

English 390: The Bible as Literature

- **Classroom: AB4, 10:00-11:00 MWF**
- **Dr. Bill Fleming, AB 4, Room 210J**
 - **Phone: 294-4450**
 - **email: fleming@shsu.edu**
 - **Office hours: Daily: 1:00-2:00 p.m.; Other times by appointment**

Course Description: This course (3 hours credit) will investigate ways of reading and interpreting the various genres of the Bible through the use of literary techniques and approaches. The course will include analysis of language and translation. A discussion of redaction will be incorporated as a means of understanding the authorship of the Bible as well as the overall structure of the Old and New Testaments. Prerequisite for the course is nine hours of English.

Instruction and Examination: The course will be taught through lecture, class discussion, and various uses of technology. There will be two examinations utilizing both objective and subjective questions and three essay examination. An oral report will also be required.

Objectives of the Course include

- Understanding the literary elements as they apply to Biblical literature.
- Identifying the several genres included in the Bible.
- Distinguishing the qualities of language of several variations of Bibles.
- Analyzing the stories of the Bible using literary elements.
- Realizing the differences between Biblical poetry and other forms.

Textbooks:

- Attridge, Harold W., General Editor. *The Harper Collins Study Bible*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2006.
- Alter, Robert. *Genesis*. Norton & Company, 1996.
- Alter, Robert. *The David Story*. Norton & Company, 1999.

Attendance/Absence/Make-Up Policy:

- **Absences** are recorded; eight or more absences will result in automatic failure for the course. A doctor's excuse does not remove an absence. Students who miss class must get their notes from other students. Missed handouts will be given, but the class will not be re-taught. It is wise to find a study partner. Tardies begin after attendance is taken. Two tardies = one absence.
- **Tests:** The class period following each objective test will be devoted to going over the test and you will be allowed to defend in writing any answer you missed. You can argue as many answers as you can in the time remaining in the class period. If I accept your argument, you will receive the points back for that question; you will not receive your arguments back, but you will receive your scan-trons. This class period is the only time you can argue missed questions. If you miss a test, you will have an opportunity at the end of the semester to take a test to replace that test grade, although this make-up test will be comprehensive and will only replace one missed test.

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Grading Plan: All tests (2), papers (3) and oral reports (1) will be graded on 100 point scale and all will count equally. Students will be made aware of their classroom average upon request.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism is defined as identifying someone else's words or ideas as if they were your own. This can range from submitting a paper written by someone else as if it were your work, to copying words or sentences from someone else without putting them in quotation marks and properly citing the source. Please leave help notes (Cliff, Monarch, Spark, etc.) at home and never quote them in your work. Cheating is using additional information for tests, such as notes or other devices on which anticipated answers can be stored. Cheating is also looking on someone else's test sheet for answers. As a warning: there could be different tests distributed, so that the answers on one may not correspond to the answers on another. The University has issued these statements concerning 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.

Statement of Reasonable Accommodations: If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, you may register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. This will be kept confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. Please contact the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

Visitors in the Classroom:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Religious Holidays: A student desiring to be absent from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) must present a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first 15 days of the semester. Absences include class attendance or other required activities including examinations and travel. A student whose absence is excused 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. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

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

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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.

Q-Drops: A Q-drop is a drop made after the last date for tuition refunds (12th class day for fall/spring; 4th class day for summer) but before the date for which a drop would result in the grade of 'F' as published in the Academic Calendar. Students will be allowed no more than five Q-drops during their academic career at Sam Houston State University. Classes dropped prior to the Q-drop date will not count toward the limit. Any class dropped by the 12th class day (4th in summer) will not appear on the student's transcript. Students who have used their limit of five Q-drops will need to petition their respective dean to drop a class. If the dean refuses to grant permission to drop a class, a student will be required to remain in the class. This limit will take effect with the start of the fall 2004 semester. Any drops accumulated prior to the fall 2004 semester will not be included in the five Q-drop limit.

Schedule of Readings and Tests: Please see attached calendar

Classroom etiquette: Students in this class have been in many college classes prior to this one and should understand the proper classroom manners. Cell phones should be turned off, all electronics should be off, and materials not related to the course study should be put away. If a student has to leave the room, it is best for him/her to sit near the door so that the leaving will not be disruptive.

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