Course Description
This course examines a selection of contemporary novels that reimagine Biblical stories, characters, and themes. While we study each novel, we will also read a corresponding section of the Bible in order to grapple with the ways contemporary literature continues to use the Bible as a source of artistic inspiration, a site of theological rumination, and a target of critique. The course is organized around the exploration of different literary perspectives: from a liberal Protestant literary writer, through an outside Canadian critique of the U.S. Christian Right, an African American reimaging of the story of Moses, a white evangelical bestseller revision of the Book of Job, to a Jewish American exploration of cosmology, faith, and the problem of evil. You don’t have to be religious to take this course, and you don’t need to be non-religious either: we will welcome diverse perspectives in this critical introduction, and our intellectual labor will be scholarly rather than devotional.

Selected Texts
Zora Neale Hurston, Moses, Man of the Mountain (Harper Perennial) 978-0061695148
Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid’s Tale (Anchor) 978-0385490818
William Paul Young, The Shack (Word Alive) 978-0964729230
E. L. Doctorow, The City of God (Random House) 9780812985894
Marilynne Robinson, Gilead (HarperCollins) 978-0006393832