

FD'02

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
RE211 THE BIBLE AS CONTROVERSY

Fall 2002 M-W-F 8:00-8:50AM Henry Hall 202

Instructor: Kay Stone Phone 440-4226 e-mail: Kstone@chaminade.edu

DESCRIPTION:

Modern controversies have arisen over ancient scriptural documents. They range from questions over biblical fundamentalism to the controversial views promoted by the "Jesus Seminar." This course will examine the notion of controversy both "within" and "about" the Bible. Questions of controversy concerning the creation stories, the history of Israel, the life and actions of Jesus the Jew, the writings of Paul, the Book of Revelation and the historical and contemporary use and abuse of the Bible will be examined in detail.

OBJECTIVE:

1. To study the biblical world in a way that allows the element of controversy to emerge with all the challenges this type of study presents.
2. To specifically study a multitude of controversial texts, events, individuals, messages, interpretations of and approaches toward scripture that excite and alarm both believers and non-believers.
3. To encourage critical use of biblical material utilizing contemporary biblical scholarship including historical, scientific, linguistic and theological tools.
4. To lead students beyond basic facts to a deeper understanding of biblical facts and persons as revealed through the bible.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Presence and active participation in all scheduled class meetings.
2. Completion of all assignments, quizzes and exam.

GRADING:

30% class participation and attendance

30% quizzes (10% each quiz)

15% final examination

25% course paper/presentation (5 page paper typed, double spaced and presented in class during the final week of class. Topic must be pre-approved by instructor).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Knowledge of the subject matter from textbook, class lectures and discussion, and independent research.
2. Ability to apply above knowledge to current biblical scholarship.
3. Ability to understand (but not necessarily agree with) subject matter from different viewpoints and/or beliefs.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Reading The Bible Again for the First Time by Marcus J. Borg
US News and World Report special edition "Mysteries of Faith"

Access to a bible will be helpful

SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

August 26	Introduction
August 28	Overview of the bible, how to read Scripture; US News pages 2-16
August 30	" "
September 4	" "
September 6	" "
September 9	" "
September 11	Chapter 1
September 13	" "
September 16	" "
September 18	Chapter 2
September 20	" "
September 23	" "
September 25	Quiz
September 27	Chapter 3
September 30	" "
October 2	" "
October 4	Chapter 4; US News pages 44-49
October 7	" "
October 9	" "
October 11	Chapter 5
October 16	" "
October 18	" "
October 21	Quiz
October 23	Chapter 7
October 25	" "
October 28	" "
October 30	Chapter 8; US News pages 19-24; 30-42
November 1	Extra material on Christmas story
November 4	" "
November 6	Chapter 9; US News pages 26-29
November 8	" "
November 13	" "
November 15	Quiz
November 18	Chapter 10; US News pages 72-76
November 20	" "
November 22	" "
November 25	Review
December 2	Final Reports
December 4	Final Reports
December 6	Final Reports
December 12	Final exam 8-10AM