

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

**Required Texts**

Bernard Batto, *Slaying the Dragon* (Westminster, 1992). ISBN 978-0664253530  
Michael Benton, *The History of Life* (Oxford, 2008). ISBN 978-0199226320  
Stephanie Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia* (Oxford, 1991). ISBN 192817892  
V. Hamilton, *Genesis 1–17* (NICOT; Eerdmans, 1990). ISBN 978-0802825216  
John F. Haught, *God After Darwin*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2008). ISBN 978-0813343709

**Recommended and Reference Texts**

B. Anderson, *From Creation to New Creation* (Fortress, 1994)  
W. L. Humphreys, *The Character of God in Genesis* (Westminster, 2001)  
K. Kvam, et al., eds., *Eve and Adam: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Readings...*  
(Indiana, 1999)  
Jon Levenson, *Creation and the Persistence of Evil* (Princeton, 1994; orig. 1988)  
Ronald Osborn, *Death Before the Fall* (IVP Academic, 2014)  
Nico Vorster, *Created in the Image of God* (Pickwick, 2011)

**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

- Th 28 Mesopotamian Myths  
Kirk, "The Nature of Myths in Ancient Mesopotamia" (S)  
Walls, "The Origins of the Disabled Body" (S)
- Sept 2 Babylonian Creation: *Atrahasis*  
Dalley, "Introduction" and pp. 1-38
- Th 4 Creation and Flood  
Compare the Flood in Gilgamesh XI, i-iv (in Dalley, 109-116)  
Batto, 1-33
- T 9 Babylonian Cosmogony: *Enuma Elish*  
Dalley, 228-277 (skim the 50 names of Marduk)  
Batto, 33-40  
"Tiamat" and "Akitu" (hand-outs)
- Th 11 Egyptian Creation Accounts \*\*Meet in room 302 today\*\*  
Clifford, "Creation Accounts in Egyptian Thought" (S)
- T 16 Yahweh and the Monsters  
Isaiah 27:1 and 51:9–11; Job 40–41  
Psalms 29, 93, 99 and 74:12–17  
"Leviathan" (S)  
Anderson, "The Slaying of the Fleeing, Twisting Serpent" (S)

## 2. Cosmos, Earth, and Life (Genesis 1)

- Th 18 "In the Beginning": Genesis 1:1–19  
Hamilton, 103-128, 144-145  
Batto, 73-101  
Proverbs 8; John 1  
Yarber, "Painting Tiamat/Tehom" (S)  
\*Keller, *Face of the Deep: A Theology of Becoming*
- T 23 Genesis 1:20 – 2:3  
Hamilton 129-143, 145-150  
Vorster, "Image of God" (S)  
\*Middleton, *The Liberating Image*
- Th 25 The Sabbath (Genesis 2:1–4)  
Levenson, "Rest and Re-Creation" and "Conclusion" (100-127) (S)  
Osborn, "Animal Ethics, Sabbath Rest" (S)
- T 30 The Science of Life  
Benton, *The History of Life*

## 3. Humans and Animals (Genesis 2–3)

- Oct 2 Into the Garden: Genesis 2:4–17  
Hamilton, 150-174 (skim 166-170)  
Batto, 41-72
- T 7 Man and Woman: Genesis 2:18–25  
Hamilton, 174-185  
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/>

- T 11 Flood Geology  
<https://answersingenesis.org/age-of-the-earth/the-key-to-the-age-of-the-earth/>  
 Chapt 10 from Numbers, *The Creationists*, rev. ed. (2006)
- Th 13 After the Flood: Genesis 9  
 Hamilton, 311-330
- T 18 Finding One's Place: Genesis 10–11  
 Hamilton, 349-365
- Th 20 Babel: Human Migrations and Language Diversity  
 TBD
- T 25 Viewing of *Noah*
- Th 27 *Thanksgiving Break*
6. Conclusions: Myth, Scripture, and Science
- Dec 2 Theology (and Teleology) After Darwin  
 Haught, *God After Darwin*
- Th 4 Theology After Darwin, continued  
 Finish Haught

**Final papers are due on Friday, December 12.**

Articles on Sakai

1. Kirk, G. S. "The Nature of Myths in Ancient Mesopotamia." Pp. 84-107 in *Myth*. University of California, 1972.
2. Walls, N. "The Origins of the Disabled Body." Pp. 13-30 in *This Abled Body*, eds. H. Avalos et al. Society of Biblical Literature, 2007.
3. Clifford, R. "Creation Account in Egyptian Thought." Pp. 99-116 in *Creation Accounts in the Ancient Near East and in the Bible*. Catholic Biblical Association, 1994.
4. Uehlinger, C. "Leviathan." Pp. 511-15 in *Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ed. K. van der Toorn, et al. Eerdmans, 1999.

5. Anderson, B. "The Slaying of the Fleeing, Twisting Serpent." Pp. 195-206 in *From Creation to New Creation*. Fortress, 1994.
6. Yarber, A. "Painting Tiamat/Tehom." Website accessed on Sept 13, 2014.  
<http://feminismandreligion.com/2014/09/13/painting-tiamattehom-by-rev-dr-angela-yarber/>
7. Vorster, N. "Image of God." Pp. 3-24 in *Created in the Image of God*. Pickwick, 2011.
8. Levenson, J. "Rest and Re-Creation" and "Conclusion." Pp. 100-127 in *Creation and the Persistence of Evil*. Harper and Row, 1988.
9. Osborn, R. "Animal Ethics, Sabbath Rest." Pp. 166-175 in *Death Before the Fall*. IVP, 2014.
10. Meyers, C. "Eve in Eden." Pp. 59-80 in *Rediscovering Eve*. Oxford, 2013.
11. Meyers, C. "Eve out of Eden." Pp. 81-102 in *Rediscovering Eve*. Oxford, 2013.
12. McGuire, A. "Virginity and Subversion: Norea Against the Powers in the *Hypostatis of the Archons*." Pp. 239-258 in *Images of the Feminine in Gnosticism*, ed. Karen King. Trinity, 1988.
13. Clough, D. "All God's Creatures." Pp. 145-161 in *Reading Genesis After Darwin*, ed. S. Barton and D. Wilkinson. Oxford, 2009.
14. Nussbaum, M. "The Moral Status of Animals." Pp. 30-36 in the *Animals Reader*, ed. L. Kalof and A. Fitzgerald. Berg, 2007.
15. Fewell, D., and D. Gunn, "Varieties of Interpretation." Pp. 12-33 in *Narrative in the Hebrew Bible*. Oxford, 1993.
16. Hendel, R. "The Nephilim Were on the Earth." Pp. 11-34 in *The Fall of the Angels*, ed. C. Auffarth and L. Stuckenbruck. Brill, 2004.
17. 1 Enoch 6–16. Trans. by E. Isaac in *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. 1, ed. J. Charlesworth. Yale, 1983.