

Sam R. Marks Prize in Religion

The Sam R. Marks Prize in Religion is a research paper competition established by the late Sam R. Marks to encourage serious, critical study of the Bible. Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, the competition is open to any Stetson student who has completed at least one religious studies course.

Rules and Procedures:

1. Students must have completed successfully one course in religious studies to be eligible for the competition.
2. Students must propose a research topic by completing the Marks Prize application form, which is available in the office of the Department of Religious Studies, located in 202 Allen Hall or contact the department by email at religiousstudies@stetson.edu and the application can be emailed to you. The research topic must have a significant connection to biblical studies.
2. On the application you will be asked to list a pseudonym (a “false name”). Use this name, not your real name, on your research paper. (The purpose of the pseudonym is to ensure impartiality in the judging of the papers.)
3. The application must be submitted to the Department of Religious Studies no later than Monday, February 20, 2023.
4. Students will receive acceptance of their applications by e-mail. If a proposed research topic is unacceptable, the student will be notified by e-mail.
5. The completed paper must be submitted to the office of the Department of Religious Studies no later than 3:00 p.m. on March 27, 2023.
6. The paper should be in the form and style appropriate for a formal research paper, following *The Chicago Manual of Style*, and should include a bibliography and endnotes (or footnotes).
7. The paper should be ten to twelve pages long (double-spaced), not including endnotes and bibliography. Gender-inclusive language should be used.
8. Students are permitted to submit a paper originally written for a course, provided the paper meets the requirements above.
9. If the manuscripts submitted do not represent a sufficiently high degree of excellence in the opinion of the selection committee, the prize will not be awarded. The winning paper must be an “A” paper.
10. Prizes awarded:
 - a. \$400.00 for the winning paper.
 - b. Up to two awards of \$50.00 each may be awarded by the selection committee for papers deemed especially noteworthy.