



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2023

EN2510 (A3): KING JAMES BIBLE AS LITERATURE

3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Sally Jones **PHONE:** (780) 539-2235
OFFICE: C-426 **E-MAIL:** sjones@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:00 pm and by appointment

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

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 on writers ranging from Shakespeare to T.S. Eliot will be uncovered.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Six credits of Junior English

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

A Tale of Two Cities, by Charles Dickens (Alma Classics, ISBN 978-1847496607)

The Oxford Study Bible, edited by M. Jack Suggs, Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, James R. Mueller (Oxford UP, 1992) (ISBN: 9780195290004)

The Literary Guide to the Bible by Robert Alter and Frank Kermode (Harvard UP, 1990) (ISBN: 978-0674875319)

Note: All required texts are available at the GPRC Bookstore. If you use other editions, please make certain they are all unabridged. Supplementary readings will be posted to our course site.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Course work includes lectures, class discussions, group work, in-class quizzes, online assignments, film, and individual student work, both written and oral.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The aim of this course is for students to become familiar with

- literary genres that comprise Biblical texts including myth, epic, poetry, narrative, proverb, legend, prophecy, epistle, parable, sermon;
- Biblical archetypes that are echoed in classic literary allusions;
- key Biblical characters, whose names carry literary significance;
- the history of canon formation, textual scholarship, translation in English, and interpretation;
- the influence of the Bible on literature, history, and culture

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students should

- be aware of the importance of the Bible to the development of literature in English
- be able to identify and analyse literary theory, themes, and techniques
- be adept at writing literary analysis essays at an advanced level

TRANSFERABILITY:

This course is considered a University Transferable Course; however, the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability and transferable grades.**

EVALUATIONS:

There will be several unscheduled reading quizzes during this course, and in terms of preparation, these will require only careful reading of the day's assigned text. A final examination will be scheduled by the registrar, and students must not make travel plans prior to this date.

Unit Tests	30%
Presentation and critical response	20%
Essay	20%
Final Exam	30%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	87-94		C	2.0	64-66
A-	3.7	80-86		C-	1.7	60-63
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	74-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-73		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

(a separate detailed daily reading schedule with sources and page numbers will be distributed in class)

Weeks 1-4	The Torah: Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel, Exodus, Migration
Weeks 5-7	Wisdom Literature and Poetry
Weeks 8-9	Prophetic Writing
Weeks 10-11	The New Testament: Synoptic Gospels
Weeks 12-14	Epistolary Evangelism
Weeks 15-16	Revelation or the Apocalypse

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Essays will *not* be accepted after the due date unless prior arrangements have been approved by the Professor. Penalties of 10% per day late may be applicable in these cases. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, and 12-pt font. **Assignments not meeting these criteria will not be accepted.**
2. Tests cannot be made up, but in the case of a *verifiable medical emergency*, with official doctor's note, may be excused.
3. Students will not receive credit for any work or deadline missed because of an **unexcused** absence. If students are absent the day of a scheduled presentation (group or individual) they will receive a 0 for the presentation or project.
4. The reading outline is subject to change according to time constraints and other considerations; therefore, students are responsible for any changes that are announced in class whether they are in attendance or not.
5. Please keep a copy of all written work. In the event of theft or loss, the student is required to submit a duplicate copy.
6. Students are expected to check the course site before each class to stay informed; in the event of a class cancellation, the announcement will be posted.
7. Students are advised to read the GPRC Admissions Guide for the rules regarding Registration, Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

*Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.

Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: 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 myths for much of our literature from Shakespeare to contemporary literature in English. The course studies

various literary genres within the canon, 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.

NOTE: EN 2510 is not a theology or religious studies class; this is a literature class, so our aim will be to consider the Bible as the most read and quoted text in English literature, and to facilitate our literary interpretation of recognizable Biblical allusions.

