

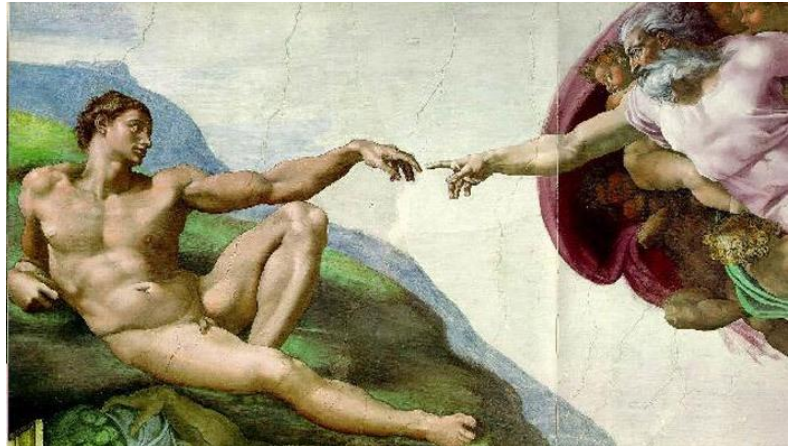
WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

The Bible and Literature CL 9617A - Fall 2016 (VAC 100; Wed. 1³⁰-4³⁰)

Instructor: Vlad Tumanov (vtumanov@uwo.ca)

Course Content and Aims

This course is intended to introduce the student to the way certain parts of the Old and New Testament have been retold and re-interpreted through literary fiction. We will analyze texts where authors have sought to preserve the sacred dimension of their biblical sources, undermine it or both. We will consider what is lost and gained during this transfer as antiquity meets modernity. We will attempt to determine



if the two ages speak to each other or past each other. Questions of politics, pertaining to both the biblical texts and their modern counterparts, will be of paramount importance. We will see to what extent the cultural environment and background of each modern author in question influenced the transformation of the biblical material. The main theoretical basis for this course will be G. Genette's *Palimpsests* where the modalities of textual retellings are explored in a taxonomic framework. Additionally, the psychology of religious belief as outlined in P. Boyer's *Religion Explained* will be considered in connection to the literary corpus of the course and other findings from sociobiology.

Course Requirements

Oral presentation (30 minutes).....	30%
1st essay (3-5 thousand words) due: 1st class in November.....	30%
2nd essay (3-5 thousand words) due: last class.....	35% ¹
Attendance/Participation.....	5%

Primary Texts

[Genesis](#) (Old Testament: New Revised Standard Version)

Milton, J. [Paradise Lost](#)

Mann, T. [Joseph and his Brothers](#) V. 1: *Tales of Jacob* (Random House: 978-1400040018)

[Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John](#) (New Testament: New Revised Standard Version)

Bulgakov, M. [The Master and Margarita](#) (Vintage: 0679760806) **NB**: Use this edition only!²

Tournier, M. [The Four Wise Men](#) (John's Hopkins: 0801857333)

¹ Submit both essays electronically on OWL/SAKAI in Word format.

² Do not use the Ginsburg translation: based on a censored original, it is incomplete.

Secondary Texts (on reserve at Weldon Library):

Genette, G. [Palimpsests](#) & Boyer, P. [Religion Explained](#)

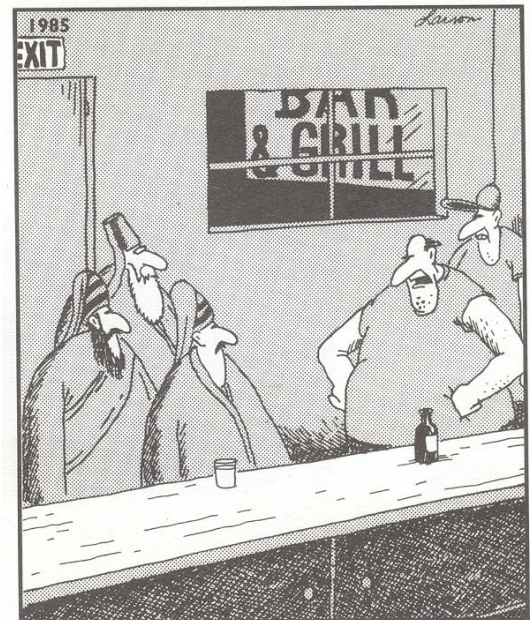


Course Schedule (Each class = 150 minutes [3 hours minus three 10-minute breaks]³
See official graduate course regulations and dates [here](#).

Hypertextuality, Psychology of Religion & Old Testament	
John Milton. <i>Paradise Lost</i>	
Thomas Mann. <i>Stories of Jacob</i>	
Presentation 1: Milton: <i>Paradise Regained</i> (30 min)*	
New Testament.	
Mikhail Bulgakov. <i>The Master and Margarita</i>	
Film: Incident in Judea	
Presentation 2: Heym: <i>The King David Report</i>	
Michel Tournier <i>The Four Wise Men</i>	
Presentation 3: Saramago: <i>Gospel According to Jesus Christ</i>	
Presentation 4: Kazantzakis: <i>Last Temptation of Christ</i>	
Film: Last Temptation of Christ – last 60 min.	

*All presentations should not exceed 30 minutes.

N.B. The reading list schedule is approximate.
The presentation schedule is firm.



"Oh yeah! More like the three wise guys, I'd say."

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies (which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in the department's courses) are available [here](#). It is your responsibility to understand these policies, and thus ignorance thereof cannot be used as grounds for appeal.

³ Last day of first term classes: Dec. 7, 2016