# San José State University Department of English & Comparative Literature College of Humanities & the Arts/ ENGL 115: The Bible as Literature, Spring 2024

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| Instructor: | Dr. Mary Warner |
| Office Location: | FOB 127 |
| Telephone: | (408) 924-4417 |
| Email: | mary.warner@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | **Office & Advising** **Hrs**.: M: 10:30-12:00, 4:45-5:30, W: 10:30-12:00, 4:45-5:30 F: 2:30-5:00; To schedule an appointment, please go to the following link on the English Department website: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/selfsched?sstoken=UVBKRUthNXRMajE5fGRlZmF1bHR8ZTQxYmYx  MzUwNDY0ZmZmNDQ5MjhhYTE4MTQ3MzcyNDM  **(Because I am in the Faculty Early Retirement Program, I am ½ time each semester and unavailable on Tuesdays & Thursdays)** |
| Class Days/Time: | M & W: 3:00-4:15 |
| Classroom: | Sweeney Hall 229 |

**Prerequisites**: As this is an upper division course, it is expected that you have already taken general education requirements such as ENGL 1A and 1B, and that you have already developed upper division skills as well as high standards for your written work. In English department courses, your instructors comment not only on the content of your written work, but also on the quality of work being displayed. All student writing should contain clear focus, correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

## Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/mary.warner/>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn any updates.

## Course Description

## Study of the Bible from the perspective of literature. In ENGL 115, The Bible as Literature, students will examine key portions of the Bible, exploring its array of subjects, themes, literary styles and genres, and contributions to the literature of Western Civilization. (4 credits)

**Course Goals**: Students will learn to

1. read, discuss, and understand the Bible from a non-sectarian literary

perspective

2. identify, analyze, and interpret the literary devices used

3. identify, analyze, and interpret major themes in specific books of the Bible

4. recognize the Bible's rich contribution to other major literary works and integrate this knowledge with that for other course work in the humanities

5. produce thoughtful written work demonstrating the abilities learned in 1-4

above

## Program Learning Outcomes

**Student Learning Goals & Objectives:**

**Department of English & Comparative Literature**

**I.** Students will demonstrate the ability to

1. read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
2. show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
3. write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
4. develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

ENGL 115 specifically addresses the following Program Learning Objectives:

read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric - **Course Requirements 1, 4, 5, 6**

write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject - **Course Requirements 2, 5**

develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively - **Course Requirements 2, 3**

## articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts - By its very nature the Bible is a work of many genres and of cultural and historical significance and addresses this PLO.

## Required Texts/Readings

*The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha*, Revised Standard Version, 5th edition. Coogan, Michael D., ed; Brettler, Marc Z., Carol A. Newsom, and Pheme Perkins, assoc. eds. Oxford University Press USA, 2018.

Moyers, Bill D. *Genesis: A Living Conversation*. 1st ed., Doubleday, 1996.

<https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CALS_SJO/tu4ck5/alma991001042299702919>

Moyers, Bill D., et al. *Genesis: A Living Conversation*. Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2003.

https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CALS\_SJO/tu4ck5/alma991011530249702919

Schippe, Cullen., and Chuck. Stetson. *The Bible and Its Influence*. 2nd ed., BLP Pub., 2011.

<https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CALS_SJO/tu4ck5/alma991013820219102919>

**Course Handouts:** located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/mary.warner/>

## Library Liaison

Peggy Cabrera: Email: [**peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu**](mailto:judyr@sjsu.edu); Phone: 408-808-2034

## Course Requirements and Assignments

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” More details about student workload can be found in at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

1. **Because this is a 4-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of twelve hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. This course will have integrated into the syllabus the following 1-unit enhancement which will comprise 20% of the course grade:**

* Increased course content and/or collateral readings

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1-2 page-paper on a Psalm of your choice | Due April 8 |
| Response to a video lecture on **one** of the following topics: Biblical women, Song of Songs/Ecclesiastes, the Book of Revelation, or Music in the Hebrew Bible or in the Christian Foundational Writings; or of a literary/musical/artistic/historical/political work influenced by a book or chapter of the Bible | 1-3-page-paper of summary and commentary; Oral Presentation on April 17 or May 8 |
| 1-2-page-paper on the focus of the Gospel of Luke or Matthew | Due April 29 |
|  |  |

2. Thorough and engaged reading of all assigned texts. The course's fundamental purpose is to increase students' familiarity with the literary aspects of the Bible, comprehensively, not as isolated quotations, and to this end, students must do consistent and careful reading. **20% of the overall grade for the course is determined by participation and discussion**, neither of which can be done well without doing the necessary reading. One specific measurement of participation will be the Key Quotes due Mondays at the beginning of class. Additionally, oral presentations: the response to a video in the *Genesis: A Living Conversation* series; presentation on imagery in Isaiah Chapters 40-66; oral reading of a chapter from the Gospel according to Mark – are components of participation. – (**SLO 1)**

3. **Two essays of 3-5 pages**--one of the essays will come from topics connected to the study of the Old Testament, specifically the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy); the Neviim (the Prophets)--selections from the Former Prophets: Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings; and the Latter Prophets: Amos, Hosea, Habakkuk, Jonah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; and the Ketuvim (the Writings)--including selections from Psalms and Proverbs, the book of Job, the Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes).

The second essay will be based on topics from New Testament or the Christian Foundational Writings--the Gospel According to Mark, the Gospel According to John (selections), the Acts of the Apostles, selections from Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and Galatians; and Revelation. Each essay is worth the following percentage of the overall course grade. **(PLO 1 & 2)**

Essay One--**10%-- due March 25**

Essay Two--**15% -- due May 6 or 8**

I will provide a rubric for scoring the essays as a separate handout

4. You will give an oral presentation of one of your essays or writings for the 4th credit requirements--you will be able to select the writing on which you'd like to report. Oral presentations should be 5-8 minutes and should offer your insights and research findings. Oral presentations of Paper 1 are on **March 27;** for Paper 2 on **May 8**. Oral presentations will earn **10% of your overall grade. – (PLO 4)**

5. A mid-term examination on **March 13** that will account for **10% of the course grade.**

6. Individual presentations of Chapters from *The Bible and Its Influence* – I will provide a separate schedule and more details on a separate handout. This requirement is **10% of the course grade.**

7. A final examination that will account for **10% of the course grade**

I evaluate and assess all of the requirements listed above according the grading policy

listed below.

**Grading Policy**

Grades:The above requirements equal 100%; I assign numerical values to each assignment according to the following range

A: 91-99 B: 82-90 C: 73-81 D: 64-72 F: 63 and below

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog (Grades-Letter Grading). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A+/A/A- = excellent; B+/B/B- = above average; C+/C/C- = average; D+/D/D- = below average; F=failure. Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a “+” or a “- “grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment. Your best efforts are expected and appreciated, but effort alone may not assure the highest grade if the writing or presentation does not meet the criteria for the assignment.

## Classroom Protocols

**Attendance/Participation:** According to University policy F69-24, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class.” Come on time and stay for the full class session. I also believe in student-directed learning that suggests you want to be present at every class to get all you can from the course. **Any absence will affect your overall grade in the course since writing activities, discussion, and other participative activities cannot be made up.**

**\*\*** Out of consideration for your classmates and so you can give your undivided attention to class activities, no cell phones, iPhones, texting etc. are allowed; if you are using an e-reader, these should be used only for reading materials for class.

**\*\*** I do **NOT** accept late papers. IF for some reason you need an exception, you must contact me I**N ADVANCE** of the due date, but the paper may still be accessed as late and the grade lowered.

**\*\*\*I do not check email on Sundays; please don’t look for a response if you send an email those days. Note as well, I’m not available on Tuesdays and Thursdays as I am in the FERP (Faculty Early Retirement Program and am half time each semester) \*\*\***

## University Policies: Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. is available on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php

# ENGL 115: The Bible as Literature, Spring 2024, Course Schedule

(This calendar is subject to change to better meet your needs and to adapt to speakers or other changes in course content; course material may be added throughout the semester)

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | W., Jan. 24 | Introduction to the course, the syllabus; Protocols for study of the  Bible from a literary perspective; Introductory writing activity;  Presentation of key terms and background  ASSIGNMENT: Introduction; Genesis 1-13-- 2 Key Quotes **due on M., Jan. 29**; Presenters for *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*) Chapters 2 & 3 prepare to present on Jan. 29; **\*\*\*If the CSU strikes, this content will move to Jan. 29** |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | M., Jan. 29  W., Jan. 31 | Voices in the Text/Creation Stories/the "Silent Spots"--Begin discussing Genesis 1-13 and presentation of material from Chapters 2 & 3 *B&IInf*; Discussion of Key Quotes;  ASSIGNMENT: Genesis 15-23; Presenter for *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*) Ch. 4 prepare to present on Feb. 5  Video from the *Genesis: A Living Conversation* series;  ASSIGNMENT: Cont. reading of Genesis through Ch. 35; Responses to the video we’ve viewed in class; View one of the videos in the *Genesis* series before **Mon., Feb. 12** and record notes for an oral report; 2 Key Quotes for Mon., Feb. 5; Presenter for Chapter 5 *B&IF* prepare to present on Wed., Feb. 7 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | M., Feb. 5  W., Feb. 7 | Cont. discussion of Genesis 24-35; Oral Presentations on *Genesis* videos; Presentation of Ch. 4 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*)  ASSIGNMENT: Genesis 37-50; Reports on remaining *Genesis* videos;  Finish discussion of Genesis; Continue Oral Presentations on *Genesis* videos, Presentation of Ch. 5 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*); Key Quotes discussion;  ASSIGNMENT: Exodus 1-20; Presenter for Chapter 6 & Exodus part of Ch 7 *B&IInf* prepare to present on Feb. 12; 2 Key Quotes due Feb. 12 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | M., Feb. 12  W., Feb. 14 | Begin discussion of Exodus; Presentations of Ch. 6 and Ch. 7 (pp. 64-71) *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*)  ASSIGNMMENT: Exodus 21-24, 28-29,32-34; Presenter for Ch. 7 (Leviticus and Numbers portion) *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*) prepare to present on Feb. 14  Cont. discussion of Exodus: the Meeting on Sinai; the Theme of Memory; Key Quotes discussion; Presentation of Ch. 7 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*)  ASSIGNMENT: Leviticus 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 19-26; 2 Key Quotes due Feb. 19 |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | M., Feb. 19  W., Feb. 21 | Leviticus 1,4, 7, 10, 12, 19 – 26: the Slave Mentality, Offerings, the Law and Service to God;  ASSIGNMENT: Numbers 6, 8, 11, 12-17, 20, 24, 27; Presenter for Deuteronomy portion *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*) prepare for Feb. 21  Discussion of the Book of Numbers; Explanation of Commentary Essays, Topics and Rubric for Paper 1; Presentation of Deuteronomy portion of Ch. 7 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*); Discussion of Key Quotes  ASSIGNMENT: Deuteronomy 1-13, 15-16, 18-20; 2 Key Quotes due Feb. 26 |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | M., Feb. 26  W., Feb. 28 | Deuteronomy and the “Threefold If”  ASSIGNMENT: Deuteronomy 21-23, 25-27, 30-34  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  Completion of Deuteronomy; Discussion of Key Quotes  ASSIGNMENT: Joshua 1-13, 20-24; 2 Key Quotes due March 4; Presenter for Ch. 8 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*) prepare for presentation on March 4 |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | M., March 4  W., March 6 | Joshua: the Taking of the Land; Presentation of Ch. 8 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*);  ASSIGNMENT: Judges 1-6, 8, 11, 13-16, 19-21  Judges: Songs—Song of Deborah; Jephthah’s Daughter; the Cycle; Discussion of Key Quotes  ASSIGNMENT: 1 Samuel; Presenter of Ch. 9 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*) prepare for March 11; 2 Key Quotes for March 11; **Heads Up:** Paper 1 is **due March 25** |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | M., March 11  W. March 13 | The History Books – 1 Samuel: ”Absalom, Absalom”; Presentation on Chapter 9 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*); Review for Midterm  ASSIGNMENT: Prepare for the Midterm  **Midterm Exam**  ASSIGNMENT: 2 Key Quotes due March 18; 2 Samuel 1-24; Paper 1 is **due March 25** |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | M., March 18  W., March 20 | 2 Samuel  ASSIGNMENT: 1 Kings 1-4, 8, 10-13, 17-19, 22; Presenter for Chapter 10 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*) prepare for presentation on March 20  1Kings; Discussion of Key Quotes; Presentation of Ch. 10 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf)*; Information regarding Oral Presentations of Paper 1 or of a literary/musical/artistic/historical/political work influenced by a book or chapter of the Bible  ASSIGNMENT: 2 Kings 1-5, 23-25; Presenter for Ch. 13 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf*) prepare for presentation on March 25 |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | M., March 25  W., March 27 | 2 Kings 1-5, 23-25; Introductory materials on Psalms; Presentation of Ch. 13 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf)*  ASSIGNMENT: Prepare for Oral Presentations  Oral Presentations of Paper 1 or 4th credit enhancement;  ASSIGNMENT: Psalms 1-10, 19, 23, 42, 51, 89, 90, 120-130, 139, 150; Paper on a psalm of your choice – due **April 8**; Amos, Hosea, Habakkuk, Jonah (you’ll be assigned one of these to read); Presenter for Ch. 12 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf)* prepare to present on April 8 |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | M., April 8  W., April 10 | "The Prophetic Conventions,” Amos, Hosea, Habakkuk, Jonah –presenting on the one you were assigned;  ASSIGNMENT: Isaiah 1-10, Individual chapters from Isaiah 40-66; Presenter for Ch. 11 *The Bible and Its Influence* (*B&IInf)* prepare to present on April 10  Isaiah: The Messianic Prophet—reports on Chapters 40-66; Presentation of Chapter 11 *The Bible and Its Influence*  ASSIGNMENT: Jeremiah 1-15 and Ezekiel 1-10, 20; 2 Key Quotes due April 15; Presenters for Ch. 14 & Ch. 16 *The Bible and Its Influence* prepare to present on April 15 |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | M., April 15  W., April 17 | Jeremiah 1-15 and Ezekiel 1-10, 20; Presentation of Chapters 14 & 16 *The Bible and Its Influence* present; Check in on 4th credit enhancement paper/presentation; Topics for Paper 2  ASSIGNMENT: Proverbs 1-8; Song of Songs; 4th credit enhancement paper/presentation if selecting **April 17 date**;  Presentation of Ch. 15 *The Bible and Its Influence*; Presentation of 4th credit enhancement papers; Song of Songs  ASSIGNMENT: Reading you are able to do from the Book of Job |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | M., April 22  W., April 24 | Video lecture on the Book of Job: Dr. Ralph Williams, the University of Michigan; assignment of the chapter from Mark that you will read aloud;  ASSIGNMENT: Prepare for Oral Reading of the Gospel according to Mark; Presenters for Chapters 21 & 22 *The Bible and Its Influence* prepare to present on April 24  The Drama--The Gospel According to Mark;  ASSIGNMENT: selections from the Gospel According to John--Ch. 1 and 13-2; 1-2-page-paper on Gospel focus of Luke or Matthew due **April 29;** Presenters for Chapters 23 & 24, 25-27 *The Bible and Its Influence* prepare to present on April 29 |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | M., April 29  W., May 1 | The Poetic Gospel; Introduction to Acts, Presentations of Chapters 23 & 24, 25-27 *The Bible and Its Influence*  ASSIGNMENT: Presenters for Chapters 28-31 *The Bible and Its Influence* prepare to present on May 1; Work on Paper 2 **due May 6 or May 8**  **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***  Acts of the Apostles; Sharing from Gospel focus papers; Presentations of Chapters 28-31 *The Bible and Its Influence*  ASSIGNMENT: Romans 1-11; I Corinthians 1-5, 7, 11-13, 15; Galatians 4; Presenters for Chapters 34-36 *The Bible and Its Influence* prepare to present on May 6; Paper 2 **due May 6 or May 8;** Presentation of papers is **May 8** |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | M., May 6  W., May 8 | The Ancient Form of the Letter; Presentation of Chapters 34-36 *The Bible and Its Influence*  ASSIGNMENT: Revelation 1-22; Paper 2 if **using May 8 date**  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  Revelation 1-22; Presentation of Papers  ASSIGNMENT: |  |  |  |  |
| 16  Final Exam | M., May 13  M., May 20 | Finish Revelation; Review for the Final Exam  ASSIGNMENT: Prepare for the Final  **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***  Final Exam **12:15-2:30 on** **May 20** |  |  |  |  |