

# McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

# COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

## **INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

### **HISTORY OF RELIGIONS I**

**PHIL 1316.11**

**Marc Nicholas**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

#### **COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

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**Course Description:**

State Course Description: A comparative study of world religions, including but not limited to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

MCC Specific Course Description: An introduction to the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Scriptures and the historical and cultural contexts in which they developed. Consideration of the texts themselves - including their contents and major themes - and their interpretations will be included.

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

None

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

None.

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. Marc Nicholas

MCC E-mail: [mnicholas@mcclennan.edu](mailto:mnicholas@mcclennan.edu) (preferred method of communication)

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8471

Office Location: MAC 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, adjunct office (340A & B)

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: MW, 1:00-3:00

Other Instruction Information: none

**Required Text & Materials:**

Title: The Oxford Annotated Bible

Edition: 3<sup>rd</sup>

Publisher: Oxford

ISBN: 9780195288827

Title: Encountering Ancient Voices

Author: Carvalho

Edition: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Publisher: Anselm Academic

ISBN: 9781599820507

Title: Jesus in the Gospels and Acts

Author: Scholz

Edition: 1<sup>st</sup>

Publisher: St. Mary's Press

ISBN: 9780884899556

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Core Objectives for Language, Philosophy, & Culture:**

Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

- **Critical Thinking (CT)** -- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communications Skill (COM)** -- to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** -- to include intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility (PR)** -- to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

**1. Read, analyze, and critique religious texts. (CT, COM)**

*Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions*

*Assessed by objective exams and/or writing assignments and/or class participation and/or assigned presentations*

**2. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse beliefs, practices, and values of selected religious traditions. (CT, COM, SR, PR)**

*Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions*

*Assessed by objective exams and/or writing assignments and/or class participation and/or assigned presentations*

**3. Trace and present orally or in writing the origin and historical developments of selected religious traditions. (CT, COM, SR)**

*Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions*

*Assessed by objective exams and/or writing assignments and/or class participation and/or assigned presentations*

**4. Communicate understanding of selected religious traditions, orally or in writing. (CT, COM, SR)**

*Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions*

*Assessed by objective exams and/or writing assignments and/or class participation and/or assigned presentations*

**5. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse religious beliefs. (CT, COM, SR, PR)**

*Taught through lectures, assigned reading, and class discussions*

*Assessed by objective exams and/or writing assignments and/or class participation and/or assigned presentations*

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

The course will divided into 15 “Learning Units.” Each unit is composed of a primary text reading assignment and a textbook reading assignment. After completing each reading assignment, the student will be required to complete a quiz over each assignment. This is followed by an extended discussion of the material on the discussion board. Two short essay assignments will gauge to what extent the student has assimilated the information and can apply his or her knowledge in a new area of investigation.

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

<b><i>Learning Units</i></b>
Learning Unit 1: The Creation and the Lives of the Patriarchs—Genesis
Learning Unit 2: Deliverance from Slavery—Exodus
Learning Unit 3: Reading the Law—Texts in Torah
Learning Unit 4: Conquest & Monarchy—Joshua, Judges, Kings and Samuel

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Learning Unit 5: The Recall to Faithfulness—The Hebrew Prophets
Learning Unit 6: Ancient Israelite Poetry—Psalms and Song of Songs
Learning Unit 7: Old Testament Wisdom—Job and Proverbs
Learning Unit 8: Return from Exile—Ezra and Nehemiah
Learning Unit 9: Between the Testaments—The Deuterocanonical (Apocryphal) Books
Learning Unit 10: The Early Life and Ministry of Jesus—The Gospel according to Matthew
Learning Unit 11: Jesus' Path to Jerusalem—The Gospel according to Luke
Learning Unit 12: The Passion of the Christ—The Gospel according to Mark
Learning Unit 13: The Early Christian Church—The Acts of the Apostles
Learning Unit 14: The Logos and the Incarnation—The Gospel according to John
Learning Unit 15: The Apostle Paul—The Theological Vision of 1st Century Christianity

**Course Grading Information:**

*Grade Scale:*

Letter Grade	Point Range
A	550-495
B	494-440
C	439-385
D	384-330
F	329-below

*Grade Components:*

- 2 exams @ 75 points each (150 points)
  - 15 Scripture Quizzes @ 10 points each (150 points)
  - 15 Textbook Quizzes @ 10 points each (150 points)
  - 1 Writing Assignment @ 100 points (100 points)
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- 550 total points

- **Exams**-Will consist of a brief essay question(s) that will allow you to show what you have learned to that point. You will be able to use a Bible to answer the essay. These will not be difficult and there will be no “studying” (that is not to say no preparation) necessary for the most part.
- **Quizzes**-Will consist of 10 brief questions about the readings in either your textbook readings or for your scripture readings due that day. **Scripture quizzes** (15) will be administered on Bright Space. **Textbook quizzes** (15) will be administered on Bright Space. These are to be completed according to the schedule in the syllabus. Bright Space will automatically pull them down as the semester progresses. There are no dropped quizzes. See course schedule for due dates.
- **Encyclopedia Writing Assignment-**

Instructions for Encyclopedia articles:

1. Choose a topic (e.g. “documentary hypothesis,” “the Synoptic problem,” etc.) or a scriptural personality (e.g. Moses, Isaiah, Paul of Tarsus, etc.). If you are unsure whether you have chosen an appropriate topic, please email me ([mnicholas@mclennan.edu](mailto:mnicholas@mclennan.edu)) to confirm that you have done so.
2. Use examples provided on Bright Space to familiarize yourself with what an academic encyclopedia article looks like and what it seeks to accomplish.
3. Using your textbooks, research databases and reputable online academic sources, compose a concise but thorough article on the topic you have selected. The article should be approximately 500 words. 500 words is not much space, so do not waste words on fluff. Jump into the topic and cover the material. Do not waste words.
4. Your article should not have typographical errors and should be grammatically correct. Both of these are aspects of clear communication. If they are present it will negatively affect your grade. Your word-processing program likely has a “spelling/grammar” check. Use it and will likely find the most egregious errors and suggest edits for you.
5. You will need to cite what sources that you used (and if you don’t have any sources that’s not good) in the composition of your article. Use whatever citation style you wish (see OWL link for help on citation). Failure to cite sources will result in an incomplete grade for the assignment.
6. Do not copy/paste a Wikipedia article (or similar online sources) into a Word document and submit it as your own. This should constitute original work and failure to comply in this regard will result in a 0 for the assignment. Safe Assignment will produce

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an “originality report” upon uploading your assignment which will indicate the sources you used whether you cite them or not.

7. The Encyclopedia article is worth 100 points. See the above schedule for due dates. They must be submitted to Bright Space. Do not email your article to me.

**Late Work, Attendance, and Make-Up Work Policies:**

Late work will not be accepted for any reason. If you anticipate missing a class when an assignment is due, please turn the assignment in prior to that class meeting. Since all assignments other than exams are given in advance, students should be able to complete assignments ahead of time if necessary.

Make up exams will only be allowed in the case of excused (MCC approved) absences and are highly discouraged. The make-up exam will be a different exam from the exam given to the rest of the class. Please make every effort to take exams at the times scheduled.

No incomplete grades will be issued. Please complete all assignments and exams by the assigned time. Any incomplete work will be calculated into the final grade as a “0” and submitted as such.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to a proper learning environment. Not only is disruptive conduct not tolerated, but full participation is expected by all students in attendance.

Students of the College, while on campus and/or participating in any function or activity of the College, are expected to meet acceptable standards of dress and personal hygiene. A student’s dress or personal hygiene shall be considered unacceptable if it inhibits or interferes with the educational responsibility of the college community or if it disrupts the administrative functions of the College, including social-educational activities.

**Instructor Academic Integrity Statement:**

In the event that a student is deemed to have “cheated,” the instructor will schedule a meeting with the student. The Department Head will be notified that an investigation into “cheating” has begun. If the student is deemed to have cheated on any assignments for the class, the student will receive an “F” for the class. Acts of dishonesty entail—but are not limited to—cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.

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**\* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)**

**([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))**

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**\* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)**

**(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

***\* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Safari) to print each link’s information.***



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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit <https://www.mclennan.edu/disability/>.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

### **Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/incidentLandingPageV2-MCC.asp>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you

or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>.

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity/> for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy regarding college email, which can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/student-email/>.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.