

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English and Modern Languages**

Instructor: Jeanie C. Crain, PhD

Office Location: 212 C Eder Hall

Telephone: Office – 816-271-4322

Skype: jeanie124

E-mail: <mailto:crain@missouriwestern.edu>

Office Hours: MWF 10-12, 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 Schedule and Requirements

January 16-22

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 up to five of the more challenging questions and complete at least one exercise (close readings) during a two-week interval. You should answer each question in at least three developed paragraphs; the exercise requires 5-7 well-developed paragraphs.** 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. Please check your work to make sure you have captured your complete document; make sure paragraphs have been clearly marked. Use an attached file only as a backup document. This work will be available to all class members. If you reference the work of any class member, be sure to give that person credit for his/her ideas.

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.

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/>

January 23-29

Read the Preface and Chapter 1 carefully, taking extensive notes. Begin answering the required five questions and completing the require exercise, Allow time to reread your work critically. Post the work by the February 5 due date.

***Preface and Chapter 1 work due by midnight Feb. 5.**

January 30- February 5

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

February 6-12

***Chapter 2** work due **February 19 by midnight.**

February 20-26

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

February 27-March 5

Chapter 3 work due **by March 5 midnight.**

March 6-12

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

March 12-19 Spring Break

MT Grades March 22. Please note that midterm grade will be based on the work for three chapters, leaving four to complete.

March 20-26

***Chapter 4** work due **March 26 midnight.**

March 27-April 2

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

***Chapter 5** work due **April 9 by midnight.**

April 3-9

***Chapter 5** work due **April 9 by midnight.**

April 10-16

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

April 17-23

***Chapter 6** work due **April 23 midnight**

April 24-30

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

***Chapter 7** work due on or before **May 5 midnight**

Final Exams April 29-May 5

Final grades will be posted by May 9. 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.

Class Policies

TECHNOLOGY: The following link

(<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/imc/academic-computing-services> contains information and resources that can aid students with any computer/technical issue that may arise on campus.

MOODLE ENVIRONMENT: The following link will help students troubleshoot issues with their traditional/online classes delivered through

Moodle <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/online/currently-enrolled-students/moodle-help-for-students/>. 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 (at least 3 times a week) 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.

Online Class: You will be expected to login to Moodle at least 3 times a week. 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.

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 (p. 47 Student Handbook):

<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2014/02/StudentHandbook2016.pdf>

<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/eml/online-course-information/online-course-information-policies/>

Plagiarism is a specific kind of academic dishonesty in which you take another's ideas or words and claim them as your own (P. 48 Handbook). 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. This handbook is available online at

<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/>

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 Student Handbook, p. 51.