Spring 1-15-2000

ENG 3600-001: The Bible as Literature

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English 3600: The Bible as Literature
Spring 2000

Instructor: David Raybin
Office: 324 Coleman Hall
Office Hours: Tu 10:45-12; W 9:15-12 (and by appointment)
Telephone: 581-6980 (office); 330/678-2628 (home, weekends before 8:30)

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.); Exodus

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 Solomon, 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, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, Let of Jeremiah, Add to Daniel (Pr Azar, Sus, Bel), 1 & 2 Maccabees

April 4: 1 Esdras, Prayer of Manasseh, Psalm 151, 3 Macc, 2 Esdras, 4 Macc

** Last Day to Turn in Essay **


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

May 2: Final Examination: 7:30-9:30
Course Description

The Bible is the most widely read, widely translated, widely owned, and widely commented-on book in the world. Along with its spiritual impact, its literary art has influenced almost every western writer for the past two thousand years. In The Bible as Literature 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 after many centuries remains a compelling literary masterpiece.

Course Requirements and Grading

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

- Essay: 20 points
- Reading Quizzes/Study Sheets: 40 points
- Final Exam: 30 points
- Participation: 10 points

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 5 pages long (ca. 1500 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 offer sensible contributions to the classroom discussion.

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."