

Fall 2015

ENGL 2377

Kevin Marti
University of New Orleans

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/syllabi>

This is an older syllabus and should not be used as a substitute for the syllabus for a current semester course.

Recommended Citation

Marti, Kevin, "ENGL 2377" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 459.
<https://scholarworks.uno.edu/syllabi/459>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of New Orleans Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UNO. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uno.edu.

Bible as Literature * Fall 2015 * Dr. Kevin Marti * ENGL 2377-001 meets Tues-Thurs 11:00am-12:15pm in LA 226 * Office hours in LA 173: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:15-2:00pm, 3:15-4:00pm; Mondays 8:45-9:45pm (please make an appointment) *

kmarti@uno.edu * 280-7248

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNED READINGS, NOT A SCHEDULE OF CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES. Students are required to read material by the beginning of the class period for which it is assigned. Even though *we will deliberately get behind the reading assignments in our classroom discussion*, I reserve the right to give pop quizzes on the more recent reading assignments. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS KEEP UP WITH THIS READING SCHEDULE, RATHER THAN READ JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT WE ARE COVERING IN THE CLASSROOM. Students who just try to read enough to keep up with class coverage may find that class discussion will suddenly catch up with the syllabus and leave them behind. The reading assignments are much heavier for some days than for others, so students must plan their time carefully.

1.8/20	Introduction, syllabus, course policies
2.8/25	Genesis 1-10
3.8/27	Genesis 11-35
4.9/1	Genesis 36-50
5.9/3	Exodus 1-20
6.9/8	Exodus 21-40
7.9/10	Numbers 5-6, 9-16, 20-24
8.9/15	Joshua (all)
9.9/17	Judges (all)
10.9/22	1 Samuel (all)
11.9/24	2 Samuel (all)
12.9/29	1 Kings 1-16
13.10/1	MIDTERM REPORTS DUE; review for exam
14.10/6	MIDTERM EXAM
15.10/8	Isaiah 1-14
16.10/13	Proverbs 1-20
final date to drop course or resign from university 10/14	
fall break: no class 10/15	
17.10/20	Ecclesiastes (all)
18.10/22	Jonah (all)
19.10/27	Job (all)
20.10/29	Song of Songs (Song of Solomon) (all)
21.11/3	Ruth (all)
22.11/5	Gospel of Mark (all)
23.11/10	Gospel of Matthew
24.11/12	Gospel of Luke (all); Gospel of John 1-4; 20-21
25.11/17	1 Corinthians (all); 1 Thessalonians (all)
26.11/19	Galatians (all); Romans (all)
27.11/24	Colossians (all); 1 Timothy (all); James (all)

Thanksgiving: no class 11/26

28.12/1 Hebrews (all); Philemon

29.12/3 TERM PAPERS DUE; review for exam

FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, December 8, 10:00am-12:00noon in the usual classroom. NOTE THAT EXAM BEGINS ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN THE USUAL MEETING TIME FOR THE CLASS.

COURSE POLICIES

My office is LA 173, but I often hold office hours in the classroom right after each class ends. If I am not in my office at the beginning of office hours, check the room of the preceding class posted on my door, check back in a few minutes, or email me. Please make an appointment rather than simply dropping by during my office hours; otherwise, I cannot guarantee that you will find me available. Frequently faculty meetings take me away from office hours; also, often a line of other students with appointments may make it impossible to meet with you if you have no appointment.

THERE ARE NO EMERGENCIES IN THIS COURSE. Whatever problem you have, we will take care of it in due time. If for reasons beyond your control you cannot complete a paper on time, I will accept it late with no penalty, but be prepared to document your excuse. If you have no good excuse for a late paper, I will still accept it late, but with a penalty: the later I receive it, the lower the grade. In either case, don't panic if I'm not available at the moment of your crisis; just finish the paper when you can, and we will work things out later. I will accept no papers turned in after the final exam. All assignments and due dates are outlined in great detail in the course policies and syllabus handed out on the first day of class. Students have several weeks to ask any questions about the midterm report, term paper, midterm exam and final exam. Failure to complete any ONE of the following four course requirements will result in a grade of F for the entire course: midterm report, term paper, midterm exam, final exam. ALL MIDTERM REPORTS AND TERM PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN THE FORM OF PRINTED HARD COPIES, NOT IN THE FORM OF EMAILS OR ATTACHMENTS TO EMAILS. Do not assume that I have received a midterm report or term paper from you if you have emailed it to me. ANY STUDENT WHO DOES NOT SHOW UP FOR THE FINAL EXAM WILL FAIL THE COURSE.

Course description: In English 2377 we study the Bible in the same way students in other literature courses study Shakespeare, Henry James, Jane Austen, etc. That is, students in this course will talk about and write term papers about the same issues they have dealt with in other high school and college English courses: poetic form, prose style, narrative tradition, plot, theme, character, historical background, mythological parallels, etc. We will also discuss different ways that Jews, Muslims, and Christians have interpreted the Bible, without promoting any religion or denomination. This course is not designed to make you a better Muslim, Christian, or Jew, nor is it designed to turn you into a cynic. Rather, you will learn analytical approaches and acquire background knowledge which you will then apply to the texts we read, relying less and less on my help as the term progresses. No prior knowledge of the Bible is expected or required.

Required Text: The Oxford Study Bible: Revised English Bible with the Apocrypha. Ed. M. Jack Suggs, et al.
ISBN: 01952900003

Be sure the text you buy has this exact title; beware of similar-sounding titles. I encourage you to read a variety of translations in your course work, but read all assignments the first time in this translation and always bring this translation to class (in addition to any other translations you may wish to bring). Every class meeting we will refer to footnotes, introductions, maps, etc. in the required text which contain information that will appear on exams. Since exams mostly cover material discussed in class, failing to bring the assigned translation to class nearly always hurts students' grades.

Grading:

Midterm report on term paper	15%
Term paper	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Class participation	10%

Term paper: It must be computer-printed, double-spaced, at least six pages plus works consulted. The works consulted should not be annotated, and no outline should be included. The works consulted must contain at least seven sources which meet the source requirements included in the instructions for the midterm report. Papers must evidence substantial work on a topic chosen by the student and should not simply restate information discussed in class (although class discussion will help students understand how to perform the kind of analysis appropriate for papers). In their papers, students will analyze portions of the Bible in the same ways that they have analyzed literary texts in previous courses. Above all, papers should not sound like sermons and should not try to draw theological conclusions (defining sinful behavior, showing why one denomination's point of view is correct, etc.) Papers must not show a bias towards the point of view of any religion or denomination. Students are free to choose their own topics, but all papers must be, above all, literary analyses. Use MLA style. Do not submit papers with a cover page or with any kind of binder; a staple is sufficient.

Midterm report: This report is my way of seeing if you have done about half of the work on your term paper by midterm. It must be computer-printed, double-spaced, at least four pages (full, not partial, pages). It should be as polished and professional as the term paper itself. The first two pages, entitled "Abstract," will condense into two pages a summary of the entire argument of the term paper you propose to write. The third page, entitled "Outline," will be a detailed (tentative) outline of the structure of your paper's argument, so it will serve as the outline for your Abstract as well. The Outline may only contain complete sentences. Write a one-sentence thesis at the top of the Outline, then write about three main supporting arguments (one sentence each, labeled with roman numerals). Under each main supporting argument write at least two subsidiary arguments (one sentence each, labeled with capital letters), each of which supports the main supporting argument above it. The fourth page, entitled "Annotated Works Consulted," must contain references to at least seven relevant sources that you have consulted (scholarly articles or

books, not including Bible translations or the scholarly readings at the front of our text; Web sites may be included but do not count towards the seven sources required except in the case of articles or books in databases of scholarly sources on a library website). Use MLA style. These sources must be scholarly, not devotional. Beside each reference, write an annotation: a summary in at least two complete sentences of what that source contributes to your argument (the specific contribution to your argument, not the general topic of the source). Abstracts need not quote or refer to any of the seven sources; in other words, the works consulted list is not a list of works cited but rather a list of sources relevant to your topic. You are free to modify your term paper topic or change it completely after you submit your midterm report. Midterm reports which do not adhere to all of these instructions will receive a low grade. NOTE: THERE IS NO PENALTY FOR EXCEEDING MINIMUM PAGE LENGTHS FOR THE TERM PAPER OR MIDTERM REPORT OR ANY PART OF THE TERM PAPER OR MIDTERM REPORT. SO IN THE CASE OF THE MIDTERM REPORT, FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE ABSTRACT EXCEEDS TWO PAGES, THE OUTLINE MAY BE ON PAGE FOUR AND THE ANNOTATED WORKS CONSULTED MAY BE ON PAGE FIVE OR ON PAGES FIVE THROUGH SIX IF THE ANNOTATED WORKS CONSULTED IS LONGER THAN ONE PAGE.

Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The final exam will only test material covered since the midterm. Each exam will contain an objective portion (identification and short answer) and an essay portion. Quizzes: Unannounced quizzes will be given on the reading. No make-up quizzes. Quiz grades will be used to make final judgments about borderline final grades. Make-up midterm exams are possible in extreme cases, but *make-up final exams are impossible*.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Students who complete all other course requirements but do not meet the attendance requirement will fail the course. Every student is allowed one unexcused absence. Every additional unexcused absence a student accumulates will lower that student's final course grade by one-third of one letter. Students who wish to have an absence counted as excused must submit documentation for my files within three days after returning to class. If a legitimate emergency arises that prevents a student from missing one class meeting, that student need not contact me until the next meeting, but if a student will miss more than one meeting, I should be contacted as soon as possible. There is no reason to contact me to ask what we did or will do at a meeting the student misses, since all reading assignments are spelled out on the syllabus and students can photograph or photocopy other students' notes on missed meetings. Roll will be called at every class meeting. Students who arrive late are responsible for telling me to enter their names on the roll after class on the day they arrive late.

Class participation: Class participation is required, and is figured as ten percent of the final course grade. **Every student is expected to make some contribution to class discussion every single time we meet.** I will frequently call on students, and I will make a special point of calling on students who try to avoid talking. I will lecture as little as possible. Most of our meeting time will be devoted to discussion, during which students will work together to figure out how to apply to each new assigned text the approaches

that worked for texts assigned earlier. Individual students must be careful not to dominate the discussion; all students must be given opportunity to speak. **TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES BEFORE ENTERING THE CLASSROOM!** I will ask the dean to remove from the class roster any student who repeatedly disrupts class with electronic devices, tardiness, or talking out of turn.

Student Learning Objectives: After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify important characters and themes in the Bible
- Analyze biblical passages in prose and verse from a literary perspective
- Write coherent literary analyses of passages or topics in the Bible
- Recognize the literary traditions most relevant to the Bible
- Bring relevant historical and cultural information to bear on the Bible

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information: http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.ht

Additional Criteria for Grading and Grading Standards: Exams will be graded on a curve. Usually the resulting grading scale deviates somewhat, but not too dramatically, from the following:

- A 90-100% correct
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F under 60

Midterm reports and term papers will be evaluated not only in terms of how closely students adhere to the detailed instructions for each in the course policies, but also in terms of how effective the reports and papers are as essays.

Accommodation for students with disabilities. It is university policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

Statement on student conduct: All students are required to speak and otherwise behave in a manner that is respectful and that does not interfere with other students' ability to learn or the instructor's ability to teach.