

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE /
ARTS, COMMERCE, & EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE Jan 2008

ENGLISH 2510 King James Bible as Literature

CREDITS: 3 (3-0-0) 1 semester **LEVEL:** Senior English Literature

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Elroy Deimert PhD Deimert@gprc.ab.ca
office C426 ph. 403-539-2984 hrs. Mon. & Wed. 1 PM–2:30

PREREQUISITE: 6 credits of Junior UT English

APPLICABLE PROGRAMS: BA English, BA General, B. ED., option for other programs

METHOD OF DELIVERY: GPRC classroom mode--lecture & seminar.
GPRC Bookstore supplies all texts.

CLASS SIZE: The maximum is 35 students.

CLASS SCHEDULE: Jan. 3- Apr.11 MW 2:30–3:50 p.m.

SCOPE: EN 2510 is a study of the King James Bible as literature, its historical and cultural context, its preeminent position in English literature and culture as a source of inspiration and cultural foundation, as well as a source of allusion, motif, symbol, and narrative mythos for much of our literature from Shakespeare to contemporary literature in English. The course studies various literary genres within the canon and the Apocrypha as well as touching on prose and poetry that has taken its inspiration, themes or motifs from the Bible. The course also touches on the history of the writing, the source manuscripts, and the translation, as well as a cursory look at its relation to religion, contemporary cultural impacts, hermeneutics, and popular beliefs about the Bible.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course asserts the claim of the King James Bible to a supreme position in English literature in two ways: by regarding the KJB as an encyclopedic book of various genres, and by considering it as the single most important source of myth and symbols for English authors. The influence of writers ranging from Shakespeare to T.S. Eliot will be uncovered.

EVALUATION:	2 researched essays, 2000 words (8 pages each)	30% & 30%
	1 oral seminars not always from researched essays	12%
	1 in-class essay at the end of the semester	18%
	Attendance, participation, & critical response to reading	10%

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Essays lose substantial marks if they are less than the minimum-word length (this does not include quoted support). All essays, except in-class assignments, must be typed. MLA standards are required for documentation and format. **Attendance** and discussion is required as part of the participation grade.

Penalties for plagiarism (see definition in Student Handbook) are enforced. Late essays are penalized and essays more than 3 days late **need not be** accepted without written permission from the instructor. Students that do not show up when they are to do a presentation may not receive credit for the assignment, or may lose substantial grades *if*, at the instructor's discretion, they are allowed to present at an alternative time.

TEXTS:

Crozier, Lorna *Apocrypha of Light*
Gabel, John. C.B. Wheeler, et al *The Bible as Literature*
(recommended)
Hacker, Diane *Pocket Style Manual*, 4th ed.
Jerusalem Bible
King James Bible
Quinn, Daniel *Ishmael*

BOOKS ON RESERVE CONTAINING SOME BACKGROUND READINGS

Frye, N. *The Great Code*

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS are provided through GPRC Library and Media Services. GPRC is a member of NEOS.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN & CURRICULUM:

Students do seminars on individual works, followed by class discussion and lectures. Lectures address theme, style and structure, and background material in the culture and history that influences the work. Chronology dictates the units to some extent, although movements and developments in genres also influence the order of study. Students learn to appreciate and critique the literature through expository essays, seminar presentation, and verbal discussion at acceptable standards. Lectures, student seminars, film, group discussion, participation in literary readings, critical research and writing are employed toward these ends.

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Tentative Schedule of Seminars & Lectures

Jan 7, 9 Intro: and some slides / BAL (*The Bible As Literature*) pp 1-60
 & 359-387 Origins of the Bible

Jan 14, 16 BAL 61-120, Genesis: Creation Story / Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Jan 21, 23 Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Woman / Crozier & woman BAL
327-358

Jan. 28, 29 Exodus, Wilderness motifs and allegory/ Promise Land

Feb. 4, 6 Judges, Samuel versus monarchy/ Saul, David, Solomon archetypes

Feb. 11, 13 Psalms, Proverbs, BAL 121-151 / Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Feb. 25, 27 BAL 282-326 Ishmael **1st Essay Due Feb. 25**

Mar. 3, 5 Kings & Chronicles: Elijah, Elisha / Captivity & the Histories

Mar. 10, 12 BAL 327-358 Esther, Judith, & Job / Crozier: Apocrypha of
Light

Mar. 19, 20 Major Prophets / BAL 152-168 Minor Prophets, Revelation
(Apocalyptic Lit.) BAL 169-223

Mar. 24, 25 BAL 225-244 Gospels: Mathew, Mark, Luke / John **2nd essay due
Mar 25**

Mar. 31, Apr 2 BAL 245-267 Acts (Judaism/Christianity) / Letters

April 7 & 9 *Pilgrims Progress* to *The Poisonwood Bible* / **In-Class ESSAY** (Apr.
12)