

English 3370, The Bible as Literature

T/Th, 3:30–4:50 pm, Language Building 201

Dr. Upchurch, Professor of English

E-mail | Robert.Upchurch@unt.edu

Office Hours | Thursdays, LANG 409F, 1:00–2:00 pm

Course Description

This course will familiarize students with the most influential literary text in Western culture. Taught from a literary perspective, the course will focus on the Bible as a single story, one with literary unity as told from a variety of perspectives by different writers spanning centuries and employing an array of genres, styles, themes, archetypes, and narrative techniques (the Greek word *biblia* means ‘little books’). The story is long, the semester short, so we will focus on seven stories within the Story that give shape to its account of the creation, ruin, rescue, and restoration of the universe. No acquaintance with the Bible is presumed.

Required Text

English Standard Version (ESV) Reader’s Bible (2016)

- Bring your book to every class to avoid a reduction of your participation grade.

Course Requirements and Grading

20% — Essay 1

25% — Essay 2

30% — Essay 3

5% — Essay 4

20% — Attendance (10%) & Participation (10%)

Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend class and participate actively. This course is participatory, collaborative, and discussion-based, and you will learn more, perform at a higher level, and have more fun if you come and take part in class. Since in-person class attendance and class participation are essential and inextricably linked, I reserve the right to reduce a student’s attendance and participation grades. Attendance is taken daily and recorded on Canvas, and all absences lower the attendance grade. After a student’s third unexcused, undocumented absence, I will reduce the student’s attendance grade for a fourth and a fifth absence by 10 points each. Students who accumulate a sixth unexcused, undocumented absence will receive a final grade of “F” unless they withdraw from the class within the period authorized by UNT’s academic calendar. Likewise, students who accumulate a sixth absence in any combination of excused or unexcused absences will receive a final grade of “F” unless they withdraw from the class within the period authorized by UNT’s academic calendar. Students are responsible for keeping track of their absences.

Additional Policies

Consult the Welcome module for additional policies on Academic Integrity (including the use generative AI writing tools, evidence of which will result in failure for the course), Student Conduct, and ADA Accommodations among others.

Course Calendar

Week 1

8/19 Introduction

8/21 *Prelude*

Week 2

8/26 The Story of Creation (Genesis 1–11)

8/28 The Story of Creation

Week 3

9/2 The Story of Creation

9/4 *Interlude*

9/7 First Draft of Essay 1 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 4

9/9 The Story of Abraham (Genesis 12–25)

9/11 The Story of Abraham

9/14 Peer Review Responses to Essay 1 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 5

9/16 The Story of Abraham

9/18 *Interlude*

9/21 Final Draft of Essay 1 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 6

9/23 The Story of Moses (Exodus)

9/25 The Story of Moses

Week 7

9/30 The Story of Moses + The Story of Joshua (Joshua 1–6)

10/2 *Interlude*

Week 8

10/7 The Story of David (1 Samuel)

10/9 The Story of David (2 Samuel)

10/12 First Draft of Essay 2 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 9

10/14 The Story of David + The Story of Solomon (I Kings 1–8)

10/16 *Interlude*

10/19 Peer Review Responses to Essay 2 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 10

10/21 The Story of Jesus (The Gospel According to Luke)

10/23 The Story of Jesus

10/26 Final Draft of Essay 2 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 11

10/28 The Story of Jesus

10/30 *Interlude*

Week 12

11/4 The Story of the Church according to Luke (The Acts of the Apostles)

11/6 The Story of the Church

Week 13

11/11 The Story of the Church

11/13 *Interlude*

11/16 First Draft of Essay 3 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 14

11/18 The Story of New Creation according to John (The Revelation to John)

11/20 The Story of New Creation

11/23 Peer Review Responses to Essay 3 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 15

11/25 THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/27 THANKSGIVING BREAK

12/1 *Monday* — Final Draft of Essay 3 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas

Week 16

12/2 The Story of New Creation

12/4 *Postlude*

12/7 Essay 4 due by 11:59 pm in Canvas