

# L I T E R A T U R E   A N D   R E L I G I O N

DR. DAVID WILSON-OKAMURA   ENGLISH 3640   AUTUMN 2007   EAST CAROLINA UNIV.

“Every judge who judges a judgement of truth, true to the truth of the matter, causes the glory of God to dwell in Israel.” —Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 7a

Aug. 22	W	Introduction (what this class is not)
24	F	G. K. CHESTERTON, <i>The Man Who Was Thursday</i> , chs. 1–4 (pp. 1–29)
27	M	<i>Thursday</i> , chs. 5–9 (pp. 29–68)
29	W	<i>Thursday</i> , chs. 10–12 (pp. 68–97)
31	F	<i>Thursday</i> , chs. 13–15 (pp. 97–120)
<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Labor Day (no class)</b>
5	W	Thomas HARDY, “Hap,” “Nature’s Questioning,” “The Subalterns,” “God’s Education”
7	F	“The Levelled Churchyard,” “Channel Firing,” “Transformations,” “Ah, are you digging?”
10	M	“Neutral Tones,” “I Found Her Out There,” “The Haunter,” “The Voice”
12	W	“The Masked Face,” “The Shadow on the Stone,” “The Impercipient” (not in book; google it)
14	F	“The Darkling Thrush,” “The Rambler,” “The Oxen,” “Overlooking the River Stour”
17	M	Gerard Manley HOPKINS, “Heaven-Haven,” “God’s Grandeur,” “Spring,” “Morning Midday and Evening Sacrifice”
19	W	“Pied Beauty,” “Hurrahing in Harvest,” “Binsey Poplars”
21	F	“Spring and Fall,” “No worst, there is none,” “Carrion Comfort,” “Thou art indeed just, Lord”
24	M	“The Sea and the Skylark,” “The Windhover,” “The Caged Skylark”
26	W	“Inversnaid,” “As kingfishers catch fire,” “Andromeda,” “My own heart let me have more pity on”
28	F	T. S. ELIOT, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”
Oct. 1	M	<i>The Waste-Land</i> , pts. 1 and 2 (see also Eliot’s notes at the end)
3	W	<i>The Waste-Land</i> , pts. 3–5 (see also Eliot’s notes at the end)
5	F	
8	M	Wallace STEVENS: “Primordia,” “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird”
10	W	“Bowl,” “Theory,” “Anecdote of Men by the Thousand,” “Metaphors of a Magnifico,” “The Snow Man,” “Anecdote of the Jar,” “To the One of Fictive Music”
12	F	“Peter Quince at the Clavier,” “Inscription for a Monument.”
<b>15</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Fall break (no class)</b>
17	W	“Domination of Black,” “Palace of the Babies,” “The Doctor of Geneva,” “‘Lettres d’un Soldat’ (VII)”
19	F	“Valley Candle,” “The Wind Shifts,” “The Emperor of Ice-Cream,” “Sunday Morning.”
22	M	“Tea at the Palaz of Hoon,” “Hibiscus on the Sleeping Shores,” “Stars at Tallapoosa”
24	W	“The Idea of Order at Key West” (handout)
26	F	C. S. LEWIS, <i>Perelandra</i> , chs. 1–3 (pp. 9–39)
29	M	<i>Perelandra</i> , chs. 4–6 (pp. 40–73)
31	W	<i>Perelandra</i> , chs. 7–9 (74–106)
Nov. 2	F	<i>Perelandra</i> , chs. 10–13 (107–46)
5	M	<i>Perelandra</i> , chs. 14–17 (147–90)
7	W	William SHAKESPEARE, <i>Hamlet</i> , act 1
9	F	<i>Hamlet</i> , act 2
12	M	<i>Hamlet</i> , act 3
14	W	<i>Hamlet</i> , act 4
16	F	<i>Hamlet</i> , act 5
19	M	Flannery O’CONNOR: “A Good Man Is Hard to Find”
<b>21</b>		<b>Thanksgiving holiday</b>
26	M	“The Life You Save May Be Your Own,” “The River”
28	W	“A Temple of the Holy Ghost,” “Good Country People”
30	F	“The Enduring Chill” “Everything That Rises Must Converge,” “The Partridge Festival”
3	M	“The Lame Shall Enter First,” “Revelation”

## 5 W FINAL THOUGHTS

### REQUIREMENTS

The subject matter in this course is literature and religion. There will be plenty of both, so if you think religion is a private matter that shouldn't be discussed in public, don't take this course. That goes double if you don't like to read: this is the English department, and reading is what we do here.

Let me say a few words about grades. The title of this course is "Literature and Religion," but when I put a grade on your transcript, I am not evaluating your belief, non-belief, or personal holiness. If you help out at a homeless shelter, take care of three kids, and work two jobs to support your family, you *will* have my admiration. But it won't affect your grade. This is an academic institution, and your transcript reflects your academic performance. It is not a judgement on character. So what are grades based on?

**Reading Quizzes** (25%) are scheduled randomly. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.

**Biweekly Analysis** (75%). Every other Monday, you will submit a written analysis of the previous two weeks' discussion. The first analysis will be due Sept. 10.

What does a good analysis look like? First, it is not the same thing as a response paper. Nor is it a transcript of your class notes turned back into prose. Above all it is not a plot summary. It is a synthesis, rather, of ideas discussed in class. This is a short assignment, so you will not be able to cover everything that we talked about in the previous two weeks. Instead, you will need to decide which were the principal ideas. Organize your writing around those ideas and choose examples to illustrate them.

The use of phrases such as *I think*, *I believe*, and *I feel* is strongly discouraged. You don't need to report who said what, either.

A good analysis will summarize the content of discussion, but it will also evaluate that discussion: for instance, what got left out of our conversation and why does it matter? Don't just say, "We didn't talk about *x*." Say something about *x* and push the conversation forward. As a general rule, one part evaluation to two parts analytical summary is a good balance.

- Length: 900–1,200 words, not including long quotations. When you're done, do a word count (your word processor can do this for you) and write the result on the first page of your paper.
- Pages should be (a) stapled and (b) numbered by computer. Ask someone at the computer lab if you don't know how to do this already.
- First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, and grammar. If you have trouble with these, we recommend *Grammar in Plain English* by Harriet Diamond and Phyllis Dutwin.
- Double-space. Use 12 point Times Roman.

**Cell phones** are here to stay, but they don't belong in the classroom. If you have one, turn off the ringer before class starts.

### EXTENSIONS

Everyone gets a two-day extension on two analyses over the course of the semester. You choose which ones. You don't need to ask me ahead of time: just hand in a sheet of paper with the date and your name on it that says "I'm taking my first (or second) extension on this paper." In the interest of fairness, no one will be granted a third extension.

### PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas in such a way that a reader cannot distinguish them from your own work. That's cheating. If you have questions about plagiarism, please ask me about it before your paper is due; after a paper is handed in it's too late to claim ignorance. The penalty for plagiarism is an automatic F for the course, in addition to whatever penalty the University sees fit to impose.

### OFFICE HOURS

Office: Bate 2137

Office hours: MWF 11:30–1:00 or by appointment. To schedule an appointment, grab me after class or give me a phone call and we'll set up a time. My number is in the book but, please, no phone calls after 9:00 pm.

Email: I've been using email since 1993, but what was cool once seems cold and distant now. Instead of exchanging electrons, come to my office hours and let's have a conversation.