How does Scripture shape identities and beliefs? Are identities and beliefs stable, or do they change over time? Does the meaning of Scripture change along with identities and beliefs? Does Scripture have a single, truthful meaning? Or is it open to interpretation? In what ways have interpretations of Scripture been used to dictate moral conduct, social relationships, and political behaviors? How do the ways in which people have interpreted Scripture define their relationships with God and other people? In particular, how have their interpretations of Scripture determined their understandings of gender and sexuality? This course will seek answers to these questions by examining the story of God’s creation of the world and of Adam and Eve in Jewish and Christian sacred texts and commentaries from the tenth century BC through the present day. Specifically, we will investigate the basic accounts of Creation in the Old Testament (Genesis 1–3); (2) the ways in which different authors from different historical periods have interpreted (or improvised on) those accounts; and (3) the ways in which spiritual insights derived from the interpretation of sacred texts have given shape to moral, social, and political issues.

CRN 47600 | Noah Guynn | TR 1:40-3:00P | 100 Hunt

GE credit (Old): Arts & Humanities.
GE credit (New): Arts & Humanities, World Cultures, and Writing Experience.