



**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
ENG321-01  
Literature and Religion  
Fall 2015**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Jeanie C. Crain, PhD, Professor  
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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 120

**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.

### Moodle Course Environment

Once you log in, you will find announcements, the syllabus, assignments, and required activities within this environment. You will submit all required work in Moodle. During the first week of classes, you should familiarize yourself with the Moodle environment, including reviewing the following tutorials found at

<http://online.missouriwestern.edu/students.asp?section=moodlehelp> .

### Course Policies

**Email:** You must use your Missouri Western email account when contacting me. The email must have ENG321-01 as the Subject and be addressed to [crain@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:crain@missouriwestern.edu). The first paragraph in the communication must include a brief statement of the issue being addressed such as Course Clarification. All communication will be saved as official records. Each communication reflects your skills as a writer and should be appropriately clear, organized, and grammatically and mechanically correct.

**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 this is not an online course, you still will be expected to submit all required work in both hard copy and posted in Moodle. This means that you must become familiar with Moodle within the first week in the course. You will have a number of tutorials available to you in Moodle to help you to navigate this learning environment. <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/handbook.pdf>

Classroom recording policy (protected link, PDF on N drive):

<https://ppm.missouriwestern.edu/dotNet/documents/?docid=360&mode=view>

**Late Work:** You are expected to submit all work on or before the stated due date.

### Maintaining Good Teaching and Learning Conditions

Missouri Western requires all students to help maintain good conditions for teaching and learning. All students will treat their classmates and teachers with civility and respect. You should review your MWSU student handbook, specifically sections of Community Expectations and Code of Conduct and Procedures for further information.

Grading Appeal Process:

<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/handbook.pdf>

### Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

Consistent with its mission, Missouri Western seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and University policy prohibit harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Missouri Western encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination, or sexual misconduct to talk to someone from the Campus and Local Resources list found in the Student Handbook

(<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp.../handbook.pdf>) about what happened so they can get the support they need and Missouri Western can respond appropriately.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Missouri Western is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please visit the following website: <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/titleix/sexual-misconduct-policy/>

Students have received information via email regarding training regarding Title IX. Student employees may have additional required training. Please follow the link in the email sent to your MWSU student account to complete the training. Students who do not complete the training will receive a hold on their account, prohibiting future semester enrollment until the training is complete. These training courses will ensure that all students are appropriately educated about these important regulations.

#### Syllabus Changes

Minor changes to the syllabus may be made by the instructor at any point in the semester; such changes will be announced with ample time to adjust to the changes.

#### Handbook

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#### **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).

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#### **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 in Moodle, 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 2015</b>		
Walk-In Registration	August 25	Tuesday
Griffon Edge	August 27-29	
Classes Begin	August 31	Monday
Labor Day (no classes/campus closed)	September 7	Monday
Mid-term Grades Due	October 28	Wednesday
Last day to Withdraw	November 6	Friday
Registration Begins for Spring	November 9	Monday
Fall Break (no classes/campus closed)	November 22-29	Sunday-Sunday
Last Day of classes	December 11	Friday
Final Exams	December 12-18	Saturday-Friday
Commencement	December 19	Saturday
Final Grades Due	December 21	Monday
Campus Closed	December 24-January 3	

- Number of class days - M=13, T=14, W=14, Th=14, F=14, Sa=13; 6 Final Exam days

#### Course Schedule

September							October							November							December												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
	1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7									1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26						
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31								

#### August 31-Sept. 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 particular attention to referenced literature. [Post work in forum before class on Sept. 3.](#) This work is available to all students.

#### September 7 Labor Day Holiday-Sept. 13

Read Primal Wisdom (pages 1-26) and Sacred Worlds (7-23).

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 14-20

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.

[Post Forum work on “Sacred Worlds” in Moodle before class September 14.](#)

### September 21-27

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.**

### September 28-October 4

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 2 in *Religion and Literature*. See full instructions for chapter 1.  
[Complete forum-posting before class September 29.](#)

### October 5-11

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 12-18

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 3. [Post forum work before class October 13.](#)

### October 19-25

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 26-November 1

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 4 in *Religion and Literature*. See full instructions for chapter 1.  
[Complete forum-posting must before class October 27.](#)

### November 2-8

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 9-15

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 5 in Religion and Literature. See full instructions for chapter 1.  
Complete forum-posting must by November 10.

November 16-22

Complete reading and forum work for chapter 6 in *Religion and Literature*.  
 Read chapter 8 of *Sacred Scriptures*.

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

Fall Break November 22-29

November 30-December 6

Chapter 6 posting due before class December 1.

December 7-13

Final Religion Project before class 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 10.

Final Examinations December 12-18

Final Grades due December 21