



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
MADRID

ENGL 2350 M01: Faith, Doubt and Literature

Spring 2018 – Draft December 21, 2017

Class Days and Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-13:45

Classroom: PRH-10

Prerequisite(s): ENGL-1900 or ENGL-1920, or equivalent

Credits: 3

Instructor: Paul Vita, Ph.D.

Instructor's Email: paul.vita@slu.edu

Instructor's Campus Phone: 91 554 58 58, ext. 207

Office: SIH-300

Office Hours: Thursdays, 10:00-12:00 a.m. (and by appointment)

Course Description: The search for meaning. This course will survey literary works, from a variety of periods and nationalities, which broach and debate issues of faith and doubt. Specific themes will emerge from our readings, but the driving our discussions will be questions that consider the interplay of faith, reason and doubt, and their relation to literary genres and textual representation.

Faith, Doubt and Literature is a course that satisfies the lower-division Core literature requirement of the College of Arts and Sciences. Through critical reading, discussion, lecture and written assignments, students are introduced to theories and methods of literary analysis and explore a diverse selection of imaginative works, developing a mature appreciation of their structure and of the rich significance of their language. They also gain experience in articulating their responses to the texts read, both in class discussions and through their own writing.

Course Goals: Students will:

- Engage with and respond to texts through close reading.
- Consider the various ways in which texts reflect and help shape wider cultural conditions.
- Construct clear spoken and written arguments that demonstrate an awareness of purpose and

Learning Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes: Essay assignments, exams, quizzes, class lectures and discussions, and instructor conferences will focus (and provide evidence of) student ability to do the following:

- Interpret passages from literary texts, connect and compare these interpretations, and combine them to sustain an argument about issues raised by the works read across the semester;
- Define, identify, analyze and evaluate literary devices and techniques that writers use;
- Recognize common concerns and themes raised by the works read as well as individual author's responses to social and cultural issues;
- Show knowledge and understanding of literary form through the ability to answer questions about:
 - the form and content of the works themselves;
 - the historical context of the works read;
 - approaches to the study of literature;
 - the relevance of literature to readers in the twenty-first century.
- Follow MLA citation and documentation guidelines in essays.

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, the Campus regularly assesses its teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs is kept on file, such as assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of student work for this course, including written assignments, in-class exercises, and exams may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes.* If students prefer that Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus does not keep their work on file, they need to communicate their decision in writing to the professor.

Required Primary Texts: All texts are available through the Madrid Campus Book Service; online editions/texts are also available and have placed on *Blackboard*.

Genesis and John (KJV)
The Bacchae (Euripides)
The Golden Ass (Apuleius)
Inferno (Dante)
The Life of St. Teresa de Avila (herself)
Hamlet (Shakespeare)
Lyrical Ballads (Wordsworth and Coleridge)
Selected Poems by G.M. Hopkins
Crime and Punishment (Dostoyevsky)
Selected Lyrics from *The Book of Mormon* (Parker, Lopez and Stone)

Class Trip to Ávila: Students enrolled in this class must participate in and make payment for the mandatory trip to Ávila (on Saturday, February 10). The prices posted on the web are approximate; and the final price will be based on the number of students enrolled on the last day of the Add/Drop period. All students, including those who withdraw from the class after this date, are required to pay these fees, which are non-refundable, unless the trip is cancelled due to low enrollment. Please review SLU-Madrid's trip policies, available on-line.

Course Requirements and Grading Rationale

1. Class attendance, preparation, participation in class meetings, including quizzes & reading responses – 10%.
2. Four essays, ranging from 2-5 pages in length – 60%
3. Four exams: three 50-minute in-class exams and a final exam at the end of the term – 30% (5% for each in-class exams; 15% for the final).

Attendance, Preparation, and Participation: Absences will lower a student's grade; after four absences, the student risks failing the course. Students should come to class prepared, having read the assigned texts carefully and critically. Informal quizzes will be given to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading assignments.

Essays: The first essay requires students to analyze a literary passage; the second and third ask students to consider an issue and to develop an argument based on close readings of texts; and the fourth requires students to compare two works, informed by secondary sources. The instructor will distribute essay topics several weeks before each essay is due. Students may develop their own topics, but must gain the instructor's approval beforehand. Essays must follow MLA style guidelines. Students who anticipate not meeting an essay deadline must inform the instructor by e-mail before the due date and identify when the essay will be submitted; otherwise, the grade for the essay will be lowered. All four essays must be completed in order to pass the course.

Revisions and Writing Assistance Center: Revising essays requires rigorous re-thinking and re-writing. While students may revise any or all of their essays, they must contact the instructor before doing so—as the student

may be required to work with teaching assistants at the English Writing Center (located in Padre Rubio Hall). The deadline for revising an essay is at least one class meeting before the next essay is due.

Examinations: There are three in-class activities that count for 5% of the student's final grade; there is also a final exam in this course. The exams will ask students to identify, analyze and discuss the significance of passages from the works we have read. They will also ask students to write essays that consider thematic issues based on evidence from the texts and literary terms reviewed in class.

Conferences: Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor at least twice over the course of the term. If a student receives the grade of C- or lower on an essay or on midterm, he or she **must** make an appointment to meet with the instructor.

Blackboard: Most course handouts will be posted on the class Blackboard intranet site, accessible through MY SLU. In addition, students will be able to access assignments, readings, essay grades, and additional resources on-line via this learning technology tool.

Libraries and Research: Most of the written work required for the course will be based on close readings of the literary works, not extensive research. Nonetheless SLU Madrid Library's collection holds several critical and theoretical works of especial interest to students of literature. Students also have access to the University's electronic resources via its Proxy Server, which hosts the MLA International Bibliography, the Oxford English Dictionary On-line, and several full-text journal databases.

E-mail: Campus and course announcements will often be handled by e-mail. Students should check their "@slu.edu" e-mail regularly.

University Statement on Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office [website](#). Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

University Title IX Statement: Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multiplettherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-

1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

Students with Special Needs: In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/student-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

Spring 2018 Course Schedule:

Week 1	Thursday, January 11	Course Introduction
Week 2	Tuesday, January 16 Thursday, January 18	Selections from <i>Genesis</i> Selections from the <i>New Testament (John)</i>
Week 3	Sunday, January 21 Tuesday, January 23 Thursday, January 25 Friday, January 26	Last Day to Drop a Class without a Grade W and/or Add a Class; Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options <i>The Bacchae</i> <i>The Bacchae</i> First Essay Due No Class/Application Deadline for Spring Semester Degree Candidates
Week 4	Tuesday, January 30 Thursday, February 1	<i>The Golden Ass</i> – Books 1-2 <i>The Golden Ass</i> – Books 3-4
Week 5	Tuesday, February 6 Thursday, February 8 Saturday, February 10	<i>The Golden Ass</i> – Books 5-7 In-Class Writing Exercise/Exam Class Trip to Ávila (40 euros)
Week 6	Tuesday, February 13 Wednesday, February 14 Thursday, February 15	<i>The Golden Ass</i> – 8-11 Ash Wednesday Registration for Summer 2018 Begins <i>The Inferno</i> – Cantos I-III
Week 7	Tuesday, February 20 Thursday, February 22	<i>The Inferno</i> – Cantos IV-XVIII No Class (Winter Break)

Week 8	Tuesday, February 27 Thursday, March 1 Friday, March 2	<i>The Inferno</i> – Cantos XIX-XXXIV Professors' Deadline to Submit Midterm Grades <i>Life of Saint Teresa</i> – Chapters 1-9 Second Essay Due
Week 9	Tuesday, March 6 Wednesday, March 7 Thursday, March 8 Friday, March 9	<i>Life of Saint Teresa</i> – Chapters 23-30 200 th Anniversary Celebration! <i>Life of Saint Teresa</i> – Chapters 31-40 Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W
Week 10	Tuesday, March 13 Thursday, March 15 Friday, March 16	<i>Hamlet</i> – Act I <i>Hamlet</i> – Acts II-III Last Day to Submit Transfer Application for Fall Semester Third Essay Due
Week 11	Tuesday, March 20 Thursday, March 22 Monday-Friday, March 26-30	<i>Hamlet</i> – Acts IV-V In-Class Writing Activity/Exam <i>Semana Santa Holiday!</i>
Week 12	Tuesday, April 3 Wednesday, April 4 Thursday, April 5	<i>Crime & Punishment</i> – Part I Registration for Fall 2018 Semester Begins <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> – “Rime”
Week 13	Tuesday, April 10 Thursday, April 12	<i>Crime & Punishment</i> – Parts II and III <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> – “We are Seven,” “Tintern Abbey” In-Class Writing Exercise/Exam
Week 14	Tuesday, April 17 Thursday, April 19 Friday, April 20	<i>Crime & Punishment</i> – Parts IV and V G.M. Hopkins, Selections Fourth Essay Due
Week 15	Tuesday, April 24 Thursday, April 26	<i>Crime & Punishment</i> – Part VI & Epilogue Lyrics from <i>The Book of Mormon</i>
Week 16	Tuesday, May 1 Wednesday, May 2 Thursday, May 3 Thursday, May 10 Friday, May 11 Saturday, May 12 Sunday, May 13	<i>Día del Trabajador</i> (Campus Closed) <i>Día de la Comunidad</i> (Campus Closed) Review and Celebration FINAL EXAM: 12:00-15:00 University Housing Move-out Date Commencement Professors' deadline to submit spring 2018 final grades