

English 3390: The Bible as Literature

Dr. Darci Hill, Professor

Office: Evans 206

Hours: TT: 8:30-9:30, 10:50-11:30 a. m.; 3:20-4:00 p. m. (others by appointment)

Phone: 936-294-1473

Email: eng_dnh@shsu.edu

Texts:

(Note: We will most often read only part of a text, a typical practice in a survey course of this nature.

Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Press.

The Holy Bible, Authorized Version, 1611.

Optional but highly recommended:

A Bible concordance: (Strong's, Young's, Bullinger's are all excellent.)

Course Focus:

Course Requirements:

Mid-term Exam	15 %
Final Exam	20 %
Semester project	20%
Oral Presentation	15%
Reading/Lecture/Vocabulary quizzes	15 %
Short papers (2)	10%
Class Participation	5%

Attendance:

Two points will be added to your final grade for **perfect attendance**. If you are absent only two times, one point will be added to your final grade. If you are excessively absent or tardy or if you consistently do not turn in assignments, your professor will submit your name to **First Alert**. Their office will contact you via email. If you do not respond to their communiqué, they will contact your family members.

Grade Average:

Check Blackboard weekly to view your exact grade average.

Communication:

Check Blackboard regularly for any messages posted by your professor. Check your Sam Houston email daily for any messages concerning the class. You will be

held responsible for any communiqués you receive from your professor via Blackboard as well as your Sam Houston email account. If your professor posts a new document on Blackboard, she will send you an email alerting you to that fact. You will also be responsible for any announcements your professor makes in class even if you are not in attendance.

Reading/lecture quizzes:

Most quizzes will be announced. These quizzes will come from material in the reading assignments or lecture notes. Students will need a pencil and two packets of 10 scan-tron quiz strips (1-15) to take these quizzes. Bring these materials with you each class day. You will not be allowed to make up quizzes.

Vocabulary/Terms Quizzes:

All vocabulary quizzes will be administered on Thursdays. Each Thursday you will be quizzed on selected terms. You will not be allowed to make up quizzes.

Quiz Drops: I will drop two of your lowest reading and/or terms quiz grades at the end of the semester.

Readings:

You will be assigned readings to complete for each day of class. Biblical literature should be read leisurely and thoroughly, and aloud. Be prepared when you come to class to ask questions and offer comments on your readings. You will have quizzes on your readings and class lectures. Most of them will be announced. Bring with you each day a pencil and two packets of 10 scan-tron quiz strips (1-15) to take these quizzes.

Exams:

All exams will be administered in essay format. A bluebook is required for each exam. You will have 2 essay exams. Your professor will announce in class any exam you are to have. She will not announce it on Blackboard. Your professor will give you specific guidelines as the exam dates approach.

Spelling and Grammar:

Points will be taken off of all in-class and out-of-class essays for spelling and grammatical errors. Your professor has helpful guides in her office should you have trouble in these areas.

Discussion of Class Policies:

Appropriate Dress:

You should come to class prepared for an intellectual discussion among prepared colleagues. Therefore, any clothing that distracts your classmates will be deemed inappropriate for class. Business casual is the most appropriate attire for this class.

Appropriate Language:

Students should exercise control over their language in this class. You will not be allowed to use profanity of any kind in this classroom. Racial slurs also will not be tolerated. You will be given one warning should you insist on using inappropriate language. The next time you will be asked to leave the course.

Appropriate Use of Electronic Devices:

Cell phones, iPods, I-Phones, CD players, earphones or any other electronic device will not be used in this class. You must have all electronic devices placed out of sight. In other words, I-Phones, for example, cannot be on your desk, in your hands, or in your lap. Laptops may be used for the sole purpose of note-taking. Cell phones must be turned off during class. DO NOT place your phone on vibrate. This, too, is disturbing. Any and all electronic devices used inappropriately will be submitted to your professor for the duration of the class.

Appropriate Behavior:

If students are rude to the professor or to other students, they will be given one warning only. Upon the next instance of rudeness or disruptive behavior, students will be asked to leave the course.

Guest Policy:

You must ask your professor 24 hours ahead of class for permission to bring a guest to class. Your professor will exercise the right to refuse the guest if she deems it best for the class. At NO TIME are infants or children allowed in the classroom.

University Policies

CELL PHONES

As members of the classroom community, all students have a responsibility to others who are a part of that community. The goal is to produce an environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect. Cell phones, laptop computers, pagers, and similar devices have become increasingly a part of life in our society; however, when used in the classroom environment they can become disruptive. Laptop computers, if allowed, may be used for note taking purposes if they are not disruptive to other class members. Students are to turn off cell phones, pagers, and other similar electronic equipment while in the classroom. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the use by students of cell phones, pagers, or similar communication devices during scheduled class-time is prohibited unless specifically permitted by the instructor. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Failure to comply with this policy could result in expulsion from the classroom or with three or more offenses, failure of the course.

If there is an emergency situation for a student, that student should inform the instructor and place himself/herself in a seat near the door where an exit for a phone call would be only minimally disruptive. With instructor approval, students may record lectures, take

notes via laptop computer, etc., provided that they do not disturb other students in the process. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose.

A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that

absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which

the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property

taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Americans with Disabilities:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination.

Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex (tel. 936.294.1720). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. educational process.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

For further explanation of university polices, click here:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Readings and Assignments

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Week 1: Aug 24th

Thurs: Course Introduction

Week 2: Aug 29, 31

Tues: Historical background; Introduction to the Old Testament literature; discuss Preface and Chapter 1, *How to Read...* (Hereinafter cited as HTR)

Thurs: Quiz on lecture; Discuss Chapter 2, Part 1 (Focus: Biblical Narrative)

Week 3: Sept 5, 7

Tues: Quiz on Chapter 2, Part 1; Discuss Chapter 2, Part 2, HTR; (Focus: Biblical Genres); Begin semester project

Thurs: Quiz on Chapter 2, Part 2; Discuss Chapter 3, Part 1, HTR (Focus: Biblical Poetics)

Week 4: Sept 12, 14

Tues: Discuss Literary Terms in the Bible, Part 1; Discuss Chapter 3, Part 2, HTR (Focus: Poetic Genres)

Thurs: Terms quiz; Chap 4, Part 1 (Focus: Narrative Poetry of the Bible)

Week 5: Sept 19, 21

Tues: Chap 4, Part 2; Review for Exam

Thurs: Essay Exam I over Preface-Chap 4

Week 6: Sept 26, 28

Tues: Terms quiz 2; Chap 5, Part 1; (Focus: Wisdom Literature: Aphorisms, Parallelism in the Book of Proverbs)

Thurs: Chap 5, Part 2, (Focus: Wisdom literature, cont'd)

Week 7: Oct. 3, 5

Tues: Quiz on Chap 5; Chap 6, Part 1 (Focus: Poetic Genres other than Psalms and Proverbs)

Thurs: Quiz on Chap 6; Chap 6, Part 2; (Focus: Poetic Genres, cont'd)

Week 8: Oct 10, 12

Tues: Introduction to the New Testament; Chap 7, Part 1 (Focus: the Four Gospels, life of Christ)

Thurs: Chap 7, Part 2 (Focus: the Gospels, cont'd)

Week 9: Oct 17, 19)

Tues: Quiz on Chap 7; Chap 8, Part 1 (Focus: Parables as a literary form; allegory nature of the parables)

Thurs: Chap 8, Part 2 (Focus: Parables, cont'd)

Week 10: Oct 24, 26

Tues: Quiz on Chap 8; (Focus: the Epistle as a literary form, selected passages in Bible TBA); Review for Exam

Thurs: Exam II over Chaps 5-8

Week 11: Oct 31, Nov 2

Tues: Chap 9, Part 1 (Focus: Satire and invective as literary form)

Thurs: Quiz on Chap 9; Chap 9, Part 2 (Satire, invective, cont'd)

Week 12: Nov 7, 9

Tues: Chap 10 (Focus: the Dream Vision as a literary form: John's Vision on the Isle of Patmos)

Thurs: Chap 11-12 (Focus: Artistic Unity of the Bible); Semester Project due (20%)

Week 13: Nov 14, 16

Tues: Oral Presentations

Thurs: Oral Presentations

Week 14: Nov 21

Tues: Exam III over Chaps 9-12

Thurs: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15: Nov 28, 30

Tues: Oral Presentations

Thurs: (Last Class Day for TT classes); Oral Presentations

Week 16: Final Exam (comprehensive)

*Consult "Academic Calendar" on the Sam Houston website for dates and times.