

The English Bible and Literature

聖經與文學

This course is intended primarily for readers with little prior knowledge of the Bible. It introduces students to some of the most famous narratives, characters, literary forms, and teachings of the Bible in the context of their significance for literature and culture. We will read selections from the Hebrew Bible (also called the Tanakh, known to Christians as the Old Testament) and the New Testament, focusing on the best-known narratives in Genesis and Exodus, the story of David, samples of the prophetic and poetic books like Isaiah, Job, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, The Song of Solomon, and the life and teachings of Jesus. Besides selections from the Bible, we will discuss the significance of the particular *language* of the Bible and explore a selection of modern interpretations and commentaries on the Bible in literature and cinema.

N.B. This course is a secular study of the Bible. It is a literature course, not a course on religious faith nor a self-improvement/spirituality course. If you are looking for Christian theology and/or spiritual improvement, this course is not for you. The course touches upon faith and religion only so far as they are cultural and historical phenomena that are relevant to human society, and when we discuss them they are not faith and theology as modern people or readers understand them today.

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*Your instructor's email is for professional communication only: e.g., over your academic study, your intellectual and scholarly interests, your work for this course and your interest in this course as a student. **Do not** include my email in any mass email or email list, and do not forward any email of personal interest to me. If you wish to share with me your personal interest in any extra-curricular programs or any charitable, social, or political cause, feel free to speak to me after class or during my office hour.

Core Capabilities:

文學組大學部學生核心能力：

The ability to communicate and express oneself in English 溝通表達與語文能力 15%

The ability to analyze classic canons of literature 文學經典的分析與詮釋 40%

The ability to look for problems and conduct research 問題發掘與研究能力 15%

The ability to think creatively 創作與創新能力 15%

The ability to examine issues through global and multicultural perspectives 全球化與國際視野及多元文化認知能力 15%

Required text:

English Bible, King James Version

Assessment:

The following are the conditions you must fulfill to earn a passing grade in this course:

- Statement of academic honesty and integrity 5%
- Attendance and class participation 25%
- First midterm exam 25%
- Second midterm exam 35%
- Final exam 10%

In order to pass the course, you **must** fulfill all of the above requirements. If you omit any of the above, you will automatically fail the course. **No make-up** is available for any of the above in this course.

****Academic honor**

Academic honor is vital to sound learning and study on all levels of the university for both professors and students. Plagiarism is a violation of academic honor, and anyone caught cheating or committing plagiarism in *any* work submitted for grade evaluation for this course will receive a “0” (letter grade “X”) for the entire course. The department’s plagiarism statement and the instructor’s information on plagiarism and academic honor are available to you on eLearn for this course. Read, view, and study all material on plagiarism and academic honor on eLearn carefully and ask your instructor any questions you may have about the content of these files. Besides outright failure of final grade for cheating and plagiarism, other violations of academic honor (including but not limited to lying, bullying, harassment, or the use of disrespectful language in the course and/or in a setting pertaining to the course, online or in person) will earn a “0” grade for class participation and severe penalties in final grade. **No make-up** is available for any work that is guilty of plagiarism or other violations of academic honor.

Policy on required academic work for this course

- All required academic work for this course (including the statement on academic honesty and integrity) must be completed by dates specified on the syllabus. **No late statement of academic honesty and integrity will be accepted. No makeup for a test** is available in this course. You may submit the statement on academic honesty and integrity before the due date, but you will fail the course if you submit it after the due date.
- If you are unable to take a test for this course on the date scheduled on the syllabus, you must notify the instructor **four** weeks before the date of the test to schedule a different date for your test and to arrange a different testing site for you.
- Failure to take the test on the date scheduled and within the timeframe specified will result in a failing grade (an “X” grade) for the entire course. The only acceptable excuse for not submitting or completing required academic work in this course on time is personal hospitalization or a death in the family.

Schedule of discussion

Week	Reading and discussion
1	Genesis: Abraham and the Covenant

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3	Genesis: Israel
4	Genesis: Moses and the Promised Land
5	1 Samuel: Saul and David
6	2 Samuel: King David Psalms Song of Songs
7	First midterm exam
8	Ecclesiastes Esther
9	Job
10	1 Kings Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel
11	Mark Matthew Luke
12	John Acts Romans 1 Corinthians
13	Revelations
14	Second midterm exam
15	Bible-themed film
16	Final exam