

## Guidelines for Reading Responses

### RQ Spring 2014 - Maxey

The reading responses are a tool for helping you to focus while reading. They give me a sense of what you understand, misunderstand, find interesting and have questions about in the text. They also prepare you to participate in class discussion.

This semester you will write a total of 15 responses. Most (12) are 1 page; a few (3) require that you put several days worth of reading in conversation with one another, so they are a little longer (2-3 pages).

For many some of the responses, you are asked to consider the following questions: What surprised you? What did you learn? and What questions do you have? These are meant to call your attention to the assumptions that you bring to the text, the new material that has been brought to your attention and the things from the text that still puzzle you or that raise further questions. These are good insights to keep in mind whenever you are reading.

In a series of reading reflections from the fifth through eleventh class sessions (Jan 24-Feb 7), you are asked to reflect on how the readings assigned for that day interpret Genesis 1-3, how they depict Eve, Adam, the serpent, God, the tree and the fruit, and what they have to say about sin and its consequences. These readings and posts should build off one another in a way that you are constantly comparing and contrasting the readings. This will prepare you to write your first essay (due Feb 11) in which you will choose one Jewish and one Christian commentary on Gen 1-3 and analyze them and compare their approaches.

On Feb 21, March 14, and March 24, you'll hand in your 3 longer responses in which you compare Jewish and Christian approaches different topics.

Responses should be handed in as hard copies on the day they are due. Handwritten responses are okay, but typed ones are preferred. **Please label each response with the number (i.e. Response 1, Response 2) and the date it is due.**

The shorter responses will be graded on a scale from 1-3, the longer responses on a scale from 1-6. Responses that don't sufficiently address the prompt or that aren't handed in receive a zero. **Please hold on to all of your responses. You may be asked to turn them in again at the end of the semester.**

**If you have questions, please ask.**

(Created Jan. 13, 2014)