Wake Forest University School of Divinity  
Myth and Scripture: Genesis 1–11  
Professor Neal Walls

**Required Texts**

**Recommended and Reference Texts**
- B. Anderson, *From Creation to New Creation* (Fortress, 1994)
- W. L. Humphreys, *The Character of God in Genesis* (Westminster, 2001)
- Ronald Osborn, *Death Before the Fall* (IVP Academic, 2014)

**Course Description and Requirements**

This seminar explores ancient Near Eastern myths of creation; Genesis 1–11 as an ancient Israelite text; Genesis 1–11 in the history of interpretation as scripture; and Genesis 1–11 in relation to contemporary evolutionary biology, geology, creationism, and theology. Prerequisite: BIB 521, BIB 541, or permission of the instructor.

Students are expected to attend all classes, prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Excessive absence will result in a lowered grade; more than four absences will result in a grade of F. Final grades will be based upon class participation and two presentations (35%), a take-home mid-term exam (30%), and a 15-page term paper or project (35%). (Students may write a 6-page paper in place of one of the presentations.) The short essay is due by December 4, and the term paper is due no later than December 12.

All assignments must be completed in accordance with the school’s Honor Code. Students with documented disabilities that may require special accommodations should contact the Learning Center (758-5929) or Student Health Services (758-5218) and make arrangements with the professor during the first two weeks of class.

**(Very) Tentative Schedule and Assigned Readings**

In the following assignments, authors’ names refer to the books for purchase, (S) refers to articles on Sakai, and an asterisk (*) marks a supplemental (i.e., non-required) text.

Aug 26  Introduction

1. Ancient Near Eastern Cosmogonies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Th 28</td>
<td>Mesopotamian Myths</td>
<td>Kirk, &quot;The Nature of Myths in Ancient Mesopotamia&quot; (S), Walls, &quot;The Origins of the Disabled Body&quot; (S)</td>
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<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>Babylonian Creation: <em>Atrahasis</em></td>
<td>Dalley, &quot;Introduction&quot; and pp. 1-38</td>
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<td>Th 4</td>
<td>Creation and Flood</td>
<td>Compare the Flood in Gilgamesh XI, i-iv (in Dalley, 109-116), Batto, 1-33</td>
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<td>T 9</td>
<td>Babylonian Cosmogony: <em>Enuma Elish</em></td>
<td>Dalley, 228-277 (skim the 50 names of Marduk), Batto, 33-40, &quot;Tiamat&quot; and &quot;Akitu&quot; (hand-outs)</td>
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<td>Th 11</td>
<td>Egyptian Creation Accounts <strong>Meet in room 302 today</strong></td>
<td>Clifford, &quot;Creation Accounts in Egyptian Thought&quot; (S)</td>
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<td>T 16</td>
<td>Yahweh and the Monsters</td>
<td>Isaiah 27:1 and 51:9–11; Job 40–41, Psalms 29, 93, 99 and 74:12–17, &quot;Leviathan&quot; (S), Anderson, &quot;The Slaying of the Fleeing, Twisting Serpent&quot; (S)</td>
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<td>Th 18</td>
<td>&quot;In the Beginning&quot;: Genesis 1:1–19</td>
<td>Hamilton, 103-128, 144-145, Batto, 73-101, Proverbs 8; John 1, Yarber, “Painting Tiamat/Tehom” (S), <em>Keller, Face of the Deep: A Theology of Becoming</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>T 23</td>
<td>Genesis 1:20 – 2:3</td>
<td>Hamilton 129-143, 145-150, Vorster, &quot;Image of God&quot; (S), <em>Middleton, The Liberating Image</em></td>
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<td>Th 25</td>
<td>The Sabbath (Genesis 2:1–4)</td>
<td>Levenson, “Rest and Re-Creation” and “Conclusion” (100-127) (S), Osborn, “Animal Ethics, Sabbath Rest” (S)</td>
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<td>T 30</td>
<td>The Science of Life</td>
<td>Benton, <em>The History of Life</em></td>
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**3. Humans and Animals (Genesis 2–3)**
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
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| Oct 2 | Into the Garden: Genesis 2:4–17 | Hamilton, 150-174 (skim 166-170)  
Batto, 41-72 |
Meyers, “Eve in Eden” (S) |
| Th 9  | Adam, Eve, and the Serpent: Genesis 3 | Hamilton, 186-218 |
| T 14 | Sin, Expulsion, and Grace (Genesis 3, continued) | Meyers, “Eve Out of Eden” (S)  
Ezekiel 28:11–19  
*Lanfer, Remembering Eden |
| Th 16 | Fall Break | Take-Home Exams due |
| T 21 | Interpretations of the Fall | McGuire, “Virginity and Subversion” (S)  
*Selections from Kvam, et al., Eve and Adam |
| Th 23 | And the Animals | Clough, “All God’s Creatures” (S)  
Nussbaum, “The Moral Status of Animals” (S)  
*Osborn, Death Before the Fall |
| 4. Humans and Angels (Genesis 4–6) |
| T 28 | Cain and Abel: Genesis 4 | Hamilton, 218-246  
Fewell and Gunn, “Varieties of Interpretation” (S) |
| Th 30 | Antediluvian Generations: Genesis 5–6 | Hamilton, 257-285 (skim 246-256)  
Hendel, “The Nephilim Were on the Earth” (S) |
| Nov 4 | Enoch and Fallen Angels | 1Enoch 6–16 (S) |
| 5. The Flood and After (Genesis 6–11) |
| Th 6  | Noah and the Flood: Genesis 7–8 | Hamilton, 285-311  
From Gilgamesh Tablet XI in Dalley, 109-116  
See http://www.floodofnoah.com/ |
Flood Geology
https://answersingenesis.org/age-of-the-earth/the-key-to-the-age-of-the-earth/

After the Flood: Genesis 9
Hamilton, 311-330

Finding One’s Place: Genesis 10–11
Hamilton, 349-365

Babel: Human Migrations and Language Diversity
TBD

Viewing of Noah

Thanksgiving Break

6. Conclusions: Myth, Scripture, and Science

Theology (and Teleology) After Darwin
Haught, God After Darwin

Theology After Darwin, continued
Finish Haught

Final papers are due on Friday, December 12.

Articles on Sakai


