

**SCS 501-Bible History: Hebrew Scripture  
3 Credits/4 CEUs  
On Line - Term 08-02**

<b>Instructor Name</b>	Rev. E. J. Niles
<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>Mondays and Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m.</b>
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<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> (2nd 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**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

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 Hebrew Bible can be seen in light of the evolution of consciousness

**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.

### Grading - Master of Divinity

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Paper (20 pages)	55 points	1 - 4
2 exams	20 points each	1 - 4
Class Participation	5 points	

#### Final Grade Determination:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C

### Grading - Certificate Program

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Paper (12 pages)	55 points	1 - 4
2 exams	20 points each	1 - 4
Class participation	5 points	1 - 4

#### Final Grade Determination

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or below	F

### Grading - Master of Arts

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Paper (20 pages)	55	1 - 4
2 exams	20 points each	1 - 4
Class participation	5 points	1 - 4

#### Final Grade Determination

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C

#### Incomplete grades:

In an emergency situation the instructor has the option of assigning the grade of "I" (Incomplete). To receive the grade of Incomplete, a student must petition the instructor *before the end of the course*, stating the reason for the incomplete grade. See student handbook for details.

#### Expectations of Students

Students are expected to read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it..

#### Late Assignment Policy

Term papers received after the due date may be assessed a penalty up to 2% per day or 10% per week

### **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.