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Mission: The College of Biblical Studies–Houston provides biblically based education for the Body of Christ, with primary focus on African-American and other ethnic minority groups, and equips its students with a biblical worldview for Christian service to the church and the world.

ENGLISH 2332 A: LITERARY TRADITION

Course Syllabus

Paul R. Shockley, Th.M.; M.A.; Ph.D.

Professor of Bible & Theology

Spring 2013: 19 January; 16 February; 2 March; 6 April; 20 April

Saturday Classes: 9:00am-5:30pm

Paul.Shockley@cbsouston.edu; 713-785-5995

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5:30pm-6:30pm & by personal appointment

ENGLISH 2332: LITERARY TRADITION SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

3 credit hours. This course is designed to study the major modes of writing including epic, tragedy, comedy, and novel.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Engage in discussions of literary genres and traditions.
2. Read a variety of example texts by the assigned due dates, preparing for discussion and looking for relevant biblical parallels.
3. Demonstrate ability to recall and connect significant features of readings and discussions throughout the semester on objective and essay exams, quizzes, and classroom dialogue.
4. Distinguish in written form the different ways to understand different genres.
5. Be able to recognize the power of ideas in literature.
6. Recognize the value and importance of creativity in the human experience.
7. Learn how to write flash fiction using theological, biblical, and apologetic ideas in the Christian tradition.
8. Articulate personal convictions rooted in an understanding of concepts, presuppositions, philosophical bases and world-views that have been examined in light of biblical principles.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

A. **Required:**

1. Plato. *Five Dialogues*. 2nd Edition. Translated by G. M. A. Grube. Revised by John M. Cooper. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 2002. ISBN 0872206335
2. *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*. A New Translation by Robert C. Bartlett and Susan D. Collins (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2011). ISBN-13: 978-0226026756.

3. Rene Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy: with Selections from the Objections and Replies*. Oxford World's Classics. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008). ISBN-13: 978-1460903560.
4. C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters: With Screwtape Proposes a Toast* (New York: HarperCollins, 2001). ISBN-13: 978-0060652890.
5. Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, revised edition, 20th anniversary edition (New York: Penguin Books, 1985). ISBN-13 978-014303651.
6. J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers, The Return of the King*, 4 Book Boxed Set (New York: Del Rey; Mti edition, 2012): ISBN-13: 978-0345538376.

A. Reading Assignments:

1. Required reading as dictated by syllabus. This will be necessary because we will not only have a quiz for each reading, but we will also spend the day discussing the scheduled works.
2. Keep good notes.
3. Create a review sheet as you read. Summarize the chapters and major units of thought therein.

B. Creative Written Assignments:

1. Creative Writing Assignment:

You are to write a piece of flash fiction, namely a fictional short story or micro-story of extreme brevity. This story should be between 300 to 1000 words. The story is to involve some biblical/theological/apologetic concept, command, or practice and involve the literary techniques, use of images, and theological or philosophical rigor you see in the above texts. I will distribute an example of superb flash fiction literature.

- a. Short story topic decided by second class. At second class you will verbally share your paper topic to the class.
- b. By third class day you will have two copies of rough draft. One rough draft copy will be distributed to another student for review. You will also turn in rough draft to professor at end of class. Time will also be given to solicit feedback from the class about your topic and particular issues that you are facing with your micro-story.
- c. On fourth class day you will give student and professor a copy of your feedback of other student's work. Peer review of student's work is due at beginning of class. Make two copies.
- d. Final draft is due at beginning of fifth class. We will read our short stories to one another.
- e. Your work is to be completely original. Do not plagiarize!
- f. You must meticulously follow course deadlines on schedule or it may result in a complete loss of 15% regarding final course grade.

C. Quizzes and/or Exams:

1. Final Exam over course lectures (from previous class) and reading materials (current class) in classes 2-5.
2. Be prepared for a quiz at the beginning of each and every class. Each quiz is worth 25 points (2-5 classes); classes 2-5 for quizzes. Do not be late for quizzes. Makeup quizzes can only be made up the following week during the school week. You must notify professor before or on same day as class if unable to attend class and take quiz. Otherwise, you will receive a zero.
3. Each student must proactively read all books assigned and discuss in class. Failure to attend *and* participate in class, provide substantive feedback regarding creative writing assignment, may result in a complete loss of 15% on final grade.

D. Grading:

1.	Flash Fiction Rough Draft:	10%	Due at beginning of third class.
2.	Flash Fiction Revised Draft: Paper:	25%	Due at beginning of fifth class.
3.	Quizzes (four quizzes total)	25%	Classes 2 through 5.
4.	Final Exam:	25%	Last class day.
5.	Classroom participation	15%	Attend and participate in each and every class, follow classroom procedures, and meet each and every deadline with excellence.

The professor reserves the right to grade all assignments based upon the quality of the student's overall work. All assignments must be deemed by the professor to be acceptable in order to qualify for any grade at all. If the assignment by the student does not meet minimum standards of college-level work, the student will be assessed a grade of "F" for that assignment. Student's grades may also be lowered for failing to fulfill responsibilities in classroom etiquette, class discussions, and assigned papers.

E. Classroom Participation:

Class Participation Grade: Students will be examined on the basis of their reading and/or active engagement in classroom process (including tardiness). This may affect 15% of your final grade.

1. Students are expected to prepare for each lecture by reading textbooks, staying attentive throughout the course lectures, actively writing notes, and avoiding use of all technological devices (without the express permission of the professor).
2. Students are to actively participate in discussion of books. Failure to read each entire book and dialogue in a substantive way that demonstrates a mastery of knowledge may result in complete loss of 15% of class credit requirement.
3. Students who are missing from class lecture time more than 15 minutes total for 1 week course without express permission of the professor may result in complete loss of 15% of class credit.

4. Failure to consistently engage in class discussion may result in complete loss of 15% of class credit requirement.
5. Students using technological devices, texting, taking phone calls, surfing the internet, and using social utilities like Facebook may result in complete loss of 1t% of class credit requirement.
6. Failure to show proper respect to both classmates and professor may result in complete loss of 15% of class credit requirement.
7. Failure to turn in assignments on time as scheduled may result in a complete loss of 15% of class credit requirement.
8. Class participation is expected. All students are required to be present for announced exam and day assignments are due. Because of the nature of this course, it is in your best interest to attend class and engage material every night of the week. In fact, it may prove helpful to go ahead and study assigned books.
9. Always be sensitive to the topics at hand, professor, and fellow students. We only have so much time to cover the material prepared for that day of lecture (no rabbit trail conversations, please).
10. Since this is a course on college level, be sure to write down lecture notes; it is *your* responsibility to keep good notes.
11. If you miss a particular class or section of the class, be sure to ask your fellow student for a copy of his or her notes.
12. I will not distribute my lecture notes (other than powerpoint presentations which are located on my website: www.prshockley.org).

F. Method for Turning in Assignments:

1. Students are expected to turn in two hard copies of rough and final draft of *creative writing assignment* to the professor.
2. Professor will not accept digital copies of creative writing assignment or peer eview of other student's work.
3. Because of the time sensitivity of this course schedule, you must be punctual with all assignments.
4. All assignments are due by 9:00am per class schedule.
5. Turabian format is to follow each written assignment (including peer review).
 - a. Cover sheet is mandatory.
 - b. All sources examined must be included in bibliography.
 - c. All sources cited in footnote form.
 - d. Bibliography must be included.
6. Appropriate grammar and syntax is demanded.

G. Late Assignments:

1. You are required to be present for all quizzes and final exam. Be punctual!
2. Failure to turn in all assignments on time will be counted numerically as a zero (00). No exemptions, extensions, or exclusions will be granted. A zero is considerably lower than an average F.

H. Attendance:

1. Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. It is critical that you attend class in view of this being an intercession course.
2. Students are allowed to miss 20% of all class time without penalty.
3. Absences totaling more than 20% of class time will result in an automatic "F"
4. If you are more than 30 minutes late to class, leave early from class for more than 30 minutes, or remove yourself during class for more than 30 minutes, you will be counted as absent for that particular class. If you step out of class and miss more than 15 minutes, then you may be penalized with a 15% reduction in participation grade.
5. Please do not be tardy to class; it is discourteous to both students and professor. 15 minutes late and you will be counted tardy. Over 15 minutes late and you will be counted absent.

I. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 92-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 73-74	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 89-91	C 79-82	D 71-72	
A- 94-95	B- 86-88	C- 75-78	D- 70	

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE:

No.	Date	Topic: The Power of Ideas	Assignments	Due Dates
1.	26 January	Introduction to Literary Traditions	Introduction to Course Syllabus Read <i>Plato's Five Dialogues</i>	26 January
2.	9 February	Virtue Ethics & Political Philosophy	Read Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> <i>Be prepared for quiz.</i> <i>Short story topic must be decided by second class. You will share your topic with your</i>	8 February

			<i>classmates.</i>	
3.	9 March	The “Father” of Modern Philosophy Cartesian Certainty Philosophy of Religion	<p>Read Rene Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy: with Selections from the Objections and Replies.</i></p> <p><i>Be prepared for quiz at beginning of class</i></p> <p>By third class day you will have two copies of rough draft. One rough draft copy will be distributed to another student for review. You will also turn in rough draft to professor at end of class. Time will also be given to solicit feedback from the class about your topic and particular issues that you are facing with your micro-story.</p>	8 March
4.	23 March	Philosophy of Visual Media; Education Moral Theology & Spiritual Warfare	<p>Read <i>Screwtape Letters & Amusing Ourselves to Death</i></p> <p><i>Be prepared for quiz on both books at beginning of class</i></p> <p>On fourth class day you will give student and professor a copy of your feedback of other student’s work. Peer review of student’s work is due at beginning of class. Make two copies.</p>	22 March
5.	20 April	Moral Theology & Epic Literature	<p>Read <i>The Hobbit & The Lord of the Rings</i></p> <p>Final writing assignment is due at beginning of class.</p> <p>Be prepared to read your final drafts to the whole class.</p> <p><i>Be prepared for quiz on all books at beginning of class</i></p> <p>Final Exam</p>	20 April
<p>The syllabus requirements, dates and topics of class are subject to change without advance notice by the professor.</p>				

V. COURSE POLICIES:

This syllabus serves as the agreement between the professor and the student. Students are required to read the syllabus before the class begins and are responsible for all information contained in the syllabus whether they read it or not. The requirements of the syllabus are subject to change by the professor without notice. The professor may announce changes in class without written information. The student is still held responsible to comply with the changes made by the professor.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Students with a disability who believe they need an adjustment in this class are encouraged to contact the Division for Student and Enrollment Services by telephone at 832-252-4685 or 4620, as soon as possible. The office will process your request and include the decision in a letter directed to my attention. Please present the letter to me so that we may discuss adjustments for this class.

Plagiarism: Students who plagiarize (copy material from other sources without citing references) are committing a very serious offense. Those who plagiarize may be subject to grade reduction, loss of graduation honors, discipline and/or dismissal from CBS. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not a valid argument for not incurring all penalties associated with plagiarism.

Add/Drop/Withdrawal: All students who add or drop a class, withdraw from a class, change class section, or change status between credit and audit must give official notice. All ADCP students must contact their Academic Advisor to complete a Change of Status Form. All other students must complete a Change of Status Form with the Registrar's Office.

Financial Aid: Students who are receiving federal, state, or institutional financial aid who withdraw or add hours during the semester may have their financial aid adjusted because of the withdrawal or addition. This change in schedule may affect the aid they are receiving during the current semester, and could affect their eligibility for aid in future semesters.

Final Course Grades: Final course grades provided to a student by a faculty member may not be relied upon as official. Students may access their official final grades online through the SonisWeb System. The Registrar's Office will mail grades to a student only upon request. All accounts must be paid in full before a student can receive transcripts. According to FERPA rulings, faculty may not provide final grade information to students via telephone, email, posting or any other source which might compromise student confidentiality.

Student Assignments: The CBS faculty members have the discretion to take as long as necessary to grade and return student work. Returned work should be retained by the student in case it is required for a grade appeal. It is the responsibility of the student to collect work from the CBS faculty member. In the event that the student is unable to obtain the work directly from the professor, a self-addressed stamped envelope with sufficient postage should be included with the assignment when it is turned in. After one year, CBS and its faculty members reserve the right to destroy any unclaimed work. In the event the professor is willing to accept an assignment via email, the professor is not able to communicate a grade via email. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the

professor received the emailed assignment. CBS faculty are required to keep emails with assignments for only 6 months from the date the assignment was originally sent to the faculty member.

Children in Classes and Unaccompanied Children: The College does not permit children under sixteen years of age to visit the library or the classroom. Under no circumstances should children be unaccompanied on the property. Any children must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian at all times.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy: Classroom disruption by cell phones or other electronic devices is prohibited. All cell phones and similar electronic devices must remain turned off and out of sight for the duration of class. Electronic devices utilized in a learning context, such as laptops and language interpreters, may be permitted at the professor's discretion. A student may face a zero and/or failure in the class if an electronic device is used for cheating during a test. Cheating at CBS is not tolerated and may result in expulsion.

Students Who Are Not on the Roster Policy: Students who are officially registered in a course are the only students who will subsequently receive graded assignments, grades and/or credit for a course.

Faculty Gifts Policy: CBS faculty members may not keep any money or cash equivalents (e.g. checks or gift cards) of any amount from a student or group of students. Additionally, a CBS faculty member may not keep any gift from a student or a group of students that has a market value of over \$25.

CCS Students: Checkout and computer privileges in the CBS library are paid for in part by the General Services Fee that CBS students pay each semester in addition to their tuition. Since Center for Continuing Studies participants are not responsible for paying that fee, they may not check out books in the library or use the computers.

Safety Information: Safety and Security information is located in the clear plastic holders in each classroom. These pamphlets give an outline of what to do during the event of an emergency. They also list important emergency phone numbers as well as an incident report in the case of an emergency. There is additional safety and security information located at <http://cbshouston.edu/emergency>.

Class Cancellations (Emergency): In case of severe conditions that warrant course cancellations, it is the responsibility of the student to listen to or obtain information regarding announcements from the local media outlets, the CBS automated phone system, and/or at www.cbshouston.edu. The CBS Watchman Emergency Notification System uses text, email, and voice messages to alert CBS students in the event of an emergency or urgent situation. Alert messages are sent to registered mobile phones, home phones and email addresses. Contact information the student has provided and included in my records is automatically stored in the emergency alert system. Any changes the student makes to this information is automatically updated in CBS Watchman. Students are automatically enrolled in the emergency alert system and may elect not to participate by completing the Emergency Notification System Election not to Participate Form. The form and other information is available at www.cbhsouston.edu/watchman.

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

A. How to do well in this class!

1. Carefully read assigned books and attentively listen to lectures. Bombard your assigned readings, lectures, and discussion with the following questions: why, where, what, when, who, and so what?
 2. Consider making an outline of the major units of thought in your readings. As you formulate your outline from the reading, ask yourself the following question: "*What do I see?*" The more observations you make, the better your interpretation of the author's position or claim may be. Afterwards ask, "*What does it mean?*"
 3. After you outline the author's position/claim go back and see what arguments are being provided to support that position or claim. Keep asking yourself, "*What is the issue?*" Then consider what objections can be raised against that issue, position, or claim. Lastly, what replies can be given to defend the position or claim against these objections.
 4. You should consult with us as often as possible to make sure you are understanding the course material. Do not wait until the day before a test to begin studying. This is not the kind of course for which you can cram and expect to do well. Take advantage of the office hours.
 5. Consider forming study groups to prepare for quizzes and exams.
 6. Make sure you are able to contact another student for lecture material in case you happen to miss a class.
 7. Ten Strategies for First-Rate Studying (don't merely read; read to understand):
 - Read Thoughtfully
 - Read Repeatedly
 - Read Patiently
 - Read Prayerfully
 - Read Meditatively
 - Read Selectively
 - Read Imaginatively
 - Read Purposefully
 - Read Acquisitively
 - Read Telescopically
 8. If you want to improve your reading comprehension skills I would encourage you to purchase Mortimer J. Adler's informative work, *How to Read a Book*.
- 10 maxims I encourage you to inculcate into your life in order to achieve academic success:

1. Be focused! Your energy, time, and discipline need to be bent on becoming the very best. Focus on what really counts. Do not allow yourself to become diverted by the trivial and unimportant.
2. Be holistic! Pro-actively make decisions and pursue interests in your daily life that will assist you in obtaining success. Your resources must always be redirected to your goal.
3. Be undivided! Do not separate one are of your life from another. Pursuing opposing interests may marginalize your success because it divides up your energy, time, resources, and attention.
4. Be determined! Academic progress is rough, ever so time-consuming, and ever so demanding. Meet every demand with a determination for excellence. Learn from your mistakes. Pick yourself up when you fail and press on!
5. Be resilient! Do not give up. You will perhaps fail some time or another during your program. You may even become depress from the critical feedback you receive from your professors and peers. When those times come, and they do for most if not all, you must pick yourself up again-for accomplishing the goal is worth facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles.
6. Be sacrificial! Purposefully let go of those things that will hinder your success. Willfully discard every hindrance and degenerative influence that will keep you from achieving your goal with a passion for excellence. Routinely examine your life and see what is encouraging or discouraging you from reaching excellence.
7. Be healthy! Realize, as Aristotle states, that one area of your life impacts all other areas, whether intellectual, physical, or moral. Take very tender care of your mind, soul, and body. You need to strive to be holistically healthy-for if you are not mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy, then you may easily become fatigued, develop inner angst, regret, disappointment, and waiver in the completion of your goals. Remember, a good night sleep is one of the best things you can do for yourself.
8. Be supported! Cultivate a network of people who will exhort you to succeed! Develop relationships with peers who are also bent on achieving success.
9. Be excellent! Successful students realize the importance of cultivating a disposition, i.e., an inner character, which desires intellectual and moral excellence. Seek to desire excellence. Aristotle encourages us to do deeds of excellence until excellence becomes habitual in our personhood.
10. Be balanced! Learn how to balance “having fun” with “hard work.” Don’t ignore those opportunities to relax or play hard. In fact, pursue them! But do not allow those opportunities to displace your study opportunities. Remember, learning is pleasurable!

One of the dangers for those who do achieve success is the problem of malnourishment. Successful people may reach their long-term goals, but so many of them starve themselves in the process. Do not so focus on your goals that you miss out on dynamic opportunities that can nourish your person, inform your circumstance, grow your

character, and enlarge your world. In other words, do not so focus on the future that you neglect the blessings that are right in front of you. Go forth and seize each and every day with a passion for excellence!

EXTRA NOTES: