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**Course Identification**  
**Course Number: ENG210-40**

-  [News forum](#)

#### General news and announcements

-  [News forum](#) (Use to ask questions about course and content.)
-  [Course Chat Room](#)
- Use this Chat to access other Users while they are online. This is a useful way to get a different understanding of each other and the topic being discussed.
-  [General Discussion about Course, Readings](#) (Access links in Moodle.)

Please use this forum to open discussion about the course, readings, and requirement.

- Use this forum to read posts and to learn from your peers. This is meant to be an informal area where you may think and question freely as you prepare to complete the requirements for the course--7 colloquia, 7 chapter reviews, and 2 book reviews.
- **Required Textbooks**

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

Jeanie C. Crain, *Biblical Genres: Introduction*, CreateSpace, 2011.

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. For help on translation issues (Hebrew and Greek), you may access the Net Bible <http://bible.org/netbible/>.

- **Summary Course Requirements:**

**7 chapters x potentially 5 points=35**

**Colloquia (for 7 chapters) x potentially 5 points = 35**

**2 book reviews x potentially 15 points= 30 points**

- **Grades**

- 90 and above A
  - 80-89 B
  - 70 -79 C
  - 60-69 D
  - 69 and below F

-  [Class Policies URL](#)

Please review class policies.

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## 14 January - 20 January

-  [Overview Syllabus File](#)

This is an audio overview of your syllabus.

- You should open, print, and read the syllabus for this course carefully; you should keep a copy of it with your text and at your computer. Please note that requirements for the course include careful reading of seven chapters in your primary textbook, after which you will participate in your colloquium with group members. As you read each chapter of the text, you are to think about what changes in your reading habits occur as you read the Bible as literature. Please note that each chapter concludes with questions and answers; you should test your understanding by discussing these questions and exercises with your peer members. Discussion of questions and exercises (as well as responses) should be full and complete and should address at least five of the more challenging questions and two exercises. You are individually responsible for mastering the chapter content and for initiating conversations with your peer members. **Please note: You will receive up to 5 points each for colloquia work (total 35 points).**

-  [Course Interest Feedback](#)

This survey provides personal feedback relative to why you have chosen to enroll in this course: Reading the Bible as Literature.

-  [Preface and Chapter One Colloquium Forum](#)

As college students, you should understand the importance of colloquia work. For this course, you will participate in colloquia where you will learn with and from each other. Your primary text, *Reading the Bible as Literature*, has seven chapters, all focused on introducing you to tools of literary analysis, including language and style, the formal structures of genre (drama, narrative, and poetry), character study, and thematic analysis. Colloquia address the content of

each chapter (see Contents); discussion should follow careful reading of the texts. In the colloquia, you should focus on addressing the questions and exercises that can be found at the end of each chapter. Your group should address up to five of the more challenging questions and at least two exercises. Generally, one member can begin discussion of a question or exercise with other members responding; answers and exercises (as well as responses) should be full and complete.

- **Read the Preface and Chapter 1** carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises. **Colloquia work must be complete by January 27 midnight as well as chapter reviews.**

-  [Web Related to Text URL](#)
-  [Tables URL](#)
-  [PowerPoint Outlines URL](#)
-  [Extended Notes URL](#)
-  [Links to other Resources URL](#)
-  [Preparation for Beginning Reading the Bible as Literature Page](#)
-  [Ch1 Assignment](#)

In addition to colloquia work, you will be required to complete a summary and evaluation for each chapter in *Reading the Bible as Literature* (Minimum 2 pages single type, 10 point New Romans type) following the outline at the beginning of each chapter; a template of Chapter 1 has been provided below. Chapter work will be posted on assignment due dates and will receive up to 5 points each (35 total), Please use the chapter outline found at the beginning of each chapter (example from Chapter 1).

Your **personal heading** should include your name, course and section number, assignment (Chapter), and date.

Provide a **heading** that includes all the bibliographic information about the chapter. Use the following form:

**Reading the Bible as Literature: A Way of Understanding** (each chapter). Author.  
Place of publication: publisher, date of publication. [Range] Number of pages.

## Outline

Preliminary Considerations

Summarize in 2-3 sentences each major division:

Definitions

Form

Translations

Reading the Bible as Literature--summarize in 2-3 sentences for each division that follows:

Appeal and Readership

A Literary Approach--summarize in 2-3 sentences for each division that follows:

Intertextuality, allusion, and typology

Prophecy

Macro-plots

Language

Meta-narrative

Monomythic and universal

Impact on literature

Experiential

Approaches Taken in Textbooks for Teaching the Bible as Literature---List the approaches taken, summarize each, evaluate the usefulness of each approach:

Traditions in Biblical Interpretation--List the traditions taken, summarize each, evaluate the usefulness of each approach:

Culture and Religion in Ancient Israel and the Jewish World View--summarize.

Close Reading

**Evaluation.** Write a two to three paragraph evaluation of the content of the chapter. An evaluation should state an opinion supported by reasons and evidence (from the textbook and Bible).

## 21 January - 27 January

-  [Critical Biblical Scholarship File](#)

This article suggests a critical reading of the Bible means judging, deciding, and discriminating based on careful study of evidence and by appeal to reasonable arguments and criteria. Reading the Bible as literature requires such careful study in relation to reading the Bible using the critical tools of literary scholarship.

It has been the experience of many readers that this critical approach actually contributes to an enhanced understanding of the Bible and to an even stronger faith-based approach while others feel a critical approach challenges faith. You are being provided with tools and an approach to reading the Bible with a suggestion that they can be useful. It should also be remembered that the Bible is sacred text for many and that religion, theology, and philosophy have the advantage of being older than history and science. Embracing history and science should not necessarily lead to abandonment of these older siblings.

-  [Textbook Study Method Inventory URL](#)
-  [How the Bible Came to Us File](#)

This is an excellent overview of how the Bible came to us, provided by Dom Henry Wanbrough (<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~sben0056/booklets.htm>) in Word format.

-  [Choosing a Bible File](#)

Are you looking to buy a Bible? If you're anything like me, the first place you would look is on Amazon.com. That's the easiest and fastest way for me to learn what's available, and about how much I can expect to spend.

But if you search for "Holy Bible" in Amazon's Books section, you are faced with 13,456 results—dozens of different translations and versions, hundreds of editions, and countless varieties of packaging designed for every conceivable audience in a seemingly endless list of entries. Unless you know in advance which exact translation and edition is the one for you, the amount of choice is dizzying.



The Holy Bible: A Buyer's Guide is designed to help you sort through Bible translations and editions, and to help you make the important choice about which Bible to purchase. Written by prominent Biblical scholars Leonard J. Greenspoon and Harvey Minkoff, this free e-book will guide you through 21 different Bible versions and address their content, text, style and religious orientation.

I hope that this free e-book will serve as a valuable guide to choosing the Bible that is right for you.

Sara Murphy

Webmaster, Biblical Archaeology Society

2010


-  [Critical Biblical Scholarship PPTX File](#)
-  [General How to Read the Bible as Literature URL](#)

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## 28 January - 3 February

-  [Chapter Two Colloquium Forum](#)

See directions on Preface and Chapter One Forum.

- **Read Chapter 2** carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises. **Colloquia work must be complete by February 2 midnight as well as chapter reviews.**
-  [Ch2 Assignment](#)

Follow the instructions included on your syllabus and in the chapter one assignment for completing chapter summary and evaluation (using textbook chapter outline).

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## 4 February - 10 February

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## 11 February - 17 February

-  [Chapter Three Colloquium Forum](#)

See directions on Preface and Chapter One Forum.

- **Read Chapter 3** carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises. Colloquia work must be complete by February 24 midnight.

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-  [Ch3 Assignment](#)

Follow the instructions included on your syllabus and in the chapter one assignment for completing chapter reviews.

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## 18 February - 24 February

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## 25 February - 3 March

-  [Chapter Four Colloquium Forum](#)

See directions on Preface and Chapter One Forum.

- **Read Chapter 4** carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises. Colloquia work must be complete March 10 midnight.

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## 4 March - 10 March

-  [Ch4 Assignment](#)

Follow the instructions included on your syllabus and in the chapter one assignment for completing chapter reviews.

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## 11 March - 17 March

- **Spring Break March 9-16.**

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## 18 March - 24 March

-  [Chapter Five Colloquium Forum](#)

See directions on Preface and Chapter One Colloquium. Colloquium and Chapter work due on March 31.

- o  [BR-1 Biblical Genres Assignment](#)

Book review should be 2 pages, *single type, 10 point New Romans font; follow guidelines in attached file.*

- o  [Book Review Template File](#)

## 25 March - 31 March

- o  [Ch5 Assignment](#)

Follow the instructions included on your syllabus and in the chapter one assignment for completing chapter reviews.

- o **Read Chapter 5** carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises. Colloquia work must be complete by November 4 midnight.

## 1 April - 7 April

- o  [Chapter Six Colloquium Forum](#)

See directions on Preface and Chapter One Colloquium.

- o **Read Chapter 6** carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises. Colloquium work must be complete by April 14 midnight.

## 8 April - 14 April

- o  [Ch6 Assignment](#)

Follow the instructions included on your syllabus and in the chapter one assignment for completing chapter reviews.



## 15 April - 21 April

- **Read Chapter 7** carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises. Colloquium work must be complete by December 9 midnight.

-  [Chapter Seven Colloquium Forum](#)

See directions on Preface and Chapter One Forum.

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## 22 April - 28 April

-  [Ch7 Assignment](#)

**Final grades will be posted May 8.** Your final grade for the course will be based on total points earned throughout the semester (up to 35 points for colloquia, up to 35 points for chapter reviews, and up to 30 points for two book reviews).

-  [BR-2 Reading the Bible Assignment](#)

Follow same directions as for book review 1.

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## 29 April - 5 May

- Final Grades April 30-May 6.

You will have no formal test; your final grade will be based on an average of your chapter and forum work.

- **Final grades will be posted May 8.** Your final grade for the course will be based on total points earned throughout the semester (up to 35 points for colloquia, up to 35 points for chapter reviews, and up to 30 points for two book reviews).