ENGL 5370-115 Comparative Literature
Bible as Literature
Summer 2021
8 Weeks, Synchronous Online, Thursday 6:00-9:00

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Office Hours
Available by appointment. Appointments can be made at allen.redmon@tamuct.edu. I will not use Canvas email. Neither will I check my office phone as a first point of contact.

Mode of Instruction and Course Access:
This course is a 100% online course, which means that all required interactions will occur in the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] and over WebEx. Our class meetings will occur over WebEx at the scheduled times. These meetings are required.

Other course activities will be completed asynchronously in Canvas. These assignments will have firm due dates, so please complete them on time and in full. To be clear, this is not a self-paced class. Students need to meet the stated deadlines to earn credit for assignments. Those who fail to meet a deadline will forfeit credit for that assignment.

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953. Alert the technician that you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

For log-in problems, contact Help Desk Central, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: helpdesk@tamu.edu; (254) 519-5466; Web Chat: [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

Contact me for issues related to course content and requirements.

Student-Instructor Interaction
Our primary interaction will occur during our synchronous class meetings. You will also have my comments on assignments. Should we need to talk outside of class, the best way to arrange that is by email (allen.redmon@tamuct.edu). You can expect any email sent to my TAMUCT email to receive a response within 24 hours if not much sooner. I will not use email in Canvas, neither will I check my office phone. Email is the best way to contact me. The other type of interaction we will have will occur as I respond to your assignments. I am quick to comment on submitted assignments. My comments are an important part of our class as they will help you see ways to improve and expand your ideas. Please be sure to read every comment.

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WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas
Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that allows Texas A&M University-Central Texas to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account. Connect to Warrior Shield by 911Cellular [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Course Overview and Description
This course offers a comparative study of great literature in the world in translation. This specific section reads portions of the Judeo-Christian Bible as a literary text. Our goal is to explore intertextual relationships across the various books we will read from that Bible and to set specific elements in that narrative in relationship to other literary texts that adapt those elements.

Course Objectives
This course will provide students the opportunity to consider the ways…

- Choices made in translation impact the perception of a literary text
- Seemingly unrelated stories can relate to one another intertextually
- “A long story” can be shown to revise itself as an instance of ongoing adaption
- “Outside” stories can participate in this process of ongoing adaptation either directly or indirectly
- Effective scholarly arguments depend on effective close readings of a literary text that reveal the strategy by which those readings are being offered

Required Reading and Textbook(s)
I am requesting each student to purchase three books:

1) Genesis: Translation and Commentary, by Robert Alter (ISBN: 9780393316704);
2) Ancient Israel, by Robert Alter (ISBN: 9780393-348767); and,
3) Strong as Death is Love, by Robert Alter (ISBN: 9780393352252)

I will have also added a number of other texts in Canvas. Each document is a required part of the course. Please ensure you have a copy of all required materials as soon as possible.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS
This course will have four “assignments”:

1) Class Discussions: our class discussions are a critical part of the course. Full participation is required. Those who miss more than one class during the semester will forfeit a letter grade.
2) Class Responses: some part of each class will be reserved for you to write a written response to the idea you will leave the class thinking or looking to explore. These responses will be submitted on the discussion board. A link will be in the appropriate page on Canvas. These assignments will not be graded in the traditional sense. Those who submit a thoughtful response will earn full credit. Those who miss more than one of these response assignments will forfeit one letter grade.
3) Minor presentation: students will provide a written presentation during week four of the course. These presentations will be ungraded in the traditional sense. They are an important part of the

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course, though, as my comments will prepare you for the major presentation at the end of the course. The specifics for this assignment are posted in the Welcome in Canvas, although I will have more to say about them. Those who miss this assignment will forfeit one letter grade.

4) Major Presentation: these assignments will allow students to produce a final essay that performs the objectives of the class. These assignments will be graded. Specifics for this assignment are located in the Welcome in Canvas, although I will have more to say about them.

Posting of Grades and Grading Policies
Students will earn the letter grade they receive on the major presentation unless they have forfeited a letter grade for having missed one of the other three parts of the class. This plan should allow you to take more chances in the early parts of the class without fear of sacrificing points. You can secure all points and be prepared for the final project by thoughtfully completing the earlier assignments.

I will post comments in Canvas to the class responses and minor presentation. Please make sure you see these comments and include them in your thoughts as you look to develop your final project.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar
Week 1: Introductions, a book chapter that gives one critical frame for the class, (Tolkien's) The Book of Jonah, and Genesis 1&2.
Week 2: Genesis 3-36 and two movies
Week 3: Mimetic Theory, the second critical frame for the class, and Genesis 37-50
Week 4: Exodus 1-34 and your Minor Presentations.
Week 5: Joshua and Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel
Week 6: Ruth, Esther, and Daniel
Week 7: John and Revelation
Week 8: Your Major Presentations

Important University Dates
Classes begin on 7 June
Deadline to Drop 8 Week classes with no record is 14 June
Deadline for Teacher Education Program Applications is 1 July
Deadline for Summer Graduation Application 2 July
Independence Day (University Closed) 5 July
8 Week Classes End 30 July

Drop Policy
If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web. Faculty cannot drop students. See above for deadlines. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you may receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

In some circumstances, students will face life-altering circumstances after the deadline. When this

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happens, students may request an incomplete. Such a request may be granted if the student is in good standing and has only the last remaining assignments to complete before satisfying the requirements of the course. Students who face life-altering circumstances before the published drop dates, or who simply fall behind in their coursework, should consider dropping the course rather than requesting an incomplete.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action. For more information regarding the Student Conduct process, [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a report, [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Summer 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students’ ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students’ texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help! Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WConline [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology
Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

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silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don’t agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don’t be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the Title IX webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2]. Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person’s behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

Copyright Notice

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas’ Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [https://tamuct.onecampus.com/]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal: Username (Your MyCT email address) and Password (Your MyCT password)

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
Phone: (254) 519-5466
Web Chat: [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

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