



**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
ENG321-01
Literature and Religion
Fall 2013**

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number: ENG321-013 Eder Hall 210 1-1:50 MWF

Required Textbooks and Supplies

Price, Joan. *Sacred Scriptures of the World Religions*. New York: Continuum, 2010.

Knight, Mark. *An Introduction to Religion and Literature*. New York: Continuum, 2009.

Additional readings in literature (electronic): Samuel Becket, Samuel Coleridge, Donne, Rosetti, Dickinson, Dickens, Angela Carter, Kafka, Kierkegaard, Margaret Atwood, J. Winterson, Eliot, Roth, Hawthorne, Orwell, D. Coupland, McEwan

Course Description/Overview

Catalog Description: ENG 321 Literature and Religion (3) F (odd-numbered years). Beginning with the ancient world and ending with electronic texts of the present, the course introduces a variety of religious literatures to explore the connection between religious impulse and literary form and to address profound questions of existence and faith. Prerequisites: ENG108 or ENG112 and ENG220, or departmental approval for non-majors. LAS Ethics; LAS International/Intercultural.

Sacred Scriptures of the World Religions “examines religions across the world, offering insight into each tradition’s views of the world through their scriptural texts and spiritual practices.”

An Introduction to Religion and Literature explores the themes of creation, relation (otherness, personhood, and Trinity), the Divine (law, gift, and justice, interpretive communities (Scripture, tolerance, and the people of God), sin (transgression), hope and the future (suffering and redemption), and eschatology. The author provides an introduction to the relationship between religion and literature.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Learn that sacred texts share the mythological, metaphorical, and symbolic language that belongs to literature across the centuries.
2. Read and study significant passages of texts sacred to the world religions.
3. Explore secular texts that tell, re-tell, adapt, appropriate, and re-use sacred texts, blurring boundaries between the “sacred” and “profane.”
4. Explore religious themes of creation, relation (otherness, personhood, and Trinity), the Divine (law, gift, and justice, interpretive communities (Scripture, tolerance, and the people of God), sin (transgression), hope and the future (suffering and redemption), and eschatology.

5. Discover a literary and religious library that invites you to engage at deeper levels of study and to greater depths of insight.

Moodle Course Environment

Once you log in, you will find announcements, the syllabus, assignments, and required activities within this environment. You will submit all required work in Moodle. During the first week of classes, you should familiarize yourself with the Moodle environment, including reviewing the following tutorials found at <http://online.missouriwestern.edu/students.asp?section=moodlehelp>.

Review the following within the first week of this course:

Moodle Basics

- Overview - [Video](#)
- Navigating in a Moodle Course - [Video](#) | [Web](#)

Content

- Downloading and Saving a Syllabus or File - [Video](#)
- Upload files using Private Files - [Video](#)

Assignments/Activities

- Submitting an Assignment (Single File) - [Video](#)
- Submitting an Assignment (Advance Uploading of Files) - [Video](#) | [Web](#)
- Submitting an Online Text Assignment - [Web](#)
- How to Check for Successful Assignment Submission - [Video](#)

Forums

- Overview of Forums - [Video](#)
- Responding to Forums - [Video](#) | [Web](#)
- Participating in Forums - [Web](#)
- Deleting a Forum Post - [Web](#)

Gradebook

- Viewing Grades within a Course - [Video](#) | [Web](#)

Other Tools

- Using the Focus Box - [Video](#) | [Web](#)

Course Policies

Email: You must use your Missouri Western email account when contacting me. The email must have ENG321-01 as the Subject and be addressed to crain@missouriwestern.edu. The first paragraph in the communication must include a brief statement of the issue being addressed such as [Course Clarification](#). All communication will be saved as official records. Each communication reflects your skills as a writer and should be appropriately clear, organized, and grammatically and mechanically correct.

Disability: If you have been diagnosed with a disability or if you suspect that you may have a disability that has never been diagnosed and would like to find out what services may be available, please visit the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in Eder Hall, room 203N or visit the ODS website at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/ds/>, as soon as possible. This syllabus, as well as all other printed or electronic materials, can be made available in alternative/accessible formats if requested with sufficient prior notice. Missouri Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

Academic Honesty: Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents, or academic records, or any other fraudulent classroom activity. Plagiarism is the unaccredited use

(both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas. Violations of academic honesty will result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from school. Please consult your *Student Handbook*. See full policy <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/acadaff/documents/AcademicHonestyPolicy.pdf>.

Attendance Policy: While this is an online course, you still will be expected to complete the same work as would be required in a traditional course. This means that you must establish an online presence from the first day of the course through the final examination period. You will have a number of tutorials available to you in Moodle to help you to navigate this learning environment.

Late Work: You are expected to submit all work on or before the stated due date.

Maintaining Good Teaching and Learning Conditions

Missouri Western requires all students to help maintain good conditions for teaching and learning. All students will treat their classmates and teachers with civility and respect. You should review your MWSU student handbook, specifically sections of Community Expectations and Code of Conduct and Procedures for further information.

Syllabus Changes

Minor changes to the syllabus may be made by the instructor at any point in the semester; such changes will be announced with ample time to adjust to the changes.

Student Handbook <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>

Academic Advisement	8
Academic Honesty Policy and Due Process	9
Definition of Plagiarism	9
Student Due Process Procedure	10
Violation Report	10
<u>Grades/Grading Policy</u>	
Grading System	10
Grade Point Average	11
Grading Appeal Process	11
Student Appeal Process	11
Transfer Student Credit Appeal	13
Refunds	13
Classroom Behavior	13
Classroom Food and Drink Policy	14

Class Attendance

Course Requirements

Complete 6 forum entries for introduction (5 points) and each chapter in *An Introduction to Religion and Literature* (3 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12). [10 Points each].

Complete (30 points)+ Presentation (5 points)

Evaluation Guide

The following guide should enable you to understand how your work will be evaluated : Points:

Introduction—5 points

Forum Work—10 points X 6 chapters=60

Wiki Project—30 points + Presentation (5 points)

For this project, you will choose one world religion covered in *Sacred Scriptures of the World Religions* and create a wiki in Moodle, which explores the religion in relation to the six themes presented in *An Introduction to Religion and Literature*. Your wiki will include a cover page (this may be treated as a book cover), an introduction, a section (page) for each theme, a conclusion, and a bibliographical page. Your wiki will be evaluated based on thorough coverage of each theme, depth of

thought, originality, and contribution to scholarly discussion. The work must exhibit the careful attention expected of any published work (15 points).

You will present this wiki to the class in a public presentation (5 points).

Total 100 Points

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade points/credit	Rating
A	90 points & above	4.00	Excellent
B	80– 89 points	3.00	Good
C	70–79 points	2.00	Average
D	60 – 69 points	1.00	Below Average
F	59 points and below	0.00	Failure
I	An incomplete grade may be given when accident, illness, death in the immediate family, or other documented circumstances beyond your control prevent you from completing some course requirements. An incomplete grade will be considered only when you have satisfied the majority of course requirements. An incomplete grade must be removed within six weeks after the first day of the next term (fall, spring, summer) of the semester in which it was received; otherwise, the grade will be recorded as "F."		

Fall 2013		
Walk-In Registration	August 20	Tuesday
Griffon Edge	August 22-24	
Classes Begin	August 26	Monday
Labor Day Holiday	September 2	Monday
Mid-term Grades Due	October 23	Wednesday
Last day to Withdraw	November 1	Friday
Registration Begins for Spring	November 4	Monday
Fall Break (Week of Thanksgiving)	November 17-24	
Last Day of classes	December 6	Friday
Final Exams	December 7-13	
Commencement	December 14	Saturday
Final Grades Due	December 17	Tuesday
Wintersession (with Saturdays, 12/14 and 1/4)	December 14-January 10	
Campus Closed	December 24-January 1	

Course Schedule

August 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 26-30

You must first summarize then present a thoughtful reflection upon the points presented in the introduction to *Religion and Literature* (5 points). You may choose to work independently of Moodle then copy and paste your work into the forum. Include a summary (one-half) followed by reflection (one-half). Summary may use bulleted points or outline. Pay particular attention to referenced literature. **Post work in forum by August 30, 2:00 p.m.** This work is available to all students.

September 2 Labor Day Holiday-6

Read Primal Wisdom (pages 1-26) and Sacred Worlds (7-23).

You will use readings in *Sacred Scriptures* in your wiki Project and class presentation near the end of the semester. In this Project, you will explore the themes of creation, relation (otherness, personhood, and Trinity), the Divine (law, gift, and justice, interpretive communities (Scripture, tolerance, and the people of God), sin (transgression), hope and the future (suffering and redemption), and eschatology in a chosen world religion (Primal, Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh, Chinese, Islamic). Your wiki Project should be the equivalent of a short research essay (7-10 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12).

You will summarize then reflect upon readings in *Religion and Literature* in the assigned forum. All students will post one forum entry, which is the equivalent of 3 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman 12. You should read, reread, annotate, then summarize and reflect upon the chapter content. All work must be original and contribute to a sustained and ongoing intellectual discussion.

You will use the above instructions for all forum postings and for chapter readings.

Secular literature relevant to "Sacred Worlds" includes *Paradise Lost*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Passion of New Eve*.

Reference these pieces of literature in relation to the *Religion and Literature* discussions. As literature and education majors, you should have had some prior exposure to these materials. They will also serve as a reading list to launch you into a meaningful understanding of how literature and religion explore the important ideas of creation, personhood, the divine, interpretive communities, sin, and eschatology. Religious reading as well as literary reading is grounded in critical thinking and the ability to renew and reimagine language

September 9-13

Summarize, then reflect upon readings in *Religion and Literature* in the assigned forum. All students will post one forum entry, which is the equivalent of 3 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman 12. You should read, reread, annotate, then summarize and reflect upon the chapter content. All work must be original and contribute to a sustained and ongoing intellectual discussion.

Post Forum work on "Sacred Worlds" in Moodle by 2:00 p.m., September 13.

September 16-20

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 2 in *Religion and Literature*.
Read chapter 2 of *Sacred Scriptures*.

Literary readings include Donne, Dickinson, and Rossetti; see webpage.

September 23-27

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 2 in *Religion and Literature*. See full instructions for chapter 1.
Complete forum-posting by September 27, 2:00 p.m.

September 30-October 4

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 3 in *Religion and Literature*.
Read chapter 3 of *Sacred Scriptures*.

Literary readings include Dickens, Kafka, Kierkegaard; see webpage.

October 7-11

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 3 in *Religion and Literature*.
Read chapter 3 of *Sacred Scriptures*.
Literary readings include Dickens, Kafka, and Kierkegaard; see webpage.
Complete forum-posting by October 11, 2:00 p.m.

October 14-18

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 4 in *Religion and Literature*.
Read chapter 4 of *Sacred Scriptures*.
Literary readings include Atwood, J. Winterson, and G. Eliot; see webpage.

October 21-25

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 4 in *Religion and Literature*. See full instructions for chapter 1.
Complete forum-posting must by October 25, 2:00 p.m.

October 28-November 1

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 5 in *Religion and Literature*.
Read chapter 5 of *Sacred Scriptures*.
Literary readings include Coleridge, Hawthorne, P. Roth, McEwan; see webpage.

November 4-8

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 5 in *Religion and Literature*. See full instructions for chapter 1. **Complete forum-posting must by November 8, 2:00.**

November 11-15

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 6 in *Religion and Literature*.
Read chapter 8 of *Sacred Scriptures*.
Literary readings include Becket, Orwell, and Coupland; see webpage.

Fall Break November 18-22November 25-29

Chapter 6 posting due November 29.

Final wiki Project due November 29--exploration of a specific world religion (one of eight presented in *Sacred Scriptures of the World's Religions*) relative to six themes from Knight's *An Introduction to Religion and Literature*. Themes include 1. Creation, 2. Relation (Otherness, Personhood, and Trinity), 3. the Divine (Law, Gift, and Justice), 4. Interpretive Communities (Scripture, Tolerance, and the People of God), 5. Sin (Transgression), 6. Hope and the Future (Suffering and Redemption), and Eschatology.

Once you click on wiki , copy and paste the following as content links into the first page Religion and Themes (becomes your Table of Contents); each title must be enclosed between double brackets in order to form links to pages:

[[Introduction]]

[[Creation]]

[[Relation, Otherness, Personhood, and Trinity]]

[[Divine, Law, Gift, Justice]]

[[Interpretive Communities, Scripture, Tolerance, and the People of God]]

[[Sin, Transgression]]

[[Hope and the Future, Suffering and Redemption, Eschatology]]

[[Conclusion]]

You must also go from this page, Religion and Themes, to each page, then click on create page and save. Ideally, you will use Microsoft Word to create your pages, then copy and paste them individually into your wiki. You will keep the Word file as your backup.

December 2-6

Wiki Presentation Completed by December 6.

Final Examinations 9-13

Final Grades due December 17