

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE /
ARTS, COMMERCE, & EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE Jan 2009

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 Office hours: Thur 2:30-5:30

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 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 encyclopaedic 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, 1750 words (7 pages each)	30% & 30%
1 oral seminars not always from researched essays	15%
1 in-class essay at the end of the semester	15%
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	<u><i>Apocrypha of Light</i></u>
Gabel, John. C.B. Wheeler, et al	<u><i>The Bible as Literature</i></u>
Hacker, Diane	<u><i>Pocket Style Manual</i></u> , 4 th ed.
<i>The New Jerusalem Bible</i>	
<i>King James Bible</i>	
Quinn, Daniel	<u><i>Ishmael</i></u>

BOOKS ON RESERVE: 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, all 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 Intro: and some slides / **BAL** (*The Bible As Literature*) origins of the Bible 306-326 306-326

Jan 14 **BAL** 1-120, & 359-372 Genesis: Creation Story & Noah / Milton=s *Paradise Lost*

Jan 21 **BAL** 327-358 Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Women / *Apocrypha of Light* Crozier

Jan. 28 **BAL** 268- 305 *Exodus* 1-23, 32-34 Numbers 11-14, 20-25 Joshua 1-11, 24 Wilderness motifs and allegory/ Promise Land archetypes

Feb 4 **BAL** 327-358 *Ruth, Esther, Judith*, & Lilith / Crozier: *Apocrypha of Light*

Feb 11 **BAL** 121-133 *Judges, I & II Samuel, I Kings* 1-3 Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon
(*essay thesis, outline, and works cited is due 5%*)

Feb 25 **BAL** 306-326, 381-387 Kings & Chronicles: Elijah, Elisha, Captivity & the Histories
1st Essay Due Feb. 25

Mar. 4 Psalms 1, 23, 42-43, 46-51, 63, 103-104, 121, 126, 127, 133, 137, 150 Proverbs 9, 31
Ishmael

Mar. 11 **BAL** 134-151 *Job, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon*

Mar. 18 **BAL** 152-188 Major Prophets / Minor Prophets, Revelation (Apocalyptic Lit.)
(*essay thesis, outline, and works cited is due 5%*)

Mar. 25 **BAL** 189-244 , 373-380 Gospels: Mathew, Mark, Luke / John
2nd essay due Mar 25

Apr 1 **BAL** 245-267 Acts (Judaism/Christianity) / Letters

Apr 8 *Pilgrims Progress* to *The Poisonwood Bible* / **In-Class ESSAY** (Apr. 12)