

**Undergraduate & Graduate Course Description Packet**  
**August Intersession 2020**  
**Updated: 4/7/20**

**ENGL 3623-002 The Bible as Literature**  
**ENGL 5623-001 The Bible as Literature**  
**WLIT 3623-001 The Bible as Literature**  
**WLIT 5623-001 The Bible as Literature**

**Teacher: L. Walsh**

Aug 3-14, Monday-Saturday, 10:00am-1:45pm

**Texts Required:**

Robert Alter, *The Five Books of Moses* ISBN: 978-0393333930

Robert Alter, *The David Story* ISBN: 978-0393320770

Robert Alter, *Strong as Death is Love: The Song of Songs, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, and Daniel* ISBN: 978-0393352252

The Bible (Recommended Version: New Oxford Annotated Bible) ISBN: 978-0195289602

**Description:** This course introduces students to the variety of literary forms found in the Bible, from nation-building narratives, to passionate love poetry, to provocative parables, and more. We will focus closely on evaluating the effects of literary techniques that are distinctive to Biblical literature and often obscured in modern translations. The course is designed for students encountering Biblical material for the first time as well as for those willing to take a literary approach to a familiar text.

**Requirements:** Dynamic Class Participation, Final Project (literary analysis or creative writing option)

**MA advisory code: H, 1, 3, 4 - Graduate students specializing in Gender & Sexuality must complete a final project that addresses gender and sexuality issues.**

**ENGL 3283-001 Topics in Popular Culture and Popular Genres: *The Craft of Criticism***

**ENGL 3843-001 Topics in Modern and Contemporary American Literature and Culture: *The Craft of Criticism***

**ENGL 3903-001 Special Topics: *The Craft of Criticism***

**ENGL 5243-005 Special Topics: *The Craft of Criticism***

**Teacher: B. Hurt**

**Textbooks Required:**

Baldwin, James, *The Devil Finds Work*, 978-0307275950

Berger, John, *Ways of Seeing*, 978-0140135152

Cusk, Rachel, *Outline*, 978-1250081544

Morrison, Toni, *The Origins of Others*, 978-0674976450  
Nabokov, Vladimir, *Pale Fire*, 978-0679723424  
Wilde, Oscar, *The Critic as Artist*, 978-1092572071

**Description:**

Amazon, Metacritic, Rotten Tomatoes, Yelp... It seems like everything is available for anyone to criticize and rate. In this class we'll investigate the role of the critic in the age of the internet. We'll ask what makes some opinions more valid than others. Who gets to be a critic? Why do critics have the authority to decide what kinds of arts and culture are worth our time? Since the Internet makes everyone free to share their opinions (and many do freely), what makes some opinions more valid than others? How do we, or should we, write about culture and art? We'll attempt to answer these questions by examining the work of amateur and professional critics—Amazon and Yelp reviews, James Baldwin, John Berger, Toni Morrison, Oscar Wilde, and more—as well as contemporary books and movies. Students will write their own essays and reviews with the goal of having one publishable review by the end of class.

**ENGL 3903-002 Special Topics: *Queer Theor(ies)***

**ENGL 5243-001 Special Topics: *Queer Theor(ies)***

**Teacher: R. Calabretta-Sajder**

**Required Texts:**

There is no REQUIRED text for this course. Course materials will be posted on BlackBoard and held on reserve at the library. Please note the 'Suggested Bibliography' section of the syllabus for a complete bibliography of the works mentioned in the Course Calendar.

**Suggested Texts: The following texts offer a well-rounded introduction to Gender Studies and/or Queer Theor(ies):**

*The Routledge Queer Studies Reader*. Donald E. Hall and Annamarie Jagose, eds. (most readings will come from this anthology)

*A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*. Nikki Sullivan

*Queer Theory*. Iain Morland and Annabelle Willox, eds.

*Queer Theory: An Introduction*. Annamarie Jagose

**Description:**

This course is an introduction to the complex history and evolution of Queer Theory into Queer Theor(ies) from Foucault to the Present.

In this interdisciplinary course, students will be introduced to key themes and critical frameworks in the overlapping fields of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Studies, Queer Studies, and Queer Theory within a transnational context. Once a foundation has been established, students will examine the relationships – and arguments – between queer theories and other social and cultural theories aimed at critiquing power, privilege, and 'normativity'.

Rather than accepting queer theory as a singular, defined school of thought, the course will problematize queer studies as a field and a mode of analysis, considering the following questions: What kinds of bodies or desires does queer describe? What are the politics of queer? What are the promises of queer theory, and what are its perils? What are the key sites for queer activism today? What is the future of queer?

Topics within the course include the following: early and contemporary histories of sexuality; politics of sexuality and sexual identities; forms of oppression including heterosexism, homophobia, and transphobia; violence against LGBTQ individuals and communities; queer activism; diverse experiences of sexuality; and representations in literature, art, and popular media. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which sexual identities intersect with and shape other categories of identity, including gender, race, ethnicity, class, culture and nation.

**MA advisory code: T, H, 1, 2, and 4**

### **M.A. Advisory Coding**

The advisory codes indicate what course distribution requirement will be satisfied by the designated listing. If more than one code is listed in the description for a particular class, a student may satisfy only one of those distribution requirements with that class, unless the code is T, for Theory.

#### **For M.A. Students with the Generalist Concentration**

Generalist **A**: satisfies **Medieval** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **B**: satisfies **Renaissance** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **C**: satisfies **Restoration and 18th-century** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **D**: satisfies **19th-century British** Literature and Culture requirement.

Generalist **E**: satisfies **British** Literature and Culture **After 1900** requirement.

Generalist **F**: satisfies **American** Literature and Culture **Before 1900** requirement.

Generalist **G**: satisfies **American** Literature and Culture **After 1900** requirement.

Generalist **H**: satisfies **World** Literature and Culture Written in English requirement.

#### **For M.A. Students with the Specialist Concentration**

Specialist **1**: satisfies **Comparative** Literature requirement.

Specialist **2**: satisfies **Cultural** Studies requirement.

Specialist **3**: satisfies **Ethnic and Regional** Literatures requirement.

Specialist **4**: satisfies **Gender and Sexuality** requirement.

Specialist **5**: satisfies **Medieval** Literature requirement.

Specialist **6**: satisfies **Modern American** Literature requirement.

Specialist **7**: satisfies **Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy** requirement.

#### **For All M.A. Students**

**(T)**: satisfies **Theory** requirement.

(A course can satisfy the theory requirement while also satisfying one of the other requirements in the lists above.)