

RE21190/91: Bible as Controversy
CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU
SUMMER SESSION 2026 (INTERNET-CHUUK)

(ABBREVIATED SESSION DUE TO TYPHOON SINLAKU)

- **CLASS TIME:** Online/Weekly
- **INSTRUCTOR:** Dean F. McGinnis
- **TUTORING HOURS:**
 - **MWF: 8:30-10:20a, 1:00-4:20p**
 - **TR: 8:30a-12:20p, 1:30-4:20p**
- **CAMPUS OFFICE PHONE:** 808-739-7484
- **EMAIL:** dean.mcginnis@chaminade.edu
- **REQUIRED TEXT(S):**
- Reading the Bible, A Study Guide, Carmody, Timothy, R. Paulist Press 2004
 - ISBN-10:0809141892/ISBN-13:978-0809141890
- Any/all readings posted as HANDOUTS throughout the course.
- Access to any generally accepted bible

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Ancient scriptural documents have erupted into modern controversies, ranging from questions over biblical fundamentalism to the meaning of Jesus in contemporary times. Questions concerning the creation stories, the monarchy of Israel, the movement of Jesus the Jew, the writings of Paul, and the historical and contemporary uses and abuses of the Bible will be examined in detail.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Engage in respectful dialogue on religious meaning in our globalized, multicultural society. (PLO 2)
- Employ Christian moral imagination in moral reasoning and decision making that affirms and/or challenges secular and cultural values. (PLO 3)

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE OUTCOMES: Catholic Intellectual Tradition

"The student will explain (be introduced to) faith and reason as integral to developing a Catholic sacramental perspective of the cosmos that leads to responsible action supporting social justice"

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Expose the biblical world in a way that allows the element of controversy to emerge for the sake of appreciating the complex character and nature of the material both as a whole as well as its component

- Sift through a multitude of controversial texts, events, characters, messages, interpretations of, and approaches toward, scripture which excite and alarm both believers and non-believers.
- Foster a critical use of the biblical material on the basis of contemporary biblical scholarship utilizing available historical, scientific, linguistic and theological tools which enable examination and consideration of variant points of view.
- Contextualize the controversial character of scripture within the scope of conflict that defines the human condition and which ranges through the bulk of human literature, religious and secular.
- At an introductory level, introduce the historical dialogue regarding “faith and reason”
- At an introductory level, introduce the meaning of the “Catholic Intellectual Tradition” particularly with regard to:
 - The continuing dialogue regarding “faith and reason”
 - The “Sacramental Perspective” regarding all creation and one’s responsibility to and within all creation.

COURSE METHODOLOGY:

Instruction will consist of readings, videos, group discussions, personal reflections, quizzes and assigned papers.

CLASS PARTICIPATION/INTERACTION REQUIREMENTS:

Participation is defined as preparing for, completion of, and participation in, all reading assignments, group discussions, writing assignments and quizzes given at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be required to respond to at least two of their fellow students’ assignments each week via the website. Additional interaction is encouraged but not required.

FINAL PAPER:

The final paper will be a thoughtful/creative reflection (1-2 page) paper demonstrating the student’s expected ability to incorporate critical thought regarding faith and reason within this/her reflection.

FINAL EXAM:

This will be a comprehensive multiple choice exam and will be administered online.

GRADING POLICY:

- ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZES/CLASS PARTICIPATION/INTERACTION: 50%
- FINAL PAPER: 25%
- FINAL EXAM: 25%

A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: below 60%

- **Incomplete Grades:**

An Incomplete grade may be granted to the student, by the instructor, in accordance with University Policy

COURSE SCHEDULE/READING ASSIGNMENTS (subject to revision):

Part 1: (5/18/2026-5/24/2026)

- Students Complete the REQUIRED MC QUIZ (1 of 2)
- Students Complete the REQUIRED BIO
- Students confirm they have read and understand the AI/Chat GPT, etc. course policy
- Students confirm reading/understanding the course instructions and syllabus
- Versions of the Bible Handout
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 2: (5/25/2026-5/31/2026)

- Carmody Chapters 1-2
- Weekly Quiz
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 3: (6/1/2026-6/7/2026)

- Carmody Chapter 3
- Genesis Chapters 1-2 (The Creation Stories)
- Bible Timeline Handout
- Weekly Quiz
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 4: (6/8/2026-6/14/2026)

- Carmody Chapter 4
- Genesis Chapters 6-8 (The Flood)
- Hermeneutics Handout
- Textual Criticism Handout
- Exegesis Handout
- Weekly Quiz
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 5: (6/15/2026-6/21/2026)

- Carmody Chapter 5
- Schism of 1054 Handout
- Church Councils Handout

- Protestant Reformation Handout
- Luther's 95 Thesis Handout
- Purgatory Handout
- Weekly Quiz
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 6: (6/22/2026-6/28/2026)

- Carmody Chapter 6
- Paul Chronology Handout
- Weekly Quiz
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 7: (6/29/2026-7/5/2026)

- Carmody Chapter 7
- "Q" Handout
- Synoptic Gospels Handout
- Weekly Quiz
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 8: (7/6/2026-7/12/2026)

- Carmody Chapter 8
- Gospel of John Handout
- US News: pp. 19-24 Handout
- Weekly Quiz
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 9: (7/13/2026-7/19/2026)

- Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio) Handout
- Weekly Quiz
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 10: (7/20/2026-7/26/2026)

- Characteristics of a Marianist Education (Review)
- REQUIRED MC QUIZ (2 of 2)
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 11: (7/27/2026-8/2/2026)

- Introduction to Faith and Reason (Part 1)
- St. Thomas Aquinas *Summa Theologica* (An overview)
- Introduction to Faith and Reason (Part 2)

- St. John Paul II *Fides et Ratio* (An overview)
- Selected Video(s) TBD

Part 12: (8/3/2026-8/7/2026)

- Introduction to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition
- Selected Video(s) TBD
- COMPLETE AND SUBMIT REQUIRED FINAL PAPER
- GET CAUGHT UP ON ANY LATE WORK
- COMPLETE THE REQUIRED FINAL EXAM

CHARACTERISTICS OF A MARIANIST EDUCATION

Organizational themes refer to underlying structural links that contribute to the choice of content, the pedagogy selected for participation of the teacher/learner and student/teacher in bringing the content to life, and fulfillment of the course objectives within a broader frame of education and building community.

1. The first set of organizational themes around which the course is constructed is drawn from the “Characteristics of Marianist Universities.”
 - - Educate for formation in faith;
 - Provide an integral quality education;
 - Educate for family spirit;
 - Educate for service, justice and peace, and integrity of creation;
 - and
 - Educate for adaptation and change.
2. The second major organizational theme is diversity and the complex issues that arise when we look at diversity and its impact on prejudice and violence, specifically in the ways we organize our society that lead us toward a more just and sustainable society. Diversity themes, particularly the role of the “other” are developed in relation to the content of the course as well as in relation to the student/learners who are participants in the course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA ACCOMMODATIONS):

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be

completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify Kokua Ike via email at ada@chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (HONESTY):

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an “F” grade for the work in question, an “F” grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

TITLE IX AND NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. For pregnant and parenting students, I am also obligated to provide you with similar resources for support and protections available to you. My goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

Hazing Prevention Resources and Athlete Helpline:

Assists athletes, parents, coaches, and any allies interested in ensuring physical and mental safety for sports communities by offering confidential emotional support, crisis intervention, informational athlete-focused resources, and guidance related to concerns about any type of abuse—including hazing.

Chaminade University's Hazing

Policy: <https://catalog.chaminade.edu/studenthandbook/codeofconduct>Links to an external site.

<https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/>Links to an external site.

<https://hazingpreventionnetwork.org/how-to-report-hazing/>Links to an external site.

Basic Needs Resources: <https://chaminade.edu/basic-needs/>