

**Christian Literature**  
**Mrs. Reynolds**  
**dreynolds@kcsnet.com**

### **Course Description**

Christian Literature is a one-semester Bible course for seniors. This course looks at the Bible as a work of literature in addition to being the words of God. This course also looks at literature written by modern Christian authors.

### **Basic Class Rules**

- 1.) Come to class on time, with all materials, and prepared to learn.
- 2.) Be considerate and respectful of everyone in the classroom.
- 3.) Think about the outcome of your action then act accordingly.

### **Remember...**

**To the degree you are self-disciplined, I will not have to discipline.**

### **Conduct**

- If I am lecturing you should be listening attentively while taking notes. If you have a question please raise your hand and wait to be called on. *Always assume that what I am telling you will be on a test, and always assume you need to take notes.*
- During group-work talking is obviously permitted, however, groups discussion needs to stay on topic.
- Talking is not allowed during testing or independent reading or writing times.

### **Attendance**

- You should be in your seat ready to work when the tardy bell rings. Being in the classroom is not enough! If you are not at your desk you will lose citizenship points.
- Since this class is the first period after lunch, tardies will be reported to the office like they are first period. If you are not in the classroom when the bell rings you are considered late, and will need to go to the office to get a pass.
- You must present absence or tardy slips to me. I often know when your absence is excused, but to be safe assume that if you do not give me a slip it will be considered an unexcused absence. Please bring me absence slips by the end of the week.

### **Miscellaneous Procedures and Information**

- On-time work should be placed in the yellow bin by my desk. It is your responsibility to have your work printed *before* coming to class to turn it in. Do not come in and tell me you emailed your paper to me or hand me a flash drive as the bell is ringing – your assignment

will be considered late. If you do not have access to a printer at home, you will need to plan ahead and print your assignments before school or the day before they are due.

- Unless otherwise specified, **all work** needs to be typed or in black or blue pen with the MLA heading in the upper left hand corner of the paper:

Your Name  
Teacher Name  
Class Name  
Date due

- As soon as I finish grading any work I will put it in the Bible 4 slot in the blue organizer at the front of the classroom. Please check this organizer regularly to pick up your work. Please do not ask me if I have graded your paper – if it's not in the organizer, I have not graded it yet.
- If you need to use the restroom or go to your locker after the bell has rung please do not interrupt class to ask permission. Take the pass and quietly leave the classroom. You will lose citizenship points if this becomes a regular occurrence. Please try to avoid leaving in the middle of a lecture.
- Cell phones must be placed on **silent** or turned **off** and placed in the cell phone holder next to the door. Cell phones should be placed in the holder as soon as you come into the classroom, and may be picked up at the end of the period as you are leaving. And while I shouldn't have to say this: do NOT take another student's cell phone! Failure to follow either of these rules will result in disciplinary action (e.g. demerits, phone turned into the office, referrals, etc...)
- You may chew gum in my classroom; however, it must be thrown away before you leave the room, as gum is not allowed on the campus. If we begin to have a problem with gum you will lose the privilege. As far as other food and drink is concerned, I do not mind drinks in the room, as long as they have a lid, and the occasional snack is okay, as long as you are not disruptive and trash is not left on my floor.
- Everything on the table in front of my desk is available for students use. Please put all items back once you are done/ before you leave my classroom. The large top drawer in the cabinet behind my desk also has supplies like paper, markers, rulers, etc... that you may use. All other drawers, cupboards, and my desk are off-limits to students.

### **Missed Work Policy**

If you miss a class period because of an excused absence, YOU are required to get the missing assignments, handouts, and/or notes. I will not track you down to make sure you receive your missed work. Even if you are excused from class, you are still required to keep up with the reading, as the reading assignments will be given in advance, and will be posted online. The reason for this is so that you will be able to participate in class discussions when you return to class without having to make up reading. Each day I will put the handouts, with the names of anyone who missed class, in the blue bin at the front of the classroom. I will also write the due date on the handouts for you. It is your responsibility to check that bin when you return to school after an excused absence. (If you return to school and there is nothing in the bin for you, it would still be wise to ask me if you missed work, as I too am human and may occasionally forget to put work there for you). If you know in advance that you will be missing school, it is your responsibility to get your work **before** your absence. This is especially crucial for absences of more than a couple days.

## **Late Work Policy**

- Most homework will be accepted late, but with penalty. Certain assignments will not be accepted late, such as assignments due the last week of a quarter or major assignments. If an assignment will not be accepted late I will let you know in advance.
- For each school day an assignment is turned in late you will lose one full letter grade (10 %). For example, let's say that you would have received an 87% on an assignment if it had been turned in on time, but you turn it in late. Your grade will drop to a 77% if it is one day late, a 67% if it is two days late, and so on. No assignment will be accepted after five days, except in severe cases.
- Parental notes will be considered, as will sporting events (for team members only), however, it is up to my discretion to choose whether to honor parental notes or not. Generally, no excuses will be accepted for long-term assignments or basic homework assignments where more than one day is given to complete the assignment.
- Late work, whether due to excused absence or negligence, should not be turned in to the yellow bin. It must be handed directly to me. Late work must be handed directly to me so I can verify that the work can still be turned in, and so I can date the assignment and grade accordingly.

## **Plagiarism Policy**

ANY form of plagiarism is considered cheating, and will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: copying homework from a friend or allowing a friend to copy your homework, buying papers off the internet, paying a friend to write a paper or do homework for you (or getting a friend to do it for free), or copying and pasting parts of a paper from another source without giving proper citations. If you are caught doing any of these things on any assignment you will immediately receive a zero for that assignment, you will not be able to make up the grade, and you may receive a regular discipline referral. It is true that I may not catch every incident of plagiarism, but choosing to cheat is a huge risk to your grade.

## **Citizenship**

Each student will start off with up to 10 citizenship points each week, or two points available each school day of the week. You will lose citizenship points if you receive demerits for being disruptive, talking out of turn, coming to class late, using the restroom excessively, not following instructions, etc... If you lose more than 6 citizenship points during a single week, you may also receive a referral. There will be chances to earn back those points, however. Participating in class discussions may earn back points, and in certain cases cleaning white boards, vacuuming the classroom, etc... may be a way to counter-act demerits.

## **Assessment:**

- I use a traditional 10 point grade scale, including plus and minus. For example:
  - 98-100 % A+
  - 94-97 % A
  - 90-93 % A -

- 25% of the final grade will be a weekly citizenship and participation grade.
- 25% of the final grade will be an accumulation of weekly homework.
- 25% of the final grade will be an average of each project or activity.
- 25% of the final grade will be an average of each quiz, test and final.

### **Extra Credit**

- Notes taken in chapel or at church will always count for extra credit, but do not expect extra credit to make up for homework and assignments you fail to turn in. Only two sets of notes will be accepted each week (so no chapel notes, church notes, youth group notes and Sunday-night notes in a week), and notes must be turned in within two weeks of the message date.

### **Course Outline:**

#### **Using Lexicons**

Week 1

**Text:** The Bible, biblestudytools.com, Strong's Concordance

#### **Homework, Projects, Quizzes, Tests, Academic Prompts:**

- Look up Bible verses in Greek and Hebrew lexicons

#### **Biblical Poetry**

Weeks 2-3

**Text:** The Bible (Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah etc...)

#### **Homework, Projects, Quizzes, Tests, Academic Prompts:**

- Elements of Biblical Poetry
- Analysis of Psalm 19
- Psalm Writing Prompt

#### **Biblical Narratives**

Weeks 3-9

**Text:** The Bible (Joseph, Esther, and Daniel narratives)

#### **Homework, Projects, Quizzes, Tests, Academic Prompts:**

- Questions over texts
- In class, small group, or jigsaw discussion of texts
- Objective quizzes/tests over the narratives

#### **Crazy Love**

Weeks 10-13

**Text:** *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan

#### **Homework, Projects, Quizzes, Tests, Academic Prompts:**

- In class, small group, or jigsaw discussions of text

- *Crazy Love* Writing Prompt

### **The Great Divorce**

Weeks 14-18

**Text:** *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis

#### **Homework, Projects, Quizzes, Tests, Academic Prompts:**

- Questions over text
- In class, small group, or jigsaw discussions of text
- Objective quizzes or tests over the text

#### **Materials Needed**

- Binder: I do not require a specific size, nor do I require a separate binder solely for Bible. However, if you choose to use one binder for multiple subjects, please have a separate section only for Bible, in order to keep your work organized.
- Text: Please bring the appropriate book to class. We may not use the book every day in class, but you should always come prepared. Failure to come prepared to class will result in a demerit.
- Writing utensil and paper: Please come prepared with a pen and paper every day. Work done in pencil will not be accepted.