
  - a. Ezra-Nehemiah
  - b. Trito-Isaiah (Prophets)
7. **Tuesday, February 21, 2023**
  - a. **MID-TERM RECESS – NO CLASS**
8. Tuesday, February 28, 2023
  - a. Mark 1 and 28
  - b. Mark 7 and 15

9. Tuesday, March 7, 2023
  - a. Acts
  - b. Acts
10. Tuesday, March 14, 2023
  - a. Catch Up Week
11. Tuesday, March 21, 2023
  - a. Romans
  - b. Galatians
12. Tuesday, March 28, 2023
  - a. Philemon and Slavery
  - b. Revelation and the Eschaton
13. Tuesday, April 4, 2023
  - a. TBD
  - b. TBD
14. Tuesday, April 11, 2023
  - a. No Class

### Course Policies

#### Submission of Assignments

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments should be submitted electronically and on time on Avenue to Learn.

#### Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

| <b>MARK</b> | <b>GRADE</b> |
|-------------|--------------|
| 90-100      | A+           |
| 85-89       | A            |
| 80-84       | A-           |
| 77-79       | B+           |
| 73-76       | B            |
| 70-72       | B-           |
| 67-69       | C+           |
| 63-66       | C            |
| 60-62       | C-           |
| 57-59       | D+           |
| 53-56       | D            |
| 50-52       | D-           |
| 0-49        | F            |

### [Avenue to Learn](#)

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### [Turnitin.com](#)

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work 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. 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., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to the [Office of Academic Integrity website](#).

### [University Policies](#)

#### [Academic Integrity Statement](#)

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), located at [the University Secretariat website](#).

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.

#### [Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection](#)

**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to the [Office of Academic Integrity website](#).

#### [Courses with an On-line Element](#)

**Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

#### [Online Proctoring](#)

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

#### [Conduct Expectations](#)

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

#### [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#)

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

### Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.