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Office Hours: TR 8:30-9:20, 1:00-1:50, W 8:00-9:00, By Appointment

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

Course Description

Reading the Bible as Literature, 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. Reading the Bible as literature means using the common tools of literary analysis.

Actually, the Bible is literature—great literature—sacred story. Story, indeed, religion, theology, and philosophy have the advantage of being older than the disciplines of history and science. Embracing history and science in an empirical world should not necessarily lead to the abandonment of these older siblings. Literature, in fact, invites readers into the human experience (existentially, rather than empirically and propositionally) through language, image, metaphor, symbol, and archetype; through story/narrative, character, and theme.

Not surprisingly, literature tells the human story often in terms of religious themes such as creation, relation (otherness, personhood, Trinity), mediation of the divine (law, gift, justice), interpretive communities (tolerance, intolerance), sin/transgression and atonement, suffering, and redemption. Religion provides a lens for reading literature just as literature provides another set of lens for understanding sacred text.

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

Chapter Assignments (for 7 chapters) x potentially 14 points each = 98 points. The remaining 2 points will be discretionary—to be awarded by the instructor at the end of the course. Points will be given for semester performance—meeting requirements and deadlines, showing steady growth and maturity, original and critical thinking.

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.**

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

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 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 as stated on the syllabus and within the Moodle environment.

University 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:

See Student Handbook <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/handbook.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 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

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

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.

Class Schedule and Requirements

August 31-September 1

You should open, print, and carefully read the syllabus for this course; you should keep a copy of it with your text and at your computer.

Use this first week for orientation, printing and reading your syllabus and overview carefully, orienting yourself to Moodle (review tutorials provided), discovering an online Bible for use with your text, studying the web designed for the text, and following other links and resources.

Please note that requirements for the course include careful reading of seven chapters in your primary textbook; 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. Each chapter concludes with questions and exercises; for the chapter assignments, **you should address five of the more challenging questions and complete at least two exercises during a two-week interval. You should answer each question in 7-10 sentences; exercises require 5-7 well-developed paragraphs for each exercise.** You will post your chapter assignments in designated forums. You should complete your work outside Moodle then copy and paste the chapter assignments (as one entry) into the submission space. This work will be available to all class members.

You are expected to use your textbook as a resource. Minimally, you should demonstrate in your work that you have read the text and know what it says about a question or exercise; you should use both quotes and paraphrases (using parenthetical citations to provide page numbers). Keep in mind, however, that you are expected to grow as a critical thinker. This means reading and understanding what you read; it also means showing how what you are learning can be applied; you should entertain opposing or challenging points of view and not be afraid to ask important questions.

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. Any additional resources must be carefully cited (include URL for web sources).

Please note: You will receive up to 14 points each for chapter work (total 98 points).

Moodle contains additional readings and links to help orient you to the kind of work being required of you in this course. In particular, the web supplement for the text provides tables, PowerPoint chapter presentations, student reviews, and other study aids.

<http://crain.english.missouriwestern.edu/ReadingBible/>

September 7-13

Read the Preface and Chapter 1 carefully, taking extensive notes. Begin answering the required five questions and completing the required two exercises, Allow time to reread your work critically. Post the work by the September 20 due date.

September 14-20

***Preface and Chapter 1 work due by midnight September 20**

September 21-27

Read Chapter 2 carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin chapter work on the questions and exercises.

September 28- October 4

***Chapter 2 work due October 4 by midnight.**

October 5-11

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

October 12-19

Chapter 3 work due **by October 18 midnight.**

October 19-25

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

October 26-November 1

Chapter 4 work due **by November 1 midnight.**

MT Grades October 28 . Please note that midterm grade will be based on the work for three chapters, leaving four to complete.

November 2-8

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

November 9-15

***Chapter 5** work due **November 15 by midnight.**

November 16-22

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

November 23-29

Fall Break

November 30-December 6

***Chapter 6** work due **December 16 midnight**

December 7-13

Read Chapter 7 carefully, taking extensive notes. In the second week of the assignment, or sooner, begin group work on the questions and exercises.

Last day of class December 11

December 14-20

Final Exams December 12-18

***Chapter 7** work due on or before **December 16 midnight**

Final grades will be posted by December 21. Your final grade for the course will be based on total points earned throughout the semester (up to 14 points for chapter work ($7 \times 14 = 98$ points)). **The remaining 2 points will be discretionary—to be awarded by the instructor at the end of the course. Points will be given for semester performance—meeting requirements and deadlines, showing steady growth and maturity, original and critical thinking.**