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Course Identification

Course Number: ENG210-40 Approaches to Literature: Bible as Literature

Course Description

Reading the Bible as Literature, has seven chapters introduces you to the tools used in literary analysis, including language and style, the formal structures of genre (drama, narrative, and poetry), character study, and thematic analysis. Your work in this course will treat the Bible as literature.

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 the disciplines of history and science. Embracing history and science should not necessarily lead to the abandonment of these older siblings.

Required Textbooks

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

Summary Course Requirements

Mid-term and Final Research Essay=2 x potentially 15 points each =30 points due Nov. 17 and Dec. 11.

Colloquia (for 7 chapters) x potentially 10 points each = 70 points due Sept. 8, 22, Oct. 6, 20, Nov. 3, 17, and Dec. 8

Class Policies

MOODLE ENVIRONMENT : The student toolbox (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/imc/student/index.asp>) contains information and resources that can aid

students with any technical issue that may arise on campus. You may also go to the department online course web <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/eflj/online/>

The menu on the left will help students troubleshoot issues with their online classes delivered through Moodle. You will find a number of tutorials that will help to orient you to the online learning environment. Make sure you watch the opening video *Student Introduction to Moodle*. You should review other tutorials then become familiar with the course weekly layout in Moodle.

Generally, you should expect to complete the same work for online courses that you would complete in a traditional classroom. You should login the first day classes begin during a semester and frequently thereafter. All work should be completed and posted by the due date. Additionally, you should review informational articles and videos, complete suggested reviews, and generally demonstrate you have a good grasp of the course as a whole.

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT ON ATTENDANCE: “Missouri Western State University has the expectation that students should be active participants in their coursework. Regular class attendance is considered a key element of participation and an essential part of the educational experience.” (Re. MWSU 2012-2013 Catalogue, pg. 27) **Late Work will not be accepted.**

Online Class: You will be expected to login to Moodle regularly. It is extremely important that you login on the day that classes begin at Missouri Western. You will be asked to confirm your attendance during the first week of class and by doing so also confirm that you have read the syllabus and gained an oversight of the Moodle environment and class requirements. You are expected to submit all required work and participate in group work as stated on the syllabus and within the Moodle environment.

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. 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 activity. Violations may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure for the course, or expulsion from the University:

<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/acadaff/documents/AcademicHonestyPolicy.pdf>

Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a specific kind of academic dishonesty in which you take another’s ideas or words and claim them as your own. When you draw on someone else’s work, you must indicate the source of that material, whether you are repeating another’s words, argument or thought. Even if you paraphrase another’s work and are not using the exact wording, you are still required to indicate the source of the material. This material must be clearly identified with appropriate citations. If you do not do that, you have plagiarized those materials. Any time you copy and paste any writing that is not your own for an assignment, you must use quotation marks and give the source of that material. If you cut and paste without noting what you have done, you will be guilty of plagiarism. Even if the writing is your own, if it has been used for a previous assignment that should be indicated.

CIVILITY AND COOPERATION: Missouri Western requires all students to help us maintain good conditions for teaching and learning. All students will treat their classmates, teachers, and student assistants with civility and respect, both inside and outside the classroom. Students who violate this policy may, among other penalties, be counted absent and asked to leave either temporarily or permanently based on the seriousness of the violation. You should review your Missouri Western student handbook, specifically sections of Community Expectations and Code of Conduct and Procedures for further information. This handbook is available online at

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

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: 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. **OUR COURSE POLICY:** If you have a recognized disability, please make an appointment to see me during the first week of classes so that we can discuss how I might help you to succeed.

GRADE APPEAL: Please refer to the EFLJ's Department policy at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/eflj/appendixb.asp> and the University policy on page 11 of the Student Handbook for the Grade Appeal Process.

Fall Calendar

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	



Class Schedule and Requirements

26 August - 1 September Preface and Introduction, Chapter One

Your group should address up to five of the more challenging questions and at least two exercises during a two-week interval. 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. **You must individually complete and post five questions and two exercises, either as a response or first entry. Completion for seven items will be tracked.** Ideally, you will begin this work in the first week of the assigned chapter, and then make your posts progressively so as to give other group members time to respond. Work for the colloquia must be completed by the due date. You should answer questions in 7-10 sentences; exercises require 4-7 well developed paragraphs.

You should complete your work outside of Moodle, then copy and paste this work into the colloquium itself. All work must be substantive, original, and carefully proofed. You should use both the textbook and the Bible as references. Use MLA parenthetical notes to provide page numbers.

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 10 points each for colloquia work (total 70 points). You will also complete two research essays.**

Moodle contains additional readings and links to help orient you to the kind of work being required of you in this course. In particular, you are directed to the web supplement for the text <http://crain.english.missouriwestern.edu/ReadingBible/> where you will find tables, PowerPoint chapter presentations, student reviews, and other study aids.

***2 September - 8 September Preface and Chapter One**

Colloquium Work due Sept. 8 by midnight.

9 September - 15 September

Read Chapter 2 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 September 22.**

***16 September - 22 September**

Chapter 2 Colloquium Sept. 22

23 September - 29 September

Read Chapter 3 carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises.

***30 September - 6 October**

Chapter 3 Colloquium Oct. 6

7 October - 13 October

Read Chapter 4 carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises.

***14 October - 20 October**

Chapter 3 Colloquium Oct. 20

21 October - 27 October

Read Chapter 5 carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises.

***28 October - 3 November**

Chapter 5 Colloquium Nov. 3 Forum

4 November - 10 November

Read Chapter 6 carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises.

****11 November - 17 November**

Chapter 6 Colloquium Nov. 17

Research Essay 1 Nov. 17 Assignment

Your textbook introduces the tools of literary analysis as a special way of reading and understanding the Bible. Of course, millions have read, and will continue to read, the Bible as sacred text. All too often, people have read the Bible poorly, imposing upon it pre-determined interpretations and theologies. For this paper, you are to use your textbook (chapters 1-4) and any additional sources you wish to write an exploratory research essay (4 pages minimum-7 pages maximum) in which you address what it means to read the Bible as literature and to explain how this kind of approach enhances meaning.

In chapters 1-4, you are introduced to theory (chapter 1); style, tone, and rhetorical strategy (chapter 2); image, metaphor, symbol, and archetype (chapter 3); and major genres. You will need to pay attention, in particular, to each chapter's outline, which lays out the literary tools you should address in your paper. In submitting this paper, you are joining an academic conversation. Your paper should be publishable in its final form. This means you must provide stimulating, well developed, and original thinking. You will use your textbook as your main research resource, using MLA format.

18 November - 24 November

Thanksgiving Break 17-24

25 November - 1 December

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.

***2 December - 8 December**

Chapter 7 Colloquium December 8

***9 December - 15 December**

Finals December 7-13, **Final grades will be posted December 18.** Your final grade for the course will be based on total points earned throughout the semester (up to 70 points for colloquia and up to 30 points for research essays).

Research Essay 2 December 11 Assignment

Your textbook introduces the tools of literary analysis as a special way of reading and understanding the Bible. Of course, millions have read, and will continue to read, the Bible as sacred text. All too often, people have read the Bible poorly, imposing upon it pre-determined interpretations and theologies. For this paper, you are to use your textbook (chapters 5-7) and any additional sources you wish to write an exploratory research essay (4 pages minimum-7 pages maximum) in which you address **what it means to read the Bible as literature** and to explain how this kind of approach enhances meaning.

In chapters 5-7, you are introduced to sub-genres (chapter 5); character (chapter 6); themes and motifs (chapter 7). You will need to pay attention, in particular, to each chapter's outline, which lays out the literary tools you should address in your paper.

In submitting this paper, you are joining an academic conversation. Your paper should be publishable in its final form. This means you must provide stimulating, well developed, and original thinking. You will use your textbook as your main research resource, using MLA format