



ENG210-40 – BIBLE AS LITERATURE
College of Science and Arts
Spring 2011

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Jeanie C. Crain, Professor
Office Location:	212 E Eder Hall
Telephone:	Office (816-271-5997)
E-mail:	Use WebCT
Office Hours:	MWF 10:00-10:50 12:00noon-1:00, or by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number:	ENG210-40
Course Name:	Approaches to Literature: Bible as Literature
Course Location:	Online

Required Textbook

Jeanie C. Crain, *The Bible as Literature: An Introduction*, Polity Press, 2010.

Associated Website: <http://crain.english.missouriwestern.edu/ReadingBible/index.htm>

Bible Translation preferred—New Revised Standard Version (NRSV <http://www.godweb.org/nrsv.html>); the HarperCollins® Study Bible has extensive study notes that you will find helpful.

Not Required but Helpful

Other Related Sites: [http://crain.english.missouriwestern.edu/bible as literature/](http://crain.english.missouriwestern.edu/bible%20as%20literature/)
<http://crain.english.missouriwestern.edu/Webs.htm>

You will have additional links to other sources available to you on the WebCT pages.

Course Description/Overview

ENG210-40 The Bible as Literature emphasizes the act of reading the Bible itself, focuses upon the whole text as it exists in its current form, invites an experiential entering into and reliving of the Bible's stories, encourages analytical and holistic reading, explores multiple interpretations, and embraces a power of language originating in the mythological, metaphorical, and symbolic.

Such reading holds potential for helping students to understand literature generally and the Bible in itself. It introduces the common tools of literary analysis: language and style, the formal structures of genre (narrative, drama, and poetry), character study, and thematic analysis.

Course Environment

You will be using the WebCT Learning Environment (accessed from the Missouri Western Homepage under [WebCT](#))

Once you log in, you will find announcements, the syllabus, assignments, and required activities within this environment. You will be expected to complete required weekly writing in the form of answering end-of-chapter questions (twelve questions per chapter posted in Discussions) and submit two end-of-chapter exercises for each chapter posted in Discussions). You will also complete a midterm and final essay (posted under Assignments Midterm and Final).

You will submit all required work in WebCT and correspond with your instructor through WebCT email. *Email etiquette* requires an informative subject line, complete sentences, correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

For online classes, you are expected to have a personal computer and web access. The University has several labs available for your use. <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/imc/acs/labsmap.asp> For technology issues, please use Information Technology Services <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/compctr/>

Online courses demand discipline. You should schedule significant blocks of time each week to complete your work. You are encouraged to complete your writing outside WebCT, save it to a folder on your own computer, and then paste the work into the appropriate places (Discussions, Assignments) in WebCT.

Course Learning Objectives

- Acquire familiarity with several of the tools used for reading and understanding literature generally: language and style, the formal structures of genre (narrative, drama, and poetry), character study, and thematic analysis.
- Learn that the Bible shares the mythological, metaphorical, and symbolic language that belongs to literature across the centuries.
- Read and study significant passages in the Bible and learn something about the Bible as a whole, which includes the Jewish and Christian biblical canons.
- Learn to read the Bible more closely and to appreciate its nuanced and layered levels of meaning and its broad appeal to the interpretive imagination.
- Discover a library that invites you to engage at deeper levels of study and to greater depths of insight; you have discovered why the Bible continues to appeal to and attract more scholarship than any other collection of literature.

Course Requirements

You should familiarize yourself with the schedule of due dates. You are also encouraged to work independently and in advance of these dates whenever possible. **Late work will not be accepted.** The class has been designed to encourage careful reading of the text and biblical passages, reflection, and original thinking. You will demonstrate what you are learning through required writing projects; there will be no quizzes or examinations. Your work will be available for others in the class to read.

You will complete:

1. Complete weekly-required end-of-chapter questions (answering at least twelve questions for each chapter). Although for attendance purposes, you may miss a weekly posting (one before and one after midterm), you will not be permitted to miss any of the required twelve questions.
2. Submit two end-of-chapter exercises for each chapter Exercises should be completed as short essays with introduction (states thesis and transports readers into your analysis), body (topic sentence linking to and developing thesis and supporting details), and conclusion (summarizes, explains importance of your ideas, and propels reader to new understanding).

3. Complete a midterm (posted as an attachment under Assignments Midterm). **Midterm Essay on Required Topic: Reading the Bible as Literature and Reading the Bible as Sacred Text: Two Approaches** (3-5 pages, Times New Roman 12 font, double-spaced). You may want to think in terms of asking a research question: what differences exist between reading literature and reading sacred text?
4. Complete a **Final Essay** (posted as an attachment under Assignments Final). **Required Topic: The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the Christian Bible (New Testament): Separate Collections** (3-5 pages, Times New Roman 12 font, double-spaced). Possible research question: Why should the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Bible be read as separate texts?

For the two longer essays, use the textbook and any additional sources you wish. Please include appropriate MLA documentation (notes and bibliography. Reference MLA format under Humanities at the following site: <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/>

Please make sure you have carefully proofread all materials before submitting them. All work should include complete sentences and correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Grading Scheme

Grading System

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Grade points/credit</i>	<i>Rating</i>
A	90% & above	4.00	Excellent
B	80% – 89%	3.00	Good
C	70% – 79%	2.00	Average
D	60% – 69	1.00	Below Average
F	59% 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."		

Graded Projects and Points (percentages)

Requirements	Points	
Short Answers: Answer 12 end-of-chapter questions and submit weekly in Discussions link in WebCT); please number your answers to correspond with chapter questions and include the question. You should answer the questions reflectively, explaining how answers influence your reading and interpretation of the Bible. You should plan to answer 4 questions per week.	35 points (5 per chapter)	You will be allowed to miss no more than one weekly writing assignment prior to midterm and no more than one following the midterm.

Essay Questions: Complete two exercises in longer essay format (introduction, body, and conclusion) for each of seven chapters and submit in Discussions link in WebCT. These must demonstrate that you have carefully read the text and the associated Bible passages. Your writing must address the exercises directly and demonstrate an evolving maturity in your use of the tools of literary analysis for interpreting biblical passages.	35 points (5 points per set of exercises)	
Midterm Essay on Required Topic: "Reading the Bible as Literature and Reading the Bible as Sacred Text: Two Approaches" (3-5 pages, Times New Roman 12 font, double-spaced). Submit under Assignments.	15 points	
Final Essay on Required Topic: "The Hebrew Bible and the Christian Bible: Separate Collections" (3-5 pages, Times New Roman 12 font, double-spaced). Submit under Assignments.	15 points	
	100	

Course Policies

Online Attendance Policy

WESTERN ONLINE ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ALL 100- and 200-LEVEL COURSES: Missouri Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100 and 200 level courses, including online courses, to improve student learning and comply with federal regulations and financial aid policies. An online course is considered as "meeting" at least once a week. You are required to "attend" an online course through communication or submission of some work every 7 days. **If you do not communicate or submit work at a minimal level for one full week (that is, for one 7-day period: Monday 8 a.m. through Sunday midnight), you will be counted as an unexcused absence for that week. Online courses allow for a maximum of one unexcused absence before midterm.** After the second unexcused absence prior to midterm, the instructor will notify the registrar and you will be withdrawn from the course. Failure to meet the individual course attendance requirements (**one additional miss**) beyond the mid-point of the course may result in a grade of FA. For more information about this university policy, see the college catalog at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/catalog/academicpolicies.pdf> (on page 22).

An electronic e-mail is required from you to the instructor by the end of the drop/add period (end of first week of classes) to confirm you are attending this online course. Attendance in this course counts as submissions of required chapter writing assignments. If you do not meet the minimum attendance requirement prior to midterm, you will be administratively withdrawn and have a "W" placed on the transcript. If you violate the course attendance policy after mid-term, you may earn a grade of "FA."

Disability

Should you have a disability that will affect your success in this course, you will need to contact Disability Services in Eder Hall, Room 203N (816.271.4330). You should also contact me personally to discuss class requirements.

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. You should be aware that WebCT will check all your submitted work for evidence of plagiarism. 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*.

University Calendar

Spring 2011

Campus re-opens	January 3	Monday
Spring Registration/Orientation Program	January 11	Tuesday
Walk-In Registration	January 13	Thursday
Wintersession Ends	January 14	Friday
Martin Luther King Day Holiday	January 17	Monday
Classes Begin	January 18	Tuesday
President's Day Holiday	February 21	Monday
Spring Break (no classes)	March 13-20	
Mid-Term Grades Due	March 23	Wednesday
Last Day to Withdraw	April 1	Friday
Registration Begins for Summer/Fall	April 4	Monday
Last Day of Classes	May 2	Monday
Study Day	May 3	Tuesday
Final Exams	May 4-10	
Final Grades Due	May 12	Thursday
Commencement	May 14	Saturday

January	February	March
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April	May	June
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Course Schedule

<u>Week 1</u>	<i>Jan. 18-21</i>	Complete Reading for Preface and Chapter One . Send electronic e-mail required from each student to the instructor by the end of the drop/add period (end of first week of classes) to confirm the student is attending this online course.
<u>Week 2</u>	<i>Jan. 24-28</i>	<i>Weekly Posting</i>
<u>Week 3</u>	<i>Jan. 31-Feb. 4</i>	Complete Reading for Chapter Two . Answers to all end of chapter one questions completed by Jan. 31. Complete at least two exercises in the form of a short report and post in Discussions in WebCT.
<u>Week 4</u>	<i>Feb. 7-11</i>	<i>Weekly Posting</i>
<u>Week 5</u>	<i>Feb. 14-18</i>	Complete Reading for Chapter Three . Answers to all end of chapter two questions completed by Feb. 14. Complete at least two exercises in the form of a short report and post in Discussions in WebCT.
<u>Week 6</u>	<i>Feb. 21 (President's Day)—25</i>	<i>Weekly Posting</i>
<u>Week 7</u>	<i>Feb. 28-March 4</i>	Complete Reading for Chapter Four . Answers to all end of chapter three questions completed by Feb. 28. Complete at least two exercises in the form of a short report and post in Discussions in WebCT.

<u>Week 8</u>	March 7-11 Midterm Essay due March 11.
	Spring Break March 13-20
<u>Week 9</u>	March 21-25 MT Grades due 23 Complete Reading for Chapter Five. Answers to all end of chapter four questions completed by March 21. Complete at least two exercises in the form of a short report and post in Discussions in WebCT.
<u>Week 10</u>	March 28- April 1 Weekly Posting
<u>Week 11</u>	April 4-8 Complete Reading for Chapter Six. Answers to all end of chapter five questions completed by April 4. Complete at least two exercises in the form of a short report and post in Discussions in WebCT
<u>Week 12</u>	April 11-15 Weekly Posting
<u>Week 13</u>	April 18-22 Complete Reading for Chapter Seven. Answers to all end of chapter six questions completed by April 18. Complete at least two exercises in the form of a short report and post in Discussions in WebCT.
<u>Week</u>	April 25-29 Weekly Posting
<u>Finals Week</u> Finals May 4-10	Final Day of class, May 2 Answers to all end of chapter seven questions completed by May 2. Complete at least two exercises in the form of a short report and post in Discussions in WebCT. Final Essay due May 4.

Personal Notes