

ENG210-40 – Approaches to Literature Reading the Bible as Literature College of Science and Arts Spring 2012

	Instructor Information
Instructor:	Jeanie C. Crain, PhD, Professor
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Office Hours:	MW F 10:00 – 12:00, or by appointment
	Course Identification
Course Number:	ENG210- 40 Online
Course Name:	Approaches to Literature

Required Textbook

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

Bible Translation preferred—New Revised Standard Version (NRSV

http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm); the HarperCollins®Study Bible or The New Interpreter's Study Bible both have extensive study notes that you will find helpful.

Course Description/Overview

ENG210 introduces you to ways of reading and writing about poetry, fiction, and drama.

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 you 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.

Moodle Course Environment

Once you log in, you will find announcements, the syllabus, assignments, and required activities within this environment. You will read all chapters in *Reading the Bible as Literature: An Introduction* and complete required writing in the form of answering end-of-chapter questions and exercises. You will submit all required work in Moodle.

For online classes, you will need a computer and reliable Internet access. The University has several computer labs available for your use. The following link provides you with the location and hours of these labs:

http://www.missouriwestern.edu/imc/acs/labsmap.asp

Course Policies

<u>Disability</u>: 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.

<u>Academic Honesty</u>: 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*.

<u>Attendance Policy</u>: While you experience more freedom in online classes, you still must meet the same standards required of a traditional class. This means scheduling sufficient time for reading all assigned materials and completing all required writing for the course. Materials should be read prior to the first day of the week's assignments.

Course Learning Objectives

1. 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.

2. Learn that the Bible shares the mythological, metaphorical, and symbolic language that belongs to literature across the centuries.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 Resources

Course Website(s)

- <u>Bible as Literature Web</u>
- <u>Professor's Home Page</u> (includes electronic, older Bible as Literature and other Bible Analyses)

Course Requirements

Approximately every two weeks, you will read and complete writing assignments for one chapter in *Reading the Bible as Literature: An Introduction.* This requires reading carefully, taking comprehensive notes and adding these to Course Notes in Moodle, answering ten assigned end-of-chapter reflective questions and completing two exercises submitted as one attachment under Assignments. Assigned at the beginning of the reading period, questions and exercises must be posted in Moodle on the due date at the end of the second week.

Evaluation Guide

The following guide should enable you to understand how your work for each chapter will be evaluated (seven chapters, seven letter grades):

- Completing assigned work (10 end-of-chapter questions and 2 end-of-chapter exercises)
- Thoughtful, original, and well-developed content (reflecting chapter understanding, application and use of literary tools, and illustration/explication of biblical passages)
- Organization (5-7 sentences for questions and 4-7 paragraphs for exercises)
- Grammar and mechanics

You will receive one letter grade (based on a 10-point scale explained under grading scheme) for each of the seven chapters. In addition, you will receive two letter grades for Course Notes (one at Midterm and another at Finals). Your final grade will be an average of these nine grades.

Reading and Writing Assignments	Points per chapter	Requirements
Completed Assignment (for each chapter): Answer assigned ten end-of-chapter questions and complete two assigned exercises; submit by required due date (using Discussions link in WebCT); please identify your work to correspond with chapter questions and exercise prompts.	10	Written work completed and posted
 Content: Read and reflect on assigned chapters, completing questions and exercises with thoughtful, original, and well-developed responses. Understanding of chapter (10 points) Application to reading the Bible (from understanding as sacred text and theology to understanding as literature using the common tools of literary analysis)-(25 points) Illustrations/explication (references to biblical texts)-(15 points) 	50	Original, thoughtful, well- developed responses
Organization: <u>Questions:</u> (15 points) <u>Exercises</u> : (15 points)	30	Answer 10 questions in short paragraphs (7-10 sentences minimum). Short essays (4 to 7 well developed paragraphs): includes introduction (thesis), body, and conclusion.

Grammar and Mechanics	10	Written work has been
		carefully edited with
		attention to grammatical
		and effective sentences,
		punctuation, and
		mechanics. You are
		advised to consult a
		Handbook such as the one
		found in the The St.
		Martin's Guide to Writing.
Course Notes	2 letter grades	Success in any course
	at Midterm	requires careful reading
	and Finals	and note-taking. You are
		encouraged to read the
		chapter while at your
		computer so that you can
		build a set of chapter
		notes. These should reflect
		clear mastery of content.

Grading Scheme

Letter		Grade				
Grade	Percentage	points/credit	Rating			
Α	90% & above	4.00	Excellent			
В	80% - 89%	3.00 Good				
С	70% –79%	2.00	Average			
D	60%-69 1.00		Below Average			
F	59% and below 0.00 Failure					
1	An incomplete grade	e may be given wh	en accident, illness, death in the			
	immediate family, or	r other documente	ed circumstances beyond your			
	control prevent you	from completing s	ome course requirements. An			
	incomplete grade wi	ll be considered o	nly when you have satisfied the			
	majority of course re	equirements. An ir	complete grade must be removed			
	within six weeks afte	er the first day of t	he next term (fall, spring, summer)			
	of the semester in w	hich it was receive	ed; otherwise, the grade will be			
	recorded as "F."					

University Fall Schedule

2

16

JANUARY '12								
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
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29	30	31						

New Year's Day (Observed)

M.L. King Jr. Day no classes

P	Presidents I	Day FEBRUARY '12											
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Campus re-opens	Jan. 2	Monday
Spring Registration/Orientation Program	Jan. 10	Tuesday
Walk-In Registration	Jan. 12	Thursday
Wintersession Ends	Jan. 13	Friday
Martin Luther King Day Holiday (no classes/campus closed)	Jan. 16	Monday
Classes Begin	Jan. 17	Tuesday
President's Day Holiday (no classes/campus closed)	Feb. 20	Monday
Spring Break (no classes)	Mar. 11-18	
Mid-term Grades Due	Mar. 21	Wednesday
Last Day to Withdraw	Mar. 30	Friday
Registration Begins for Summer/Fall	Apr. 2	Monday
Last Day of Classes	Apr. 30	Monday
Wintersession Ends Martin Luther King Day Holiday (no classes/campus closed) Classes Begin President's Day Holiday (no classes/campus closed) Spring Break (no classes) Mid-term Grades Due Last Day to Withdraw Registration Begins for Summer/Fall	Jan. 13 Jan. 16 Jan. 17 Feb. 20 Mar. 11-18 Mar. 21 Mar. 30 Apr. 2	Friday Monday Tuesday Monday Wednesday Friday Monday

Study Day	May 1	Tuesday
Final Exams	May 2-8	
Final Grades Due	May 10	Thursday
Commencement	May 12	Saturday

Course Schedule

Week One Jan. 18, 20

Assignment: Read Preface and Chapter 1

<u>Week Two</u> Jan. 23, 25, 27

Complete Assignment posting for Preface and Chapter 1 by 12:00 midnight Jan. 30

Week Three Jan. 30, Feb. 1 and 3

Assignment: Read Chapter 2.

<u>Week Four</u> Feb. 6, 8, 10

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 2 by 12:00 midnight Feb. 12

<u>Week Five</u> Feb. 13, 15, 17

Assignment: Read Chapter 3.

Week Six Feb. 20, 22, 24

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 3 by 12:00 midnight Feb. 26.

Week Seven Feb. 27, 29, and March 2

Assignment: Read Chapter 4.

Week Eight March 5, 7, 9

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 4 by 12:00 midnight March 11

Spring Break March 11-18

Week Nine March 19, 21, 23

Assignment: Read Chapter 5.

Week Ten March 26, 28, 30

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 5 by 12:00 midnight April 1

Week Eleven April 2, 4, 6

Assignment: Read Chapter 6.

Week Twelve April 9, 11, 13

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 6 by 12:00 midnight April 15.

Week Thirteen April 16, 18, 20

Assignment: Read Chapter 7.

Week Fourteen April 23, 25, 27

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 7 by 12:00 midnight April 29

Last Day Class April 30

Week Fifteen Final Examination May 2-8

Final grades will be posted May 10 Your final grade for the course will be an average of the seven grades received for chapter work and the two grades received for notes in your Moodle blog at mid-term and Finals. (*A=4 points; B= 3; C=2; D= 1, and F=0*) and three process cycles (*A=4 points; B= 3; C=2; D= 1, and F=0*).