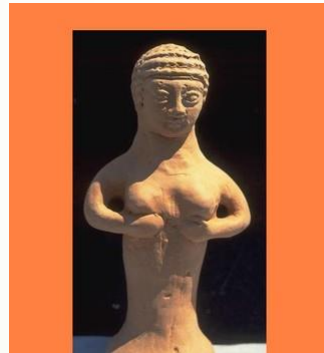


The Hebrew Goddess

Fall 2015

POS 4931 (1295)
REL 4936 (22AB)
JST 4936 (055G)
WST 4930 (055A)



Dr. Patricia J. Woods, Ph.D.

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This course investigates debates around the question of “The Hebrew Goddess;” as well as the location, regionally and historically, of Ancient Israelite religion in the wider context of worship of gods and goddesses in the ancient Middle East.

1. Asherah figurines. Image credit: <http://members.bib-arch.org/publication.asp?PubID=BSBA&Volume=27&Issue=3&ArticleID=1>; 2. Asherah. Image credit: http://cdn2-b.examiner.com/sites/default/files/styles/image_content_width/hash/97/37/97376451f64da52b3070aa11a6470201.JPG?itok=iGCGNWhF; 3. Astarte, sometimes identified as Astoreth and Demeter. Image credit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astarte#/media/File:Statuette_Goddess_Louvre_AO20127.jpg. 4. Tiamat, identified sometimes alternately as Asherah, Astarte (Ishtar), Inanna, and Venus. <http://www.ancient.eu/uploads/images/display-500.jpg>.

The Hebrew Goddess

Fall 2015

Dr. Patricia J. Woods, Ph.D.

Office 222 Anderson

Office Hours:

Mondays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

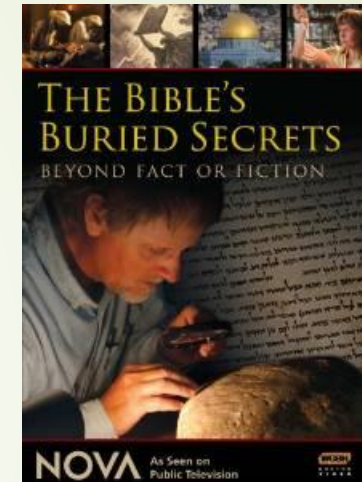
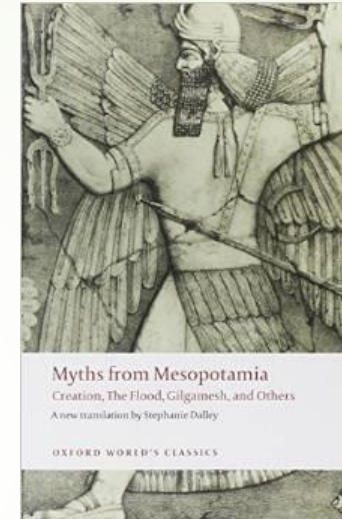
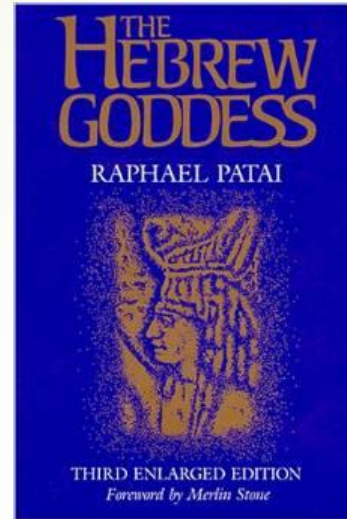
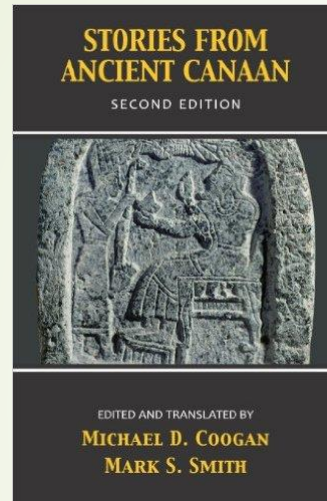
Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

► Assignments

- 30% 8 Abstracts
- 50% 2 Short Papers (6-8 pages each)
- 10% 3 Quizzes on assigned DVD documentary
- 10% Participation

- Abstracts must be 5 – 7 sentences. They should explain the central argument in the reading for the day, using three major pieces of evidence to explain the argument. They may be submitted one per class period throughout the semester.
- Short Papers (6-8 pages each) will be in response to a question/prompt on the readings for that period of class. If you prefer to do a research paper, you must get your topic approved by me in advance.
- Three short quizzes will be due on the documentary, *The Bible's Buried Secrets*. Their due dates appear in CANVAS on the "Assignments" page.
- Participation is an important part of your grade, making up roughly one letter grade. Participation means coming with the readings for the day prepared, and talking about them actively and on-point in class.

Texts....



- **The Hebrew Goddess** by Raphael Patai. Wayne State University Press, 1990 edition.
- **Stories From Ancient Canaan**, Second Edition by Michael Coogan and Mark Smith. Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.
- **Myths From Mesopotamia: Creation, the Flood, Gilgamesh and Others** (Oxford World Classics) edited and translated by Stephanie Dalley. Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Documentary: **The Bible's Buried Secrets** by NOVA/PBS, 2009.

Reading Schedule....



Ishtar Gate, Pergamon
Museum, Berlin.

Image credit:

<http://www.smb.museum/en/museums-and-institutions/pergamonmuseum/home.html#>

- Week I – Introductions, lecture
- Week II
 - Tuesday, Patai, Introduction
 - Thursday, Patai, Chapter I, “The Goddess Ashera”
- Week III
 - Tuesday, Patai, Chapter II, “Astarte-Anath”
 - Thursday, Patai, Chapter III, “The Cherubim”
- Week IV
 - Tuesday, Patai, Chapter IV, “The Shekhina”
 - NO CLASS TUES - Rosh Ha-Shannah,
We will discuss the readings on Thurs.
 - Thursday, Patai, Chapter V, “The Kabbalistic Triad”

Reading Schedule....

► Week V

- Tuesday, Coogan and Smith, Introduction (pps. 1-25)
 - No class Tuesday. Yom Kippur. We will discuss the readings on Thursday.
- Tuesday, Coogan and Smith, Aqhat

► Week VI

- Tuesday, Coogan and Smith, The Rephaim.
- Thursday, Coogan and Smith, Kirta

► Week VII

- Tuesday, Coogan and Smith, Baal
- Thursday, Coogan and Smith, The Lovely Gods

► Week VIII

- Tuesday, Coogan and Smith, The Drinking Party
- Thursday, In-class activity



Inanna/Ishtar is sometimes also identified as Venus. A star is sometimes her symbol.

Image credit:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ishtar#/media/File:Ishtar_vase_Louvre_AO17000-detail.jpg

Reading Schedule....



Image left: Limestone stela of Shamshi-Adad V: a round-topped stela of white limestone. The king stands in the gesture of blessing before five divine emblems: (1) the crown of the sky-god Anu, with three horns; (2) the winged disk; (3) the disk and crescent; (4) the fork; (5) the eight-pointed star of Ishtar. The cross worn as an amulet is a symbol of the sun god. (The British Museum) Image credit: http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=367083&partId=1

➤ Week IX

- Tuesday, Patai, "The Matronit – The Goddess of the Kabbala" and "The Myth of God and the Shekhina"
- Thursday, Patai, "The Shekhina as Maggid and Vision" and "Lilith"

➤ Week X

- Tuesday, Patai, "The Sabbath – Virgin, Bride, Queen, and Goddess"
- Tuesday, Myths From Mesopotamia, "Atrahasis"

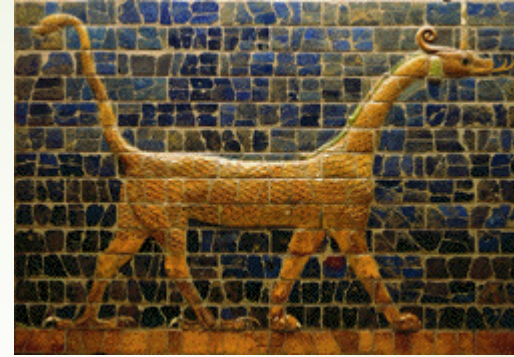
➤ Week XI

- Tuesday, Myths From Mesopotamia, "The Epic of Gilgamesh," pps. 39-72
- Tuesday, Myths From Mesopotamia, "The Epic of Gilgamesh," pps. 72-100

➤ Week XII

- Tuesday, Myths From Mesopotamia, "The Epic of Gilgamesh," pps. 101-140
- Thursday, Myths From Mesopotamia, "The Epic of Gilgamesh," pps. 141-181

Reading Schedule



Symbol of Marduk,
Detroit Institute of the
Arts. Image credit:
[http://www.dia.org/object-
info/b50e37fa-0803-425c-
92c9-d009262b1b7e.aspx](http://www.dia.org/object-info/b50e37fa-0803-425c-92c9-d009262b1b7e.aspx)

► Week XIII

- Tuesday, Myths From Mesopotamia, “The Descent of Ishtar” and “Nergal and Ereshkigal,” “Adapa,” and “Etana,” 182-202
- Myths From Mesopotamia, “Anzu,” pps. 203-227

► Week XIV

- Tuesday, Myths From Mesopotamia, “The Epic of Creation,” pps. 228-277
- Thanksgiving – no class

► Week XV


- Tuesday, Myths From Mesopotamia, “Erra and Ishum,” pps. 282-316
- Thursday, Myths From Mesopotamia, “Theogony of Dunnu,” pps. 278-281
 - No class Thursday. I will be at a Fulbright Foundation meeting in NYC. We will discuss the readings on Tuesday of Week XVI, together with final wrap-up on the last day of class.

► Week XVI – Conclusions



More information...University policies...

- ▶ Attendance & makeup policy: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. You are not required to attend any class room lectures or discussions for this course. The entire course is web-based. All assignments fall under this policy as well as the student honor code.
- ▶ Late Policy: We have a lot of people in this class. Arriving late will be disruptive if many people do it. If you really have to be late, come in quietly and do not disrupt class, please. If you come in late frequently, it may affect your participation grade.
- ▶ Cell phone and texting policy: Please do not use cell phones in class unless specifically requested to look things up on-line in the course of class discussions. You may leave your cell phone on during class in case of emergencies (please set so that the phone does not ring).
- ▶ Grade Disputes: Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors, for which you should contact the instructor), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.
- ▶ Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.



More information...University policies, continued...

- ▶ Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.
- ▶ Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).
- ▶ Online Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.



Grading scale...

- ▶ The grading scale for this class appears on CANVAS. It also appears below:

Grading Scale:

A 100-94 (4.0); A- 93-90 (3.67); B+ 89-87 (3.00); B 86-83 (3.0); B- 82-80 (2.67); C+ 79-77 (2.33); C 76-73 (2.0); C- 72-70 (1.67); D+ 69-67 (1.33); D 63-66 (1.0); D- 62-60 (0.67); E 59- (0)