

**Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago**  
**Course Profile**

**Semester: Spring 2008**

**Course: B 601 Graduate Biblical Seminar: The Religion and Literature of Israel's Neighbors**

**Instructor: Ralph W. Klein**

***Note: This course is open to students in ACTS Th.M. or Ph.D. programs and to Master of Divinity or M.A. students with the permission of the instructor.***

**STATEMENT OF GOALS**

1. To become familiar with the principal deities and the theologies related to them in ancient Egypt, Canaan, and Mesopotamia.
2. To learn the contribution of ancient Near Eastern religion to the religion of the Old Testament or to see the contrast between the two faiths.
3. To study the various genres of ancient literature that have been recovered in the last 150 years.
4. To develop scholarly methods of research into the *realia* of antiquity.
5. To improve knowledge and skill in Biblical Hebrew.

**WORK TO BE REQUIRED IN THE COURSE**

- Reading and discussion of the textbook (see below)
- Reading in translation and discussion of important literary remains from the ancient Near East
- Presentation and critical discussion of journal articles or other readings assigned by the instructor
- Translating biblical Hebrew passages related to the content of this course
- Composition of a research paper dealing with a topic related to religion or literature of the ancient Near East
- Critique of a research paper written by a peer

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Required:*

Sparks, Kenton L. *Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005.

*Recommended:*

*The Context of Scripture.* 3 volumes. Brill.