

**SCS 501 3 Credits/4 CEUs**  
**Monday and Wednesday 8 – 10 a.m. Fall Term 2008**  
**September 29 – December 11, 2008**

<b>Instructor Name</b>	E. J. Niles
<b>Office Hours</b>	Monday and Tuesday 1 – 4 p.m.
<b>Telephone</b>	816-347-5528 (O) 816-600-5430 (H)
<b>E-Mail</b>	<a href="mailto:nilesej@unityonline.org">nilesej@unityonline.org</a> (O) <a href="mailto:ejniles@etbible.org">ejniles@etbible.org</a> (H)
<b>Required Texts</b>	Finkelstein, I. & Silberman, N.A. (2002 ) <i>The Bible Unearthed</i> , New York, Friedman, R. E. (1997), <i>Who Wrote the Bible</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.) San Francisco, Harper San Francisco,)
<b>Other Required Reading</b>	Handouts
<b>Recommended Reading</b>	Collins, J. J., (2004) <i>Introduction to the Hebrew Bible</i> , Minneapolis, Fortress Press O'Dell, D. L. (2006), <i>How the Bible Became the Bible</i> , West Conshohocken, PA, Infinity Publishing

### Course Description

This overview course covers the approximately 900-year period of the writing of the Hebrew Scripture. The various writings are examined based on the probable sequence of their writings. The course contains an overview of the mythical history of the Israelite people and the reasons for the writing of the Hebrew Scripture. It is expected that the students will have the knowledge level found in the Spiritual Education and Enrichment course Bible overview.

### Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the events (and their timeline).that are recorded as “history” in the Hebrew Bible
2. Differentiate between factual events and those that are mythical in character.
3. Discuss the historical and political events that influenced the redaction of the Hebrew Bible.
4. Explain how the mythical history can be seen as a way of understanding the changing perception of the divine.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:

MD4- Recognize the value, purpose and cultural context of sacred texts

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

C4 - Recognize the value, purpose and cultural context of sacred texts

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

MA-1 Recognize the value, purpose and cultural context of sacred texts

**Assignments for the Master of Divinity:**

Reading of assigned material  
 Three take home exams  
 One research paper

**Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Paper (20 pages)	50	1-4
3 exams	15 points each	1-3
Class Participation	5 points	

**Final Grade Determination:**

100 – 90 points = A  
 89 - 80 points = B  
 79 - 70 points= C

**Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:**

Reading of assigned material  
 Three take home exams  
 One research paper

**Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Paper (15 pages)	50	1-4
3 exams	15 points each	1-3
Class participation	5 points	

**Final Grade Determination:**

100 – 90 points = A  
 89 – 80 points = B  
 79 – 70 points= C

**Standards for Term Paper:**

- Create a cover page which includes: Course name, instructor’s name, due date
- Indicate student’s name at the end of the paper
- Double space
- Cite all direct quotes or references
- Use APA standards for references and text citations
- Number all pages
- Indicate word count at end of paper.
- Preferred method of submission is electronically. Hard copy is acceptable.

**Evaluation of the paper is based on the following factors (in order of relative importance):**

- Depth of knowledge
- Clarity in communicating ideas
- Use of outside resource material (when appropriate)
- APA format in citations and references
- Grammar, sentence structure, spelling

**Expectations of Students:**

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it. Students are expected to comply with the rules of engagement. Cell phones are to be turned off prior to entering the classroom.

**Late Assignment Policy**

Papers received after the due date may be assessed a penalty. In case of emergency or special concerns arrangements can be made for extended time. Arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to the due date.

**Academic Honesty**

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An "F" for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, as well as kept in the student's permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

**Special Concerns**

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.