

THE BIBLE & FOLKLORE (Flr 199/17802)

Dr. Dianne Dugaw, dugaw@uoregon.edu
Office: PLC 458, 346-1496

TTh 10-11:20, 201 Condon
T 12-1:15; Th 3:30-5:15; & by appt.

This course will bring together readings of the Bible in the Judeo-Christian tradition in connection with apt mythological, folkloristic, and traditional contexts, concepts, and meanings. We will read sections of the Bible that have continuing presence in Western culture and literature, exploring how these are shaped by oral traditions and how they carry ongoing symbolic and narrative meaning. In addition to reading key narrative, lyrical, prophetic, and epistolary sections of the King James English bible, we will take a folkloristic approach in studying these accounts—contextualizing them both in relation to modes of oral creation and dissemination, and in connection with parallels to and adaptations of biblical stories in other cultural forms and traditions.

BOOKS: *The Bible: Authorized K. James Version* (Oxford UP, 1997—REQUIRED TRANSLATION); Alan Dundes, *Holy Writ as Oral Lit: The Bible As Folklore* (Rowman & Littlefield, 1999); M.H. Abrams, *Glossary of Literary Terms*, 10th ed. (Thomson/Wadsworth, 2012).

WORK: Exam(25%); Final Essay (25%); Journal (25%); Participation: Presentation/Discussion/Paper (25%)

WK 1 (10/1): The Judeo-Christian Bible & a Folkloristic Study of Mythology, Narrative, & Verbal Art

T: Introduction: The Books; the Course; the Bible, the 1611 K. James translation, & the Study of Folklore

Th: The Bible as Book & as Oral Tradition(s): Dundes, 1-21; *Bible*, “Introduction,” xi-xxix.

Terms: *Abrams:* Periods of English Literature—Jacobean Age; Renaissance; book; folklore; myth; *Dundes:* folklore; myth; legend; oral folklore; written folklore

WK 2 (10/8): Mythology, Variation, & Oral/Written Strands in Biblical Stories: the Flood & the Creation

T: Mythic Stories & Variation in Number—Origins & the Flood myth: *Bible*, “Genesis,” 1-22; Dundes, 21-24; **Read Notes to “O.T.” & *Genesis* (pp.321ff.); during the term read “Notes” for ALL biblical books**

Th: Mythic Origins & Variation in Number—the Creation & Fall myths: Dundes, 24-26; *Bible*, “Genesis,” 1-5

Terms: *Abrams:* myth; narrative; setting; character; plot; *Dundes:* multiple existence; variation

WK 3 (10/15): Legends, Variation, & Oral/Written Jesus Stories: Death & Resurrection; Life & Work

T: Legendary Stories & Variation in Number—Crucifixion & Resurrection Accounts: *Bible*, Matthew, 26-28; Mark, 14-16; Luke, 22-24; John, 18-20; Dundes, 26-37. **Read Notes to “N.T.” (398-412).**

Th: Legendary Stories & Sayings—Jesus as Teacher & Healer: *Bible*, Matthew, 5:1-20; 8:1-34; Luke, 6:1-49.

Terms: *Abrams:* narratology; author; plot—protagonist/antagonist; allusion; paradox; symbol; legend; variant

WK 4 (10/22): Legends, Variation, & Patterned Narratives: Historical Memory in Oral & Written Modes

T: Paul of Tarsus & Beginnings of “Christianity”: Dundes, 37-63; *Bible*, “Acts of the Apostles,” 6-9; 20-22. J. Robinson, “Judas of the New Testament” (on Blackboard) **(Notes, 413-14)**

Th: Thinking about Jesus: *Bible:* Epistles—“Romans,” 5:1-23 & “Corinthians,” 13:1-13. **(Notes, 415-420).**

Terms: *Abrams*: didactic literature; essay; convention; narrative pt. of view; interpretation: typological & allegorical; *Dundes*: variation in name & sequence; type-set with variants; polygenesis/monogenesis

WK 5 (10/29): Lyric Expression, Oral Poetry, & Formulaic Language: Psalms & Songs

T: ***EXAM***

Th: *Bible*, “Psalms,” 14 & 53; 70, 40, & 90; 18 & “Samuel II,” 22. *Dundes*, 63-65; (Notes, 351-358)

Terms: *Abrams*: verse; oral poetry; lyric; antithesis/parallelism; figurative lang.; apostrophe; rhetorical question

WK 6 (11/5): Lyric Expression, Poetry, & Formulaic Language: Songs, Prophecies, Proverbs, & Wisdom

T: *Bible*: “Psalms” 2, 8, 9, 13, 23, 42, 98, 150; “Song of Solomon,” Ch.1-8

Th: *Bible*: “Jeremiah,” 1-2, 23-24; “Proverbs,” 10; “Ecclesiastes,” 3; *Dundes*: 80-90 (Notes, 359-64)

Terms: fig. lang.—metaphor/simile; allegory; parable; allegorical interpretation; jeremiad; satire; proverb; didactic literature; concrete language; imagery

WK 7 (11/12): Heroic Narrative Patterns (I) : David & Goliath / David & Jonathan / David & Saul,

T: *Dundes*: 65-70; *Bible*: “I Samuel,” 16-20 & 31 (Notes, 340-42)

Th: *Bible*: “I Samuel,” 24-31; “II Samuel,” 1

Terms: *Abrams*: culture hero; narratology; plot—protagonist (hero) /antagonist (villain); motif & theme; dirge

WK 8 (11/19): Heroic Narrative Patterns (II) : Jael & Sisera, Judith & Holofernes

T: *Dundes*: 65-66; *Bible*: “Judges,” 4-5; *Apocrypha*, “Judith,” 8-16. (Notes, 337-39, 384-86, 389-90)

Th: *Dundes*: 70-73; *Bible*: “Exodus,” 1-20 (Notes, 330-332)

Terms: *Abrams*: protagonist/antagonist; motif & theme—topos; stock situation; symbol; convention/invention

WK 9 (11/26): Heroic Narrative Patterns (III) : Moses & the Promised Land as Narrative & (proto)Type

T: *Dundes*: 96-103; *Bible*: “Exodus,” Ch. 25-27, 31-34, 40; “Deuteronomy,” 31-34 (Notes, 334-336)

Th: **HOLIDAY** *Bible*: John, 6; *Dundes*: 103-107 and 114-118

Terms: motif & theme—topos; archetypal criticism; interpretation, typology/allegory; fixed-phrase genre

WK 10 (12/3): Prophecy, Utopian/Dystopian Visions, & Apocalypse

T: *Bible*: “Revelations,” Ch.1-2, 12, 19-22; Adam Gopnik, “The Big Reveal” (BBoard) (Notes, 438-441).

Th: *Bible*: “I Thessalonians, Ch.1 & 5 Notes (425-426) *****FINAL ESSAY DUE TODAY*****

Terms: *Abrams*: interpretation, allegorical; jeremiad; utopias and dystopias