



**ENG210-40, 41 – Approaches to Literature
Reading the Bible as Literature
College of Science and Arts
Fall 2012**

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number: ENG210- 40, 41 Online
Course Name: Approaches to Literature

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/>.

Course Description/Overview

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

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

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 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. Assigned materials should be read prior to the first day of the week's assignments. You must meet all deadlines for submitting required material.

Late Work: You are expected to meet all submission deadlines with no extension on due dates.

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)

- [Bible as Literature Web](#)
- [Professor's Home Page](#) (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, answering five assigned end-of-chapter reflective questions (in paragraph form, contain a minimum 7-10 sentences) and completing one exercise (4 to 7 well developed paragraphs) 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. Additionally, you are required to **post one forum entry by Friday of the first cycle of reading each chapter** that discusses some aspect of the assigned reading material, this including your textbook and articles and links (1 single-spaced document using Times 10-point font). You should work in Microsoft Word then copy and paste your forum entry into Moodle. Please edit your work carefully. You are also expected to read and reply to the posted work of at least two group members. You will receive a MT and Finals grade on these forums. You will have a one-time opportunity to gain up to 10 make-up points by writing a 4-page, single-spaced 10 point font) paper that uses the two chapters on genres in the *Reading the Bible* and the supplemental text *Biblical Genres*. You should compare literary genres (*Reading the Bible*) to biblical genres (*Biblical Genres*). This work must be posted by week thirteen (Nov. 26-30).

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 (5 end-of-chapter questions and 1 end-of-chapter exercise)
- 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 exercise)
- 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 Forums (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 five 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

<p>Content: Read and reflect on assigned chapters, completing questions and exercises with thoughtful, original, and well-developed responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>Organization: <u>Questions:</u> (15 points)</p> <p><u>Exercises:</u> (15 points)</p>	30	<p>Answer 5 questions in short paragraphs (7-10 sentences minimum).</p> <p>Short essays (4 to 7 well developed paragraphs): includes introduction (thesis), body, and conclusion.</p>
<p>Grammar and Mechanics</p>	10	<p>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 <i>The St. Martin's Guide to Writing</i>.</p>
<p>Course Forums</p>	2 letter grades at Midterm and Finals	<p>Forums provide an opportunity to reflect on what you are reading and learning in each chapter in an environment where you are expected to contribute to and to read others' forum entries.</p>

Make-up Opportunity	Up to 10 points	You will have a one-time opportunity to make-up one missed assignment by writing a 4-page, single-spaced 10 point font) paper that uses the two chapters on genres in the <i>Reading the Bible</i> and the supplemental text <i>Biblical Genres</i> . You should compare literary genres (<i>Reading the Bible</i>) to biblical genres (<i>Biblical Genres</i>). This work must be posted by week thirteen (Nov. 26-30).
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Grading Scheme

<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."		

University Fall Schedule

Western Academic Calendar		
www.missouriwestern.edu/academic_calendar/		
Independence Day Holiday (no classes/campus closed)	July 7	Wednesday
Last Day to Withdraw from 2nd four-week session	July 12	Thursday
Final Exams for Eight-week & 2nd four-week session	July 19	Thursday
Final Grades Due	July 25	Wednesday
Fall 2012		
Walk-In Registration	Aug. 21	Tuesday
Griffon Edge	Aug. 23-25	
Classes Begin	Aug. 27	Monday
Labor Day Holiday (no classes/campus closed)	Sept. 3	Monday
Mid-term Grades Due	Oct. 24	Wednesday
Last Day to Withdraw	Nov. 2	Friday
Registration Begins for Spring	Nov. 5	Monday
Fall Break (no classes/campus closed)	Nov. 18-25	
Last Day of Classes	Dec. 7	Friday
Final Exams	Dec. 8-14	
Commencement	Dec. 15	Saturday
Final Grades Due	Dec. 18	Tuesday
Wintersession	Dec. 15-Jan. 11	
Campus Closed	Dec. 24-Jan. 1	
Spring 2013		
Campus re-opens	Jan. 2	Wednesday
Spring Registration/Orientation Program	Jan. 8	Tuesday
Walk-In Registration	Jan. 10	Thursday
Wintersession Ends	Jan. 11	Friday
Classes Begin	Jan. 14	Monday

Course Schedule

Week One **Aug.** 27-31

Assignment: Read Preface and Chapter 1

Week Two **Sept.** 4-7

Complete Assignment posting for Preface and Chapter 1 by 12:00 midnight Sept. 7.

Week Three 10-14

Assignment: Read Chapter 2.

Week Four 17-21

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 2 by 12:00 midnight Sept. 22

Week Five 24-28,

Assignment: Read Chapter 3.

Week Six Oct. 1-5

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 3 by 12:00 midnight Oct. 5.

Week Seven 8-12

Assignment: Read Chapter 4.

Week Eight 15-19

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 4 by 12:00 midnight Oct. 19.

Week Nine 22-26 **MT Grades due Oct. 24**

Assignment: Read Chapter 5.

Week Ten Oct 29- Nov. 2 **Last Day to withdraw Nov. 2**

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 5 by 12:00 midnight Nov. 2.

Week Eleven 5-9

Assignment: Read Chapter 6.

Fall Break 18-25

Week Twelve 12-16

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 6 by 12:00 midnight Nov. 16.

Week Thirteen 26-30

Post 4-page make-up work by the end of this week. The make-up work will be used in lieu of one missed assignment and must be assessed in the same way as chapter assignments.

Assignment: Read Chapter 7.

Week Fourteen Dec. 3-7

Complete Assignment posting for Chapter 7 by 12:00 midnight Dec. 7.

Last Day Class Dec. 7

Week Fifteen **Final Examination Dec. 8-14**

Final grades will be posted Dec. 14. Your final grade for the course will be an average of the seven grades received for chapter work *and the two grades received for forum postings at mid-term and Finals*. You have a one-time opportunity to post make-up work by the end of week thirteen. The make-up work will be used in lieu of one missed assignment and must be assessed in the same way as chapter assignments.

