

THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE:
A MARRIAGE OF MODERN ART, MEDIEVAL TECHNIQUE & TECHNOLOGY
MAY 2019

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Class Time: Th 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Dates: May 9-23, 2019
Classroom: Guadalupe 150/151
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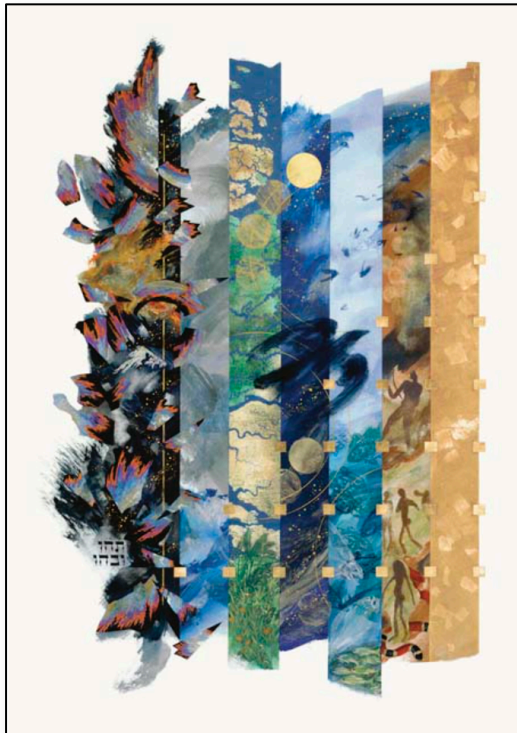
Website: <https://webpages.scu.edu/ftp/cmurphy/courses/olli-sjb>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Since Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press in 1439, there hasn't been much call for a hand-written Bible. But in 1998, the Benedictine monks of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota commissioned just such a work, and they contracted with Donald Jackson, calligrapher to the Crown Office of the United Kingdom, to produce it. It took Jackson and his team of artists and calligraphers the next thirteen years to create the seven-volume illuminated Bible, which resides in the abbey in Collegeville. A limited number of fine art facsimile reproductions were produced as well, and a set was gifted to the Santa Clara University Archives by Tita Crilly Diepenbrock.

You'll learn about the history of biblical manuscripts and the medieval techniques for copying and illuminating them. We will then explore how these time-honored crafts and materials were enhanced with technology and infused with modern perspectives on creation, nature and the human person to produce a Bible for the twenty-first century. The illuminations invite renewed reflection on the meanings of the text, even as motifs in the images cross the seven volumes and create opportunities for intertextual insight. We will spend our final class in the University Archives, so that you can browse the volumes yourself and appreciate more deeply this unique and beautiful work of art.

SCHEDULE



Genesis Frontispiece
Creation (Genesis 1:1–2:4a)

MAY 9

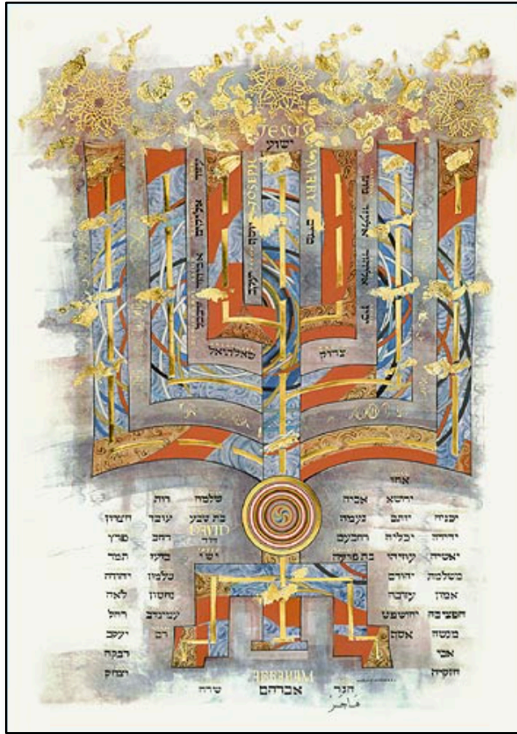
FROM QUILLS TO COMPUTERS TO QUILLS ONCE AGAIN

What is *The Saint John's Bible*? How do the techniques used in its production compare to traditional production of manuscripts before the invention of the printing press?

On what text of the Bible is it based? What is the relationship between our text of the Bible and the thousands of manuscripts that have survived from the past? What *is* the Bible? How did these books rather than others we've discovered come to be regarded as authoritative?

How were these books copied, transmitted, used, grouped, edited, translated, and published? How is technology being used to analyze and share these manuscripts?

The Saint John's Bible is a constructive rather than a reconstructive project; in this effort, how is technology being deployed alongside traditional techniques of manuscript production?



Genealogy of Jesus
(Matthew 1)



Beatitudes
(Matthew 5:1-12)

MAY 16

ILLUMINATION & ART IN *THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE*

How was *The Saint John's Bible* executed? Into how many volumes is it divided, and what are the groupings based on? In what order were these published, and why? How were the facsimile copies such as the ones in our University Archives produced?

What is the significance of "illumination" as an artistic technique, and how is it done? What techniques were used to create the inks and paints? What principles guided the selection and rendering of illustrations and illuminations?

Who were the artists who collaborated in this process? What characterizes each of their styles? Are there reasons that certain artists were selected for particular illuminations?

What are some of the major illustrations and illuminations in this Bible? What minor treatments are significant?

MAY 23

INTERTEXTUALITY: THE INTERPLAY OF IMAGE & WORD

For our final class, we will meet in the University Archives, on the third floor of the University's Library and Learning Commons (southeast corner). Half the class will meet in the reading room and the other half in the gallery space, and we will switch rooms after an hour. In each space, there will be a brief introductory lecture by either the professor or the archivist on tools and techniques of calligraphy

and illumination and the phenomenon of "intertextuality," and then you will have an opportunity study the images in the facsimile volumes to discover their beauty and intertextual significances for yourself.

What is intertextuality? What motifs and themes appear in *The Saint John's Bible*? What effect does it have to reproduce these motifs in different locations?

Annotated Bibliography

The Saint John's Bible

- Calderhead, Christopher. *Illuminating the Word: The Making of The Saint John's Bible*, 2nd ed. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2015.
- Fanucci, Laura Kelly. "Variations on a Theme: Intertextuality in the Illuminations of the Gospel of Luke." *Obsculta* 2:1 (2009) 21-30.
- Homrighausen, Jonathan. *Illuminating Justice: The Ethical Imagination of the Saint John's Bible*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2018.
- Patella, Michael. "The Saint John's Bible: Biblical Authority within the Illuminated Word." *Word & World* 26:4 (2006) 383-91.
- , "The Saint John's Bible Project: What's It Worth?" *Toronto Journal of Theology* 26:2 (2010) 215-19.
- , "The Theology of The Saint John's Bible." *Arts* 17:1 (2005) 20-28.
- , *Word and Image: The Hermeneutics of The Saint John's Bible*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2013.
- Sink, Susan. *The Art of The Saint John's Bible: A Reader's Guide to Historical Books, Letters and Revelation*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2012.
- Sink, Susan. *The Art of The Saint John's Bible: A Reader's Guide to Pentateuch, Psalms, Gospels and Acts*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2007.
- Sink, Susan. *The Art of The Saint John's Bible: A Reader's Guide to Wisdom Books and Prophets*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2012.

The Bible

Actual Texts

- Metzger, Bruce M., ed. *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. The most accurate and complete version available today; includes Dead Sea Scrolls and papyri evidence as of 1990.
- "New Testament. Virtual Manuscript Room." *Universität Münster Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung*. Online, <http://intf.uni-muenster.de/vmr/NTVMR/IndexNTVMR.php>. The University of Münster's Institute for New Testament Textual Research maintains the official list of papyri and parchment witnesses to the New Testament, with images.

Books About It

- Ehrman, Bart D. and Michael W. Holmes, eds. *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research: Essays on the Status Quaestionis*, New Testament Tools, Studies and Documents 42. Leiden: Brill, 2013.
- Parker, D. C. *An Introduction to the New Testament Manuscripts and Their Texts*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008. An excellent and thorough introduction to the physical evidence of the New Testament books and how that evidence is studied. Surprisingly readable.
- Tov, Emanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*, rev. ed. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2001. A study of the manuscript evidence for the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, with special attention to the witness of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Actual Texts

- Abegg, Martin G., Peter Flint and Eugene Ulrich. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible: The Oldest Known Bible Translated for the First Time into English*. New York: HarperOne, 2002. An English translation of the Bible noting every reading found in the biblical scrolls, including variants from modern Bibles.
- García Martínez, Florentino. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: The Qumran Texts in English*, 2d ed., trans. W. G. E. Watson. Boston: Brill, 1997. These are all the other scrolls—that is, the parabiblical, sectarian, sapiential, liturgical, astronomical, and other materials.
- “The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library.” *Israel Antiquities Authority*. Online, <http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il>. An amazing resource for layperson and scholar alike, this cooperative venture between the Israel Antiquities Authority and Google provides access to both original infrared and contemporary multispectral images of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- “The Digital Dead Sea Scrolls.” *Israel Antiquities Authority*. Online, <http://dss.collections.imj.org.il>. This IAA/Google collaboration is even more user-friendly: five intact Dead Sea Scrolls can be “unrolled” and examined, and English translations pop up as you roll over them!

Books & Web Sites About Them

- Lim, Timothy. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Very Short Introduction*, Very Short Introductions. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. This Oxford series provides handy, short introductions to many topics.
- Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Online, <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/>. A rich site oriented to both academic research (with its complete bibliography) and the interested lay person (with its excellent virtual tour of the Qumran site).
- Schiffman, Lawrence H. *Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls*, Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Anchor Doubleday, 1995. An introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls by a leading Jewish scholar of the scrolls, this book sets the scrolls in the context of early Judaism rather than in the (more common) interpretive context of early Christianity.
- VanderKam, James C. and Peter Flint. *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance For Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity*. New York: HarperOne, 2004. A popular introduction to the scrolls written by my doctoral advisor, Jim VanderKam, and another former colleague from the University of Notre Dame. Readable, comprehensive, and well-illustrated.

The Discoveries in Egypt (Sinai, Oxyrhynchus, Nag Hammadi)

Actual Texts

- The Aleppo Codex, <http://aleppocodex.org/>. One of the two most important manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, this 9th century manuscript is older than the other (the Leningrad Codex) but less complete. This excellent Web site provides access to the text and wonderful background information on the manuscript.
- Codex Sinaiticus, <http://www.codexsinaiticus.org/en/>. Inscribed in the fourth century CE, this Greek copy of the Old and New Testaments is one of the oldest Christian Bibles in the world, and the largest book to have survived antiquity. Another fabulous Web site that lets you explore the manuscript as if it were right in front of you.
- The Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, Graeco-Roman Memoirs. London: Egypt Exploration Society, 1898–. Over 800,000 papyri fragments were found in Oxyrhynchus and nearby areas. Over the past 111 years, seventy two volumes of these fragments have been published, with over thirty left to go.

Actual Texts (continued)

Meyer, Marvin, ed. *The Nag Hammadi Scriptures: The Revised and Updated Translation of Sacred Gnostic Texts Complete in One Volume*. New York: HarperOne, 2009.

The Gnostic Society. "The Nag Hammadi Library Alphabetical Index." *The Gnostic Society Library* (n.d.). Online, <http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/nhlalpha.html>.

"The Lost Gospel of Judas." *National Geographic* (2006). Online, <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lostgospel/index.html>.

Books & Web Sites About Them

Major Codices

Porter, Stanley E. *Constantine Tischendorf: The Life and Work of a 19th Century Bible Hunter*. New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015.

Oxyrhynchus

Bagnall, Roger S. *Early Christian Books in Egypt*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2009. Challenges many of the early conclusions drawn about early Christianity in Egypt on the basis of the papyri. Places book production in its economic context, and argues that the number of early Christian books from the region is fewer than previously thought.

Bowman, K., R. A. Coles, N. Gonis and D. Obbink, eds. *Oxyrhynchus: A City and Its Texts*, Graeco-Roman Memoirs 93. London: Egypt Exploration Society, 2007. A discussion of the archaeological site, along with the papyrus evidence. A complete account of the excavations.

Luijendijk, AnneMarie. *Greetings in the Lord: Early Christians and the Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, Harvard Theological Studies. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2009. An academic study of the evidence of early Christian life and practice in Egypt.

Parsons, Peter. *City of the Sharp-Nosed Fish: The Lives of the Greeks in Roman Egypt*. London: Orion Books, 2007. Oxyrhynchus is unusual in that it yielded thousands of documentary texts—that is, contracts, legal papers, complaints, and other mundane artifacts that help us to reconstruct the lives of ordinary people. That's just what Parsons does in this readable introduction.

"POxy: Oxyrhynchus Online," *Papyrology at Oxford, Oxford University*. Online: <http://www.papyrology.ox.ac.uk/POxy/>. The scholars who discovered the papyrus dump at Oxyrhynchus worked at Oxford University; this Web site provides access to information and exhibits about the discovery and to the publications of the Egypt Exploration Society.

Nag Hammadi Gnostic Texts

Ehrman, Bart D. *Truth and Fiction in The Da Vinci Code*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Pagels, Elaine and Karen L. King. *The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*. New York: Viking, 2007.