



## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

### COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2019

#### EN3055 (A2): Literature and Religion – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Craig Smith

**PHONE:** 780-539-2894

**OFFICE:** C308

**E-MAIL:** CrSmith@gprc.ab.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 2:30-3:30; Thursdays 10:30-11:30-2:20; or by appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This course will address some closely linked topics in literature and religion mainly in the biblical tradition. Students will read selected biblical texts and works of literature from different historical periods. The focus will be on a wide variety of concepts such as self-knowledge, imagination and nature.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** 6 credits of junior English

#### REQUIRED TEXTS/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Endo, Shusaku – *Silence*

Findley, Timothy – *Not Wanted on the Voyage*

Crace, Jim – *Quarantine*

Okparanta, Chinelo – *Under the Udala Trees*

Other class readings will be posted to Moodle; it is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these documents well in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** The course work includes lecture, class discussion, in-class quizzes, oral presentations, and written assignments.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The aims of this course are to consider the ways in which literature and religion converge. In doing so, we will explore what happens when the theological comes into contact with the aesthetic. Reading works from a range of

international locations from a broad selection of genres, this course seeks to determine how literature and religion complement and compete with each other, how private and particular experiences of faith are transformed through literary expression, and how literature draws from a shared cultural storehouse of religious texts to address both immediate concerns and persistent, timeless questions.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** After taking this course, the successfully participating students will demonstrate the following:

- Familiarity with and the ability to use terms pertinent to the discussion of literature and religion
- An understanding of intertextual practice and theory, particularly in relation to the biblical tradition
- The ability to write coherent, well-developed analytical essays
- The ability to conduct responsible research and to use secondary sources effectively

**TRANSFERABILITY:** UA, Augustana, UL, King's, AU

**\*Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **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 Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

**\*\* 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.**

## **EVALUATIONS:**

Attendance/Participation – 10%

Reading Quizzes – 5%

Presentations (two in total) – 10%

Short Paper – 15%

Longer Paper – 25%

Moodle Discussion Questions – 5%

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-**.

<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>		<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

### **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Week 1: Introduction to the course

Weeks 2-5: The Literature of Faith I: Divine Justice, Providence, and Theodicy

Weeks 5-8: The Literature of Faith III: Upheaval, Uncertainty, and Angst

Weeks 8-10: The Literature of Doubt: Disbelief and After

Weeks 11-12: Historicizing Christ

Weeks 13-15: Christianity and world literature

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Written assignments are to be uploaded to Moodle. Late work will be penalized **5%** per day, with weekends counting as two days.
2. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.
3. Students are expected to attend *all* classes. Unexcused absences will negatively affect the participation component of a student's grade and could result in a failing grade for that component of a student's final mark.
4. Students are required to check the Moodle site for this course before each class to stay informed concerning the schedule of readings as well as course updates and announcements.
5. Cellphones are to be turned off and kept out of sight during class time. Students who text while the instructor and/or other students are speaking will lose marks for participation. Similarly, students must display good classroom etiquette at all times. This includes coming to class on time, not packing up to leave before the instructor has indicated that class is over, and not engaging in discussions with others while the instructor or other students are speaking. The unwillingness to abide by these expectations will result in a student receiving a failing grade for participation.
6. The final exam for this class will be scheduled by the registrar and will take place in December. The exam **will not** be rescheduled except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required for any student wishing to write the final exam on an alternate date.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities at [www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES)

## 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 section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

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 at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>