

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 201.14

Winter 2014

COURSE TITLE: Approaches to Literature: The Bible as Literature

Instructor: Clara A.B. Joseph

Office: SS1026

Phone: 403-220-4232

E-mail: cjoseph@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30 to 4:30 or by appointment

Course description: The Bible – both Hebrew and New Testament – is a complicated and captivating text written by several authors over centuries. Nevertheless, it has a unity that some attribute to divine inspiration and others to the human imagination. It is not possible to refer to the Bible without referring to religion, whether Judaism, Christianity, or Islam; but, that is not the fundamental concern of this course. The course will rather focus on the Bible's literary techniques and its variety of genres – myth, history, poetry, prophecy, biography, etc. The course will also examine the historical periods that produced those texts.

The goals of the course are twofold:

- a) to analyze the narratives and to examine their literary techniques and theoretical concepts
- b) to enhance transferable skills in critical thinking, academic research and writing, editing, team-playing, and oral communication.

Course pre-requisites: none.

Required Texts:

Coogan, Michael D. et. al. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. [You may use an alternate version of the Bible; however, lectures will be based on the NRSV]

Gabel, John B. et. al. *The Bible as Literature: An Introduction*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Keefer, Kyle. *The New Testament as Literature: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Clips from the following movies will be shown in class: *The Ten Commandments* (1956) and *Jesus of Nazareth* (1977).

Assignments and Evaluation:

Assignment # 1 is a critical response to assigned readings. This assignment is worth **40%** of your grades in this course. The assignment will consist of the following:

- a) A 200 word proposal. The proposal will identify the primary sources – a passage from the Bible and a chapter from either Keefer or Gabel – and present the topic of your essay, the thesis or the

central argument in your critique of the primary sources, and an overview consisting of three sub-arguments of how you will arrive at your thesis. A tentative bibliography that among others includes at least two articles in Gabel or Keefer as secondary sources should be appended to the proposal (due before midnight on Feb 13) (worth 10%)

- b) An 1800 word essay based on the above proposal (due before midnight on March 27) (worth 20%)
- c) A 15 minute presentation of the essay to the class during the weeks of March 31 and April 7. (worth 10%)

Students will have the opportunity to accomplish the tasks in teams. The presentation should not be a word for word reading of the essay. Instead, the presentation can take creative forms and is the opportunity for the presenter to communicate to as well as engage the class. Mid-term grades are returned normally within two weeks of the assignment due date.

Assignment # 2 is a Registrar scheduled examination, worth **45%** of your grades. The two-hour exam will consist of objective type and essay questions and will be scheduled April 17 Thursday; 19-29 Saturday to Tuesday in Winter 2014.

→ Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period.

Participation grade is **15%**

While marks will be deducted for any distractive behaviour in class, marks will be awarded for the following:

1. Evidence of responsible reading of assigned readings
2. Taking intelligible notes during lectures and discussions
3. Regular and quality submission of in-class assignments.
4. Active and quality participation in discussions and group activities.
5. Successful participation in random quizzes and debates based on lecture material and the readings.
6. Initiative in bringing to the attention of the class relevant popular and academic information.
7. Ability to interact with the class in a professional and enthusiastic manner

NOTE:

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade on the course.

There will be a Registrar Scheduled Exam in this course.

Late assignment policy: Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.

Assignments must be emailed as a Word document to the instructor at cjoseph@ucalgary.ca before midnight of the due date. The file name must be according to the following format: for example, LastnameFirstname_ENGL201Essay_March 27-2014. Students must always copy themselves on any assignment emailed to the instructor, and save the item until final results are received from the

registrar's office. If in doubt of the procedure, it is the responsibility of the student to check with the instructor well in advance. DO NOT SEND THE ASSIGNMENT TO OR VIA BLACKBOARD

Grading system:

90 + %	A+
85 – 89 %	A
80 – 84 %	A–
77 – 79 %	B+
74 – 76 %	B
70 – 73 %	B–
67 – 69 %	C+
64 – 66 %	C
60 – 63 %	C–
55 – 59 %	D+
50 – 54 %	D
0 – 49 %	F

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>

Our email address is **smec@ucalgary.ca**.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at **artsads@ucalgary.ca**. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (**www.ucalgary.ca/usri**). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.”

This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.