

Lecture Schedule

September 15

What is Scripture?

Dr. Jeremy Rapport

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
The College of Wooster

September 22

America's Alternative Bibles

Dr. Jeremy Rapport

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
The College of Wooster

September 29

Hindu Scriptures in Practice

Dr. Bhakti Mamtora

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
The College of Wooster

October 6

Early Christian Apocrypha

Dr. Chan Sok Park

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
The College of Wooster

October 13

Scripture and Authoritative Texts in

Buddhist Texts

Dr. Mark Graham

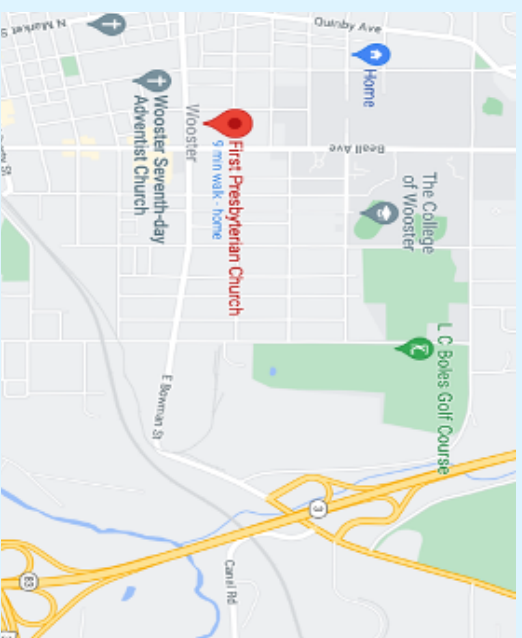
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
The College of Wooster

October 20

Why Jews Cannot Be Biblical Literalists

Dr. Joan Friedman

Professor of Religious Studies and History
The College of Wooster



All sessions are held in Bruch Hall at
First Presbyterian Church, 621 College
Avenue, Wooster, Ohio.

Advisory Committee Members

Frederick H. Bohse, Chair

Tom Gregory

Michael Musyt

Jeremy Rapport, Academic Dean

The 52nd Annual Fall Academy

of Religion Lecture Series

Presents

What is Scripture?

A Cross-Cultural Examination of
Religious Texts

Wednesdays, 7:30- 9:00 p.m.
September 15 - October 20
First Presbyterian Church
Wooster, Ohio



The Academy offers its appreciation to the J. Arthur Baird Endowment and the College of Wooster Office of Interfaith Campus Ministries for their continuing financial support.

Lecture Topics

September 15: Jeremy Rapport, "What is Scripture?"

In the first lecture in the series, Dr. Rapport will look at the concept of scripture, how it is defined and understood, as well as some of the issues with using scripture as a universal concept. This lecture will also briefly overview major scriptural traditions.

September 22: Jeremy Rapport, "America's Alternative Bibles"

Creativity is a hallmark of religious life, especially in the United States. In this lecture, Dr. Rapport examines several "new scriptures" created by alternative religious communities in the United States. He argues that the process of creating new scriptures, as illustrated in works such as the Book of Mormon, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, and the Urantia Book, illustrates how American alternative religions developed around critical Protestant notions about the role of texts in religious life.

September 29: Bhakti Mamtara, "Hindu Scriptures in Practice"

Dr. Mamtara addresses several questions: (1) What are the key scriptures in the Hindu traditions? (2) What are some of the teachings found in those key scriptures? (3) How do Hindu scriptures relate to Hindu practices? In doing so, Dr. Mamtara introduces key scriptures in the Hindu traditions and how they shape everyday practices among Hindus in the United States.

October 6: Chan Sok Park, "Early Christian Apocrypha"

Dr. Park describes early Christian apocrypha: what are they, why they didn't make into the Bible, why they still matter, what differences they would make if read along with the New Testament canon. The lecture includes examination of a few selected texts.

October 13: Mark Graham, "Scriptures and Authoritative Texts in Buddhist Traditions"

Dr. Graham introduces the wide range of canons, collections, and varieties of scriptures and authoritative texts in Buddhist traditions and addresses the question of what constitutes an authoritative text in Buddhist traditions of practice.

October 20: Joan Friedman, "Why Jews Cannot Be Biblical Literalists"

Dr. Friedman explains the classic Jewish view that "Torah" includes both the written text (the Pentateuch) and a body interpretation called "Oral Torah." Thus, like the US Constitution, the Torah remains a living document, allowing – indeed, requiring – reinterpretation and change over time

Academy Announcements

Seating in Bruch Hall will be arranged to allow for social distancing.

The Advisory Committee requests all attendees to wear masks while attending lectures.

The Academy is soliciting new members for the Advisory Committee. If you are interested in serving, please email the Academic Dean, Jeremy Rapport, jrapport@wooster.edu

What is Scripture?

A cross-cultural examination of religious texts

What is scripture? Scriptures are the texts of religious communities. In these texts, communities keep accounts of their myths, doctrines, rituals, and stories. Christians have the Bible, Muslims have the Qur'an, Jews have the Torah, Buddhists have Sutras, Hindus have the Vedas, to name only a few of the more prominent scriptures. Most critically, scriptures are living documents that gain their meaning and importance in their everyday use by members of religious communities.

In this lecture series, members of the College of Wooster Religious Studies and History faculties will examine various scriptural traditions, exploring questions such as: Is scripture a universal concept? How do scriptures relate to religious practices? How is scripture created and what characteristics mark a text as a scripture? What happens when scriptures are reinterpreted?

Please join us for these fascinating presentations, followed by questions and discussion with the presenters.