Spring 1-15-2012

ENG 3600-001: The Bible as Literature

David Raybin

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2012

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation

http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2012/83

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2012 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2012 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
English 3600: The Bible as Literature  
Spring 2012

Instructor: David Raybin  
Office: 24 Coleman Hall  
Office Hours: Tu 9:30-11:30; W 9:30-11:30, 5:30-6:00 (and by appointment)  
Telephone: 581-6980 (office); 330/678-2628 (home, weekends before 8:30)  
Electronic Mail: draybin@eiu.edu

Alter and Kermode, eds. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*  
Bloch and Bloch, *The Song of Songs*

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

January  11: Introduction to the course; historical background  
*The Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis*

18: Genesis (cont.)

25: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers

February  1: Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges

8: 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings

15: Isaiah, Jeremiah

22: Ezekiel, *The Twelve* (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

29: Psalms, Proverbs

March  7: Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes  
Bloch and Bloch, *Song of Songs*

14: Spring Vacation

21: Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Chronicles

28: *Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books*: Tobit, Judith, Add to Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach, Baruch, Let of Jeremiah, *Add to Daniel* (Pr Azar, Sus, Bel), 1 & 2 Macc, 1 Esdras, Prayer of Manasseh, Psalm 151, 3 Mace, 2 Esdras, 4 Macc

** Last Day to Turn in Essay **


11: John, Acts of the Apostles

18: *The Pauline Epistles* (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon)

25: Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation

May  2: Final Examination: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Course Description

The Bible is the most widely read, widely translated, widely owned, and widely commented-on book in the world. As a literary text, it has influenced almost every western writer for the past two thousand years. In this class we will read the book's first edition (The Hebrew Scriptures), material which early editors omitted from the first edition (the Apocrypha), and the major sequel (The New Testament). Immersing ourselves in the Bible's many genres and tones, its diverse styles and voices, we will discover what still after so many centuries remains an extraordinarily compelling literary art.

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes/Study Sheets</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Grade: A= 90-100; B= 80-89.99; C= 70-79.99; D= 60-60.99; F= below 60

Essay: Your essay should be about 6 pages long (ca. 1800 words). Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it. A handout will describe the assignment more fully.

Reading Quizzes/Study Sheets. Quizzes and study sheets are intended to encourage you to prepare carefully and thoughtfully for each class session. Quizzes may not be made up without an authorized absence.

Final Exam. A comprehensive test will encourage you to rethink, organize, and articulate your understanding of the Bible as a work of literature.

Participation. This is not a lecture class. I expect you to show up for every class and offer sensible contributions to the classroom discussion. Excessive absence will result in a lowered grade.

Course/University Policies

Typing. Your essay must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Honor Policy. Education depends on trust. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

Plagiarism. If you use other people's words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

Students with Disabilities. "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible."