

**The University of North Carolina,  
The Department of Religious Studies,  
and the Jewish Studies Program**

present a lecture by

**Dr. Jonathan Schofer**  
**Comparative Ethics**  
**Harvard Divinity School**

**"Stewardship or Vulnerability?  
Ancient Jewish Rainmaking and  
the Foundations of Environmental  
Ethics"**

**Thursday, October 22, 2009**

**7:30 pm**

**Alumni House**

Rain is a crucial element in the religion of Ancient Israel and later Judaism. Humans need to eat and drink. Agriculture depends on rainfall. God gives rain in response to proper religious observance. This theology and related practices become the background for narratives in which distinctive people attempt to bring rain through their connection with the divine. The stories portray humans as deeply grounded in their surroundings and the cycles of nature, and many set out ideals for day-to-day interpersonal relations given vulnerabilities to the environment. We will explore these stories and conclude with reflections on their significance for ethics today.

**A reception will follow**

**For more information call the Religious Studies Department  
at 334-5762.**