

<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Winter 2021</b>
EN 210	The Bible in Literature	<b>Prerequisite: EN 115</b>
		<b>Credits: 3</b>

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Delivery:</b>	Hybrid	<b>Instructor:</b>	Darren Dyck (PhD)	<b>First Day of Classes:</b>	12 Jan 2021
<b>Days:</b>	T/Th	<b>Email:</b>	darren.dyck@ambrose.edu	<b>Last Day to Add/Drop, or Change to Audit:</b>	24 Jan 2021
<b>Time:</b>	3:15-4:30 pm	<b>Phone:</b>	Ext. 6931	<b>Last Day to Request Revised Final Exam:</b>	8 Mar 2021
<b>Room:</b>	A2133	<b>Office:</b>	L2069	<b>Last Day to Withdraw From Course:</b>	19 Mar 2021
<b>Lab/Tutorial:</b>	n/a	<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment	<b>Last Day To Apply For Coursework Extension:</b>	29 Mar 2021
<b>Final Exam:</b>	No final exam			<b>Last day of classes:</b>	15 Apr 2021

### Course Description

Few books have had greater impact on the idioms, images, and structures of English literature than the Bible. This course will examine the ways in which the language, stories, themes, and characters of the Bible, influence and inhabit centuries of English literature.

### Expected Learning Outcomes

Diligent students completing this course will:

- recognize the importance of the Bible for literature;
- make formal, narrative, generic, and stylistic distinctions between the Bible and a variety of literary texts;
- discuss (in written and oral forms) the complex relationship between specific literary texts and their biblical sources;
- express informed opinions on literature inspired by the Bible, which are supported by evidence and scholarly precedent; and
- remember and reproduce key details of course texts and class discussion.

### Textbooks

Archibald MacLeish, J.B. Houghton Mifflin, 1986. (ISBN: 0395083532)

Toni Morrison, Beloved. Vintage, 2004. (ISBN: 9781400033416)

PDF Readings on Moodle (to be printed and brought to class)

## Course Schedule

	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Jan			
12	Introductions		
14	<i>What is (Biblical) Truth?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mikhail Bulgakov, from <i>The Master and Margarita</i></li> <li>• Nikos Kazantzakis, from <i>The Last Temptation of Christ</i></li> </ul>	
19	<i>What is the Bible?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gabriel Josipovici, from <i>The Book of God</i></li> <li>• Erich Auerbach, from <i>Mimesis</i></li> </ul>	<b>“What is the Bible?”</b>
21	<i>Is THAT the Bible?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIBLE:</b> Psalm 90</li> <li>• Renaissance Psalm 90s</li> </ul>	FIVE ANNOTATIONS
26	Eden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIBLE:</b> Genesis 1-3</li> <li>• <b>ART:</b> Eden <a href="https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/Xt4uXB">https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/Xt4uXB</a></li> </ul>	
28	Eden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eden Poems</li> </ul>	FIVE ANNOTATIONS
Feb			
2	Eden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Twain, “Diary of Eve” <a href="https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/a06W8i">https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/a06W8i</a></li> <li>• Ursula Le Guin, “She Unnames Them”</li> </ul>	
4	Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIBLE:</b> Job 1-3, 38-41</li> <li>• William Blake, <i>Illustrations of the Book of Job</i></li> </ul>	<b>Eden Poem IA Due Date</b>
9	Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MacLeish, <i>J.B.</i> (Prologue, Scenes 1-5)</li> </ul>	<b>Twain/Le Guin IA Due Date</b>
11	Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MacLeish, <i>J.B.</i> (Scenes 6-11)</li> </ul>	
16		Reading Week: No Classes	
18		Reading Week: No Classes	
23	Song of Songs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIBLE:</b> The Song of Songs 1, 2, 4, 6</li> <li>• Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (Pp. 3-124)</li> </ul>	SC 1 choice Due by email <b>Eden Essay Due Date</b>
25	Song of Songs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (Pp. 125-235)</li> </ul>	<b>MacLeish IA Due Date</b>
Mar			
2	Song of Songs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i> (Pp. 236-324)</li> </ul>	
4	Song of Songs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toni Morrison, <i>Beloved</i></li> </ul>	<b>Job Essay Due Date</b>
9	<b>SC 1</b>	<b>Students’ Choice 1</b> <a href="https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7387285M/Chapters_into_Verse_Poetry_in_English_Inspired_by_the_Bible_Volume_2">https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7387285M/Chapters_into_Verse_Poetry_in_English_Inspired_by_the_Bible_Volume_2</a>	
11	Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ART:</b> Christ <a href="https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/5tV12N">https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/5tV12N</a></li> </ul>	SC 2 choice Due by email <b>Morrison IA Due Date</b>
16	Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIBLE:</b> Matthew 4:1-11</li> <li>• Fyodor Dostoevsky, “The Grand Inquisitor”</li> </ul>	
18	Mary & Martha (Christ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIBLE:</b> Luke 10:38-42</li> <li>• A.S. Byatt, “Christ in the House of Mary and Martha”</li> <li>• <b>ART:</b> At the House of Mary and Martha <a href="https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/4FUh5Y">https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/4FUh5Y</a></li> </ul>	FIVE ANNOTATIONS <b>S of S Essay Due Date</b>
23	Lazarus (Christ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BIBLE:</b> John 11:1-12:11</li> <li>• Elizabeth Jennings, Lazarus Poems</li> </ul>	<b>Dostoevsky IA Due Date</b>
25	<b>SC 2</b>	<b>Students’ Choice 2</b> <a href="https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7387285M/Chapters_in_to_Verse_Poetry_in_English_Inspired_by_the_Bible_Volume_2">https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7387285M/Chapters_in_to_Verse_Poetry_in_English_Inspired_by_the_Bible_Volume_2</a>	SC 3 choice Due by email <b>Byatt IA Due Date</b>

30	Lazarus (Christ)	• Sylvia Plath, “Lady Lazarus”	Jennings IA Due Date
Apr			
1	Christ	• BIBLE: John 18-19 • Countee Cullen, “The Black Christ”	FIVE ANNOTATIONS
6	Christ	• Countee Cullen, “The Black Christ” • ART: Charles Cullens’s Illustrations for “The Black Christ” <a href="https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/H14HiT">https://www.flickr.com/gp/191190672@N04/H14HiT</a>	Plath IA Due Date
8	SC 3	<b>Students’ Choice 3</b> <a href="https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7387285M/Chapters_in_to_Verse_Poetry_in_English_Inspired_by_the_Bible_Volume_2">https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7387285M/Chapters_in_to_Verse_Poetry_in_English_Inspired_by_the_Bible_Volume_2</a>	
13	Christ	• Adam Roberts, <i>Bethany</i>	Cullen IA Due Date
15	Christ	• Adam Roberts, <i>Bethany</i>	Christ Essay Due Date

**Requirements:**

**2% “What is the Bible”**

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, students will offer a brief answer (200 words MAX.) to the question, “What is the Bible?” Answers will not be evaluated; 2% is granted simply for submitting.

**8% Short Quizzes and Five Annotations**

Over the course of the term, students will write a number of short pop quizzes (between three and five), measuring their reading comprehension of course texts and their attentiveness to class lectures and discussions, as well as annotate *four* texts prior to our class discussion of them (see course schedule for “Five Annotations”).

**10% Short Presentation**

Each student will make a short, formal presentation on a “Christ” poem of their choice (to be selected from *Chapters in Verse*, Vol. II). Students will read aloud their poem (or an excerpt, if the poem is quite long) and then offer a five to seven-minute reflection on it, clarifying (briefly) what drew them to it, and highlighting what they think is good about it, elements of its style, and what it may reveal, either about Christ or the relationship of the Bible and literature.

Once a poem has been selected by one student, it cannot be selected again; poem choices are due *by email* on March 9<sup>th</sup> (SC 1) 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup> (SC 2), and April 8<sup>th</sup> (SC 3), though for obvious reasons, you may want to make your choice earlier. If your poem has already been selected, I will let you know.

**30% Intertextuality Assignments (x 2 @ 15%)**

Students will write *two* 500-word reflections on specified texts and the relationship of those texts to their biblical sources (see course schedule for due dates). IAs must consider the work of biblical commentators.

Students *may not* submit an IA on the text or topic on which they’ve chosen to write an essay.

**40% Essay**

Students will write an essay (1500-2000 words) on a course text (visual art counts!) dealing with one of: (1) Eden, (2) Job, (3) Song of Songs, or (4) Christ. This essay must consider the claims of scholars working on relevant texts.

Students *may not* submit an Essay on a text or author on which they’ve chosen to write an IA.

## 10% Participation

Participation is your visible (and *sometimes* invisible) engagement with the class and the texts. Look alert, bring physical copies of your texts to class, write in those physical copies, ask questions, share your thoughts, say “I don’t understand” when you don’t understand, and visit me during my office hours.

### Attendance:

- The classroom is a professional setting. For this reason, I request that you call me “Professor” or “Dr.”; I will, in turn, address you by the name you prefer. Professionalism is also required in emails. When you email me, please begin with “Dear Professor . . .” and use proper grammar and syntax.
- You are responsible for everything we read and discuss in class (whether you are present or not), including any announced changes to our schedule.
- **If you are unable to attend class for COVID-related reasons**, please email me (at least one hour before class), and I will send you the Zoom link for that session.
- Explications and short essays should be submitted to Moodle by midnight on the specified due date. Both explication and short essay must be submitted to receive a passing grade in the course.
- Late papers will be marked down one refined letter grade per class day late. Extensions may be granted on assignments in exceptional circumstances but must be arranged for in advance (or vouched for by appropriate medical, etc. documentation).
- Any student who misses more than ten class sessions will automatically fail the course.
- The most current version of this syllabus will always be available on Moodle.
- Students are required to check their Ambrose email accounts regularly.

### Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	Excellent	4.00
A		4.00
A-		3.70
B+	Good	3.30
B		3.00
B-		2.70
C+	Satisfactory	2.30
C		2.00
C-		1.70
D+	Poor	1.30
D		1.0
F	Failure	0.00
AU	Audit	No Grade Points
P	Pass	No Grade Points
W	Withdrawal	No Grade Points

## Ambrose University Academic Policies:

### Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions.

### Registration

During the Registration Revision Period students may add, drop or change a course from credit to audit through the Student Portal with no academic or financial penalty. Please consult the Academic Calendar for the Registration Revision Period deadline. After this point, students cannot add classes or change their registration type (audit or credit), but may withdraw from courses with financial penalty (no refund of tuition). A grade of 'W' will be recorded on the transcript, with no grade points awarded. To withdraw, students must submit the Course Withdrawal form found on the Ambrose website by the deadline indicated in the Academic Calendar.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

### Exam Scheduling

Students who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the Academic Calendar. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

### Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar.

### Privacy

Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

### Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a Course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office via the official form by the deadline date; please consult Academic Calendar. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

### Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within five business days of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within fifteen days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

### Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

### Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: [ambrose.edu/counselling](http://ambrose.edu/counselling)
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at [ambrose.edu/wellness](http://ambrose.edu/wellness).
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See [ambrose.edu/crisissupport](http://ambrose.edu/crisissupport) for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

**Sexual Violence Support**

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – [ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness](http://ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness).

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

**Note:** Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.