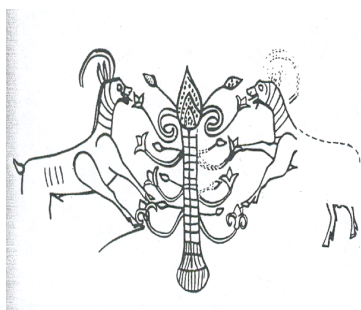


This year the Religion Department will offer three seminars. Majors are required to take two 300 - level courses, at least one of which is a seminar. Majors may take multiple seminars.

SPRING 2009-10

- 391: Biblical Seminar:
The Political Bible
Maggie Odell
9:35-11:00 T & 9:30-10:50 TH**



In the Bible, an essential feature of the “good life” is a just society. How did people live together? What did they owe to one another, be they insiders or outsiders, resident aliens or hostile nations? Did ancient Israel have a conception of “human rights”? What did ancient Israel mean when it spoke of the justice and judgment of God?

The seminar addresses these questions in order to get at a more basic one: in what sense does this political dimension of the Bible remain relevant for us? Specifically, when the relationship between politics and religion is such a hot-button issue, is the political dimension of the Bible an archaic embarrassment or a forgotten resource?

We will address these questions through a close reading of Exodus, Isaiah, and Matthew as three examples of the Bible’s treatment of political themes. We will examine how particular genres (e.g., hymns, law, narrative, oracles of judgment, wisdom, parable), historical traditions (e.g., deliverance from Egypt) and political theology (e.g., Zion theology) contribute to the Bible’s theo-political message. Finally, we will ask whether and how this message contributes to current theological reflection. Throughout the term, students will practice their skills of biblical interpretation, research, writing, discussion, and oral presentation.

- 397: Religion In Dialogue Seminar:
The Holocaust, the Christian Churches and
Jewish-Christian Relations Post-Holocaust
Elizabeth Galbraith
9:05-10:00 MWF**



This seminar is designed to foster a deeper understanding of the antecedents, realities and consequences of the Holocaust, one of the darkest episodes in human history. The readings will expose us to the worlds of the perpetrators, the victims, and to the roles of the Christian churches during the Holocaust. In addition to Jewish and Christian responses to the Holocaust we shall also examine the Holocaust’s impact on Jewish-Christian relations.