



**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
ENG321-01  
Literature and Religion  
Fall 2017**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Jeanie C. Crain, PhD, Professor  
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 Skype: jeanie124  
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 Office Hours: TR 8:30-9:20, 1:00-1:50, W 8:00-9:00, By Appointment Course Identification  
 Course Number: ENG321-01 TR Murphy Hall 113

**Required Textbooks and Supplies**

Price, Joan. *Sacred Scriptures of the World Religions*. New York: Continuum, 2010.

Knight, Mark. *An Introduction to Religion and Literature*. New York: Continuum, 2009.

Additional readings in literature (electronic): Samuel Becket, Samuel Coleridge, Donne, Rossetti, Dickinson, Dickens, Angela Carter, Kafka, Kierkegaard, Margaret Atwood, J. Winterson, Eliot, Roth, Hawthorne, Orwell, D. Coupland, McEwan

**Course Description/Overview**

Catalog Description: ENG 321 Literature and Religion (3) F (odd-numbered years). Beginning with the ancient world and ending with electronic texts of the present, the course introduces a variety of religious literatures to explore the connection between religious impulse and literary form and to address profound questions of existence and faith. Prerequisites: ENG108 or ENG112 and ENG220, or departmental approval for non-majors. LAS Ethics; LAS International/Intercultural.

*Sacred Scriptures of the World Religions* “examines religions across the world, offering insight into each tradition’s views of the world through their scriptural texts and spiritual practices.”

*An Introduction to Religion and Literature* explores the themes of creation, relation (otherness, personhood, and Trinity), the Divine (law, gift, and justice, interpretive communities (Scripture, tolerance, and the people of God), sin (transgression), hope and the future (suffering and redemption), and eschatology. The author provides an introduction to the relationship between religion and literature.

**Course Learning Objectives**

1. Learn that sacred texts share the mythological, metaphorical, and symbolic language that belongs to literature across the centuries.
2. Read and study significant passages of texts sacred to the world religions.
3. Explore secular texts that tell, re-tell, adapt, appropriate, and re-use sacred texts, blurring boundaries between the “sacred” and “profane.”

4. Explore religious themes of creation, relation (otherness, personhood, and Trinity), the Divine (law, gift, and justice, interpretive communities (Scripture, tolerance, and the people of God), sin (transgression), hope and the future (suffering and redemption), and eschatology.
5. Discover a literary and religious library that invites you to engage at deeper levels of study and to greater depths of insight.

#### Course Requirements

Complete 6 forum entries for introduction (5 points) and each chapter in *An Introduction to Religion and Literature* (minimal 3 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12). [10 Points each].

Complete World Religion Project, Price, *Sacred Scriptures* (30 points )+ Presentation (5 points).

#### Evaluation Guide

The following guide should enable you to understand how your work will be evaluated: Points:

Introduction—5 points  
 Forum Work—10 points X 6 chapters=60  
 Religion Project—30 points + Presentation (5 points)

For this project, you will choose one world religion covered in *Sacred Scriptures of the World Religions* and create a Project which explores the religion in relation to the six themes presented in *An Introduction to Religion and Your Project* should be the equivalent of a short research essay (7-10 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12). The work must exhibit the careful attention expected of any published work (30 points).

You will present this wiki to the class in a public presentation (5 points).

Total 100 Points

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade points/credit</b>	<b>Rating</b>
<b>A</b>	90 points & above	4.00	Excellent
<b>B</b>	80– 89 points	3.00	Good
<b>C</b>	70–79 points	2.00	Average
<b>D</b>	60 – 69 points	1.00	Below Average
<b>F</b>	59 points and below	0.00	Failure
<b>I</b>	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."		

<b>Fall 2017</b>		
Faculty/Staff Plan Week	August 21-25	
Classes Begin	August 28	Monday
Labor Day (no classes/campus closed)	September 4	Monday
Registration Begins for Spring	October 9	Monday
Mid-term Grades Due	October 25	Wednesday
Last day to Withdraw	November 3	Friday
Fall Break (no classes/campus closed)	November 19-26	Sunday-Sunday
Last Day of classes	December 8	Friday
Final Exams	December 9-15	Saturday-Friday
Commencement	December 16	Saturday
Final Grades Due	December 19	Tuesday
Campus Closed	December 24-January 1	

August 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

  

September 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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December 2017						
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31						

### Course Schedule

(Note: weeks = Monday through Sunday, with work submitted in Moodle on Sunday to allow access prior to each week's class.)

#### August 28-September 3

You must first summarize then present a thoughtful reflection upon the points presented in the introduction to *Religion and Literature* (5 points). You may choose to work independently of Moodle then copy and paste your work into the forum. Include a summary (one-half) followed by reflection (one-half). Summary may use bulleted points or outline. Pay attention to referenced literature. **Post work in forum before class on Sept. 3.** This work is available to all students.

#### September 11 -September 17

Read *Primal Wisdom* (pages 1-26, Price) and *Sacred Worlds* (7-23, Knight).

You will use readings in *Sacred Scriptures* in your Religion Project and class presentation near the end of the semester. In this Project, you will explore the themes of creation, relation (otherness, personhood, and Trinity), the Divine (law, gift, and justice, interpretive communities (Scripture, tolerance, and the people of God), sin (transgression), hope and the future (suffering and redemption), and eschatology in a chosen world religion (Primal, Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh, Chinese, Islamic). Your Religion Project should be the equivalent of a short research essay (7-10 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12).

You will summarize then reflect upon readings in *Religion and Literature* in the assigned forum. All students will post one forum entry, which is the equivalent of 3 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman 12. You should read, reread, annotate, then summarize and reflect upon the chapter content. All work must be original and contribute to a sustained and ongoing intellectual discussion.

You will use the above instructions for all forum postings and for chapter readings.

**Secular literature relevant to "Sacred Worlds" includes *Paradise Lost*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Passion of New Eve*.**

Reference these pieces of literature in relation to the *Religion and Literature* discussions. As literature and education majors, you should have had some prior exposure to these materials. They will also serve as a reading list to launch you into a meaningful understanding of how literature and religion explore the important ideas of creation, personhood, the divine, interpretive communities, sin, and eschatology. Religious reading as well as literary reading is grounded in critical thinking and the ability to renew and reimagine language.

September 18-24

Summarize, then reflect upon readings in *Religion and Literature* in the assigned forum. All students will post one forum entry, which is the equivalent of 3 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman 12. You should read, reread, annotate, then summarize and reflect upon the chapter content. All work must be original and contribute to a sustained and ongoing intellectual discussion.

**1. Post Forum work on "Sacred Worlds" in Moodle September 17.**September 25-October 1

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 2 in *Religion and Literature*.  
Read chapter 2 of *Sacred Scriptures*.

**Literary readings include Donne, Dickinson, and Rossetti; see webpage.**

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 2 in *Religion and Literature*. See full instructions for chapter 1.

**2. Complete forum-posting October 1.**October 2-8

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 3 in *Religion and Literature*.  
Read chapter 3 of *Sacred Scriptures*.

**Literary readings include Dickens, Kafka, Kierkegaard; see webpage.**

October 9-15

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 3.

**3. Post forum work October 15.**October 16-22

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 4 in *Religion and Literature*.  
Read chapter 4 of *Sacred Scriptures*.

**Literary readings include Atwood, J. Winterson, and G. Eliot; see webpage.**

October 30-November 5

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 4 in *Religion and Literature*. See full instructions for chapter 1.

**4. Complete forum-posting October 29.**November 6-12

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 5 in *Religion and Literature*.  
Read chapter 5 of *Sacred Scriptures*.

**Literary readings include Coleridge, Hawthorne, P. Roth, McEwan; see webpage.**

November 13-19

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 5 in *Religion and Literature*. See full instructions for chapter 1.

**5. Complete forum-posting must by November 12.**Fall Break November 19-26November 27-December 3

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 6 in *Religion and Literature*.  
Read chapter 6 of *Sacred Scriptures*.

**Literary readings include Becket, Orwell, and Coupland; see webpage.**

November 27-December 3**6. Forum posting due December 3.**December 4-10

**Project: Final Religion Project December 8**--exploration of a specific world religion (one of eight presented in *Sacred Scriptures of the World's Religions*) relative to six themes from Knight's *An Introduction to Religion and Literature*. Themes include 1. Creation, 2. Relation (Otherness, Personhood, and Trinity), 3. the Divine (Law, Gift, and

Justice, 4. Interpretive Communities (Scripture, Tolerance, and the People of God), 5. Sin (Transgression), 6. Hope and the Future (Suffering and Redemption), and Eschatology.

### **Presentation Completed by December 8**

Final Examinations December 9-15

Final Grades due December 19

### **Class Policies**

**MOODLE ENVIRONMENT:** The student toolbox (<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/online/currently-enrolled-students/moodle-help-for-students/>) contains information and resources that can aid students with any technical issue that may arise on campus.

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, 27) **Late Work will not be accepted.**

**Traditional Class:** You are allowed three unexcused absences for this course. At the fourth unexcused absence, you will automatically fail. There will be no exceptions.

Students representing the university at officially sanctioned activities must inform me before their absence. All absences due to illness must be documented. Documentation must be presented immediately after the student returns to class.

**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.

**STATEMENT ON CANCELLATION OF CLASSES DUE TO WEATHER:** Missouri Western will close only in extraordinary circumstances. If the University is to close due to weather/road conditions, the decision will be made as follows:

- Daytime Closing: normally the decision will be made by 6:00 a.m.
- Evening Closing: normally the decision will be made by 4:00 p.m.
- Students should consult the Missouri Western State University home page for inclement weather closing.

**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:

<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/StudentHandbook2017.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 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. You will also find policies concerning harassment, discrimination sexual misconduct and Title IX This handbook is available online at <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/>

#### CELL PHONES & RESPECT FOR OTHERS

1. CELL PHONES must be turned OFF before you walk through the door.
2. NO TEXT MESSAGING or checking email in the classroom. NO MP3 PLAYERS or other music. NO HEADPHONES / EARPHONES.
3. LAPTOPS may be used in traditional classes for class requirements only.
4. NO TAPE RECORDING or PHOTOGRAPHY or VIDEO-RECORDING in class.

**VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING:** The content of any lecture/class presentation remains the intellectual property of the person delivering the session. Students may make audio or video recordings of course activity only with permission of the faculty member conducting the course. If the student believes it is necessary to record sessions due to a disability or needs additional assistance, the student must first contact Missouri Western's Accessibility Resource Center to establish such need. By virtue of this policy, all students and attendees in any classroom setting or university presentation are placed on notice that they may be recorded or taped, both photographically or audio based.

Any and all recordings of lectures or class presentations are authorized solely for the purpose of the student's individual or group study with other students enrolled in the same class. Such recordings may not be reproduced or uploaded to publicly accessible web environments. Recordings of classes or course material may not be exchanged or distributed for commercial purposes, for compensation or for any other purpose other than study by students enrolled in the present class. Students must delete all recordings and tapes at the end of the course.

Please note that materials used in the classroom or online presentations (video, graphic, photographic, etc.), web-based and social media may also have their own copyright. While presentations and displays are generally allowed when reproduced in the classroom, copyright law does not extend the privilege to second-level reproductions. Any violation of this policy may subject a student to disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook and result in disciplinary action by the University and/or punishment under Federal or State Privacy, Intellectual Property or Copyright Law.

**CLASSROOM FOOD & DRINK POLICY:** Food and drink (other than water) are to be consumed only in officially designated areas. Designated areas include spaces associated with office suites, dining rooms, and areas with signs indicating that food and drink consumption is allowed.

**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 <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/arc/> 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 read carefully the Grade Appeal Process found in the Student Handbook (page 42) <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/StudentHandbook2017.pdf>.