

## ALLEN UNIVERSITY

### I. REL 104 Introduction to Biblical Literature

II. Dr. Amenti Sujai  
Associate Professor of Religion  
Chair, Religion Department  
Email: [asujai@allenuniversity.edu](mailto:asujai@allenuniversity.edu)

Office Location: Chappelle Hall – First Floor  
Virtual (Zoom) Office Hours: Daily (Except Sundays)  
– 5:00-7:00 pm  
Cell/Text: 803-465-2583  
Instagram: [drsujaisclass](#)  
Twitter: [Dr. Sujai@DrSujaisClass](#)

### III. Course Name and Description

#### REL 104 Introduction to Biblical Literature

Credit 3 hrs.

The purpose of this course is to give students an overview of the Bible, its themes, and narratives. East African Hebrew narrative tradition, proverbs, and parables are covered for relevance to today's social, economic, gender, and spiritual challenges of the human condition and in modern society. This Biblical Literature course views the Bible from the standpoint of sacred narratives within the context of the hero's/heroine's journey. From an academic perspective, the life learning experiences of ancient peoples from different cultures and societies included inspirational narratives or sacred narratives that contained a plot with a beginning, a middle, and an end. Some Biblical storylines also follow a contextual formula; fall (crisis or conflict), redemption (overcoming the crisis), and restoration (physical, mental, or spiritual transformation). This course will emphasize those Biblical sacred narratives that can contextually be read with this formula in mind.

### IV. Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are to enable you to:

- describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives
- name the three elements of *Hero/Heroine's Journey* in the selected sacred narratives
- apply the story and its elements to your own life experience

### V. Course Policies

#### Class Attendance

It is the responsibility of each student to attend all scheduled class meetings in the courses in which he/she is enrolled. Documentation of absences begins on the designated start date for classes. The specific number of absences for each class should not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total number of meeting days established for the course.

Pertinent Policies that affect class attendance, conduct and academic performance can be found in the university's Student Handbook at <http://www.allenuniversity.edu/student-handbook/>

- Class Attendance and Excused Absences-p. 10

- Plagiarism-p. 38
- Student Conduct to include disruptive behavior-p. 36-39
- Dress Code- p. 9
- Satisfactory Academic Progress- p.16-17
- Provisions for Disabled or Special Need Students-p. 19-20

**VI. Course Units**

**Outline of Content**

- Unit I: Introduction to Biblical Literature and the Hero/Heroine Journey
- Unit II: The Hero/Heroine in the Nevi'im (Prophets)
- Unit III: Guidance for the Hero/Heroine's Journey in the Ketuv'im (Writings)
- Unit IV: The Hero's Journey in the Gospels: Jesus as Hero

**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course:

- A. Students will be able to write the storyline of the hero/heroine journey from selected Biblical sacred narratives.
- B. Students will be able to recognize and Name the three elements, i.e., crisis, redemption, and restoration, in the Hero/Heroine Journey storyline.
- C. Students will be able to apply the three elements of the Hero/Heroine Journey to their life experiences through storytelling.

**Course Schedule**

| WEEK   | Topic/Objective | Readings and Viewings   | Assessment |
|--|-----------------|---|------------|
| Unit I:<br>Introduction to<br>Biblical<br>Literature and<br>the<br>Hero/Heroine<br>Journey<br><br>Week 1 | Getting Started | Welcome to Dr. Sujai's<br>Class (Watch the video<br>on Main Page)<br><br>Statement on Diversity<br><br>Listen to: Beginning Your<br>Journey Online<br><br>Introduction to Biblical<br>Literature<br><br>Introduce Yourself<br>Forum (VoiceThread) |            |

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|  |  | <p>REL 104 Introduction to Biblical Literature: The Syllabus (Listen to VoiceThread)</p> <p>Text for the Course:<br/>Bible: NRSV Translation<br/>How to find a chapter and verse in the Bible. Read along and click to listen to audio version VoiceThread.</p> <p>Tutorials:<br/>How to create a folder in WORD<br/>How to use E-Learning</p> <p>How to Write a Reflection Paper – Read the Handout and watch the E-Learning Tutorials</p> |  |
|  | Keeping the Record<br>Origins of the Bible   | The Griot<br><br>Origins of the Bible   | The Griot/Origins of the Bible Quiz in E-Learning  |
|  | Introduction to Biblical Literature and the Hero/Heroine Journey (HHJ) – The Theme | Lecture: What is the Hero/Heroine Journey?<br><br>Watch: The Hero/Heroine Journey: Acting Director, Jesse Vaughn  | Open Forum on: The Theme<br><br>Share a song, story, poem or movie that conveys the Hero/Heroine Journey on VoiceThread. |
|  | Introduction to Biblical Literature and the Hero/Heroine Journey (HHJ)             | Lecture: Everyone has a Story<br><br>Watch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Black Panther: Story of Wakanda</li> <li>▪ The Black Panther: Family Tree</li> <li>▪ Mary McLeod Bethune</li> <li>▪ Madame CJ Walker</li> </ul>  | Open Forum on “Everyone has a Story<br><br>Share a story about someone you consider a hero/heroine.                      |

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|               | Introduction to Biblical Literature and the Hero/Heroine Journey (HHJ) – Crisis      | Lecture: Everyone has a Crisis<br>Watch:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Black Panther – T’Challa Fights Kilmonger</li> <li>▪ Maya Angelou – Childhood</li> <li>▪ Hank Aaron – Shattering a Record</li> </ul>                 | Open Forum on “Everyone has a Crisis”<br><br>Describe the crisis your hero/heroine encountered.   |
|               | Introduction to Biblical Literature and the Hero/Heroine Journey (HHJ) – Redemption  | Lecture: Anyone Can Experience Redemption<br>Watch:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Black Panther: Kilmonger’s Death Scene</li> <li>▪ Arthur Takes the Trident of Atlantis</li> <li>▪ Frederick Douglass and Covey</li> </ul> | Open Forum on “Anyone Can Experience Redemption”<br><br>Describe how your hero/heroine overcame their crisis.   |
|               | Introduction to Biblical Literature and the Hero/Heroine Journey (HHJ) – Restoration | Lecture: Anyone Can Be Restored<br>Watch:<br>Black Panther: T’Challa on Earth<br>The Color Purple: Celie and Her Family Reunite   | Open Forum on “Anyone Can Experience Restoration”<br><br>Describe how your hero/heroine transformed by their experience.  |
| <b>Week 2</b> | Overview of the TaNaKh (Hebrew/Old Testament)  | Read H/O – Hebrew Bible: Torah, Prophets and Writings<br>Watch:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brief Overview of Judaism</li> <li>▪ TaNakh/Old Testament</li> </ul>  | Write a two-page story that includes the following:<br><br><b>On Coming to Allen University</b><br><br>1. Tell a story about coming to Allen University (storyline).<br><br>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.<br><br>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption). |

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|               |  |  | 4. In your story, tell how the entire experience has changed you so far (restoration).   |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <p>Beginning of Hebrew Culture and Society: Genesis</p> <p>The objectives</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine’s Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p>    | <p>Lecture Overview on Genesis: Everyone Can Start Something New</p> <p>Readings: Book of Genesis Chapters 1-4<br/>Chapters 6-9<br/>Chapters 12, 13, 16, 17, 21<br/>Chapters 25-50</p> <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of Genesis Part I</li> <li>▪ Story of Adam and Even Retold through Poetry</li> <li>▪ The Story of Cain and Abel Retold through Dance</li> <li>▪ Overview of Genesis Part II</li> <li>▪ Hagar and the Spoken Word</li> <li>▪ Modern-Day Hagar</li> </ul> <p>Read the Abrahamic Family Tree and</p> | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>Hero/Heroine in Your Family:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell a story about a hero/heroine in your family (storyline).</li> <li>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) they experienced.</li> <li>3. In your story, tell how they overcame the challenge (redemption).</li> <li>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience has changed him/her (restoration).</li> </ol> <p><b>Story Vocabulary</b><br/><b>Create Your Vocabulary from this week’s readings in Genesis (20 words for each story)</b><br/><b>Presentations and Discussion with VoiceThread</b></p> |
| <b>Week 4</b> | <p>The Beginning of Hebrew Culture and Society: Exodus</p> <p>The objectives</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine’s Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p> | <p>Lecture Overview on Exodus: Everyone Can Pursue Freedom</p> <p>Readings: Exodus Chapters 2-12</p> <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of Exodus</li> <li>▪ Harriet Tubman: Moses of Her People</li> </ul>   | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>On Breaking Free</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell a story about when you left or freed yourself from a negative situation (storyline).</li> <li>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</li> <li>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</li> <li>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration)</li> </ol> <p><b>Story Vocabulary</b></p>   |

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|  |  |   | <p><b>Create Your Vocabulary from this week's stories (20 words for each story)</b></p> <p><b>Presentations and Discussion with VoiceThread</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Unit II: The Hero/Heroine in the Nevi'im (Prophets)</b></p> <p><b>Week 5</b></p> | <p>The Hero/Heroine in the Nevi'im (Prophets) Joshua</p> <p>The objectives</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine's Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p>               | <p>Lecture: Everyone Can Pursue a Goal</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Joshua Chapters 1-6</p> <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview: Joshua</li> <li>▪ John Lewis: Getting into Good Trouble</li> </ul>  | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>On Pursuing a Goal</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell a story about a time when you pursued a goal or achievement (storyline).</li> <li>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</li> <li>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</li> <li>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration).</li> </ol> <p><b>Story Vocabulary</b></p> <p><b>Create Your Vocabulary from this week's stories (20 words for each story)</b></p> <p><b>Presentations and Discussion with VoiceThread</b></p> |
| <p><b>Week 6</b></p>   | <p>Governing Hebrew Culture and Society: Nevi'im (Prophets) Judges</p> <p>The objectives</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine's Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p> | <p>Lecture: Everyone Can Pursue Strength</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Book of Judges Chapters 1-16</li> </ul> <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of Judges</li> <li>▪ Lecture: Deborah, Woman of Fire</li> </ul> | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>On Showing Strength</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell a story about a time when you were mentally or physically strong (storyline).</li> <li>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</li> <li>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</li> <li>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration).</li> </ol> <p><b>Story Vocabulary</b></p>   |

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|               |   |  | <p><b>Create Your Vocabulary from this week's stories (20 words for each story)</b></p> <p><b>Presentations and Discussion with VoiceThread</b></p>   |
| <b>Week 7</b> | <p>Governing Hebrew Culture and Society: Nevi'im (Prophets) King David and King Solomon</p> <p>The objectives</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine's Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p> | <p>Lecture: Everyone Can Pursue Leadership</p> <p>Readings:<br/>Books of 1 Samuel 17- 20; 2 Samuel 5, 11, 12; 1 Kings 1, 2, 3, 6</p> <p>Read H/O: Pomegranates and Paramours: A Study of Song of Solomon</p> <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of</li> <li>▪ The Books of 1&amp;2 Solomon</li> <li>▪ The Books of 1&amp;2 Kings</li> <li>▪ The Book of Song of Songs</li> <li>▪ I Am Black (But) Beautiful: A Bad Translation</li> </ul> | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>On Leadership</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell a story about a time when acted as a leader (storyline).</li> <li>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</li> <li>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</li> <li>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration).</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell a story about a time when you had strong feelings about how our society defines beauty (storyline).</li> <li>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</li> <li>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</li> <li>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration).</li> </ol> |
|               | <p>Governing Hebrew Culture and Society: Nevi'im (Prophets) Ruth</p> <p>The objectives</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p>   | <p>Lecture: Everyone Can Be Loyal</p> <p>Read:<br/>The entire Book of Ruth</p> <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An Overview of the Book of Ruth</li> </ul>   | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>On Loyalty</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell a story about a time when chose to be loyal to someone or something (belief, institution) (storyline).</li> </ol>   |

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|   | <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine’s Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p>   |  | <p>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</p> <p>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</p> <p>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration).</p> <p><b>Story Vocabulary</b><br/> <b>Create Your Vocabulary from this week’s stories</b><br/> <b>Presentations and Discussion with VoiceThread</b></p>   |
| <b>Week 8</b>   | <p>Governing Hebrew Culture and Society: Nevi'im (Prophets) Esther</p> <p>The objectives</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine’s Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p> | <p>Lecture: Everyone Can Be Courageous</p> <p>Read:<br/>The entire Book of Esther</p> <p>Watch:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of Esther</li> </ul> </p> | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>On Showing Courage</b></p> <p>1. Tell your story about a time you chose to show courage.</p> <p>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</p> <p>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</p> <p>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration).</p> <p><b>Story Vocabulary</b><br/> <b>Create Your Vocabulary from this week’s stories.</b><br/> <b>Presentations and Discussion with VoiceThread</b></p> |
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| <p><b>Unit III: Guidance for the Hero/Heroine Journey in the Ketuv'im (Writings)</b></p> <p><b>Week 9</b></p> | <p>Guidance for the Hero/Heroine’s Journey in the Ketuv'im (Writings) Job</p> <p>The objectives</p>  | <p>Lecture: Everyone Can Learn from a Difficult Lesson</p> <p>Read:<br/>The entire Book of Job First 20 Chapters Job</p>   | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>On Learning a Hard Lesson</b></p> <p>1. Tell your story about a time you had to learn a hard lesson.</p>  |



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|                       | <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine’s Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p>  | <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of the Book of Job</li> </ul>   | <p>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</p> <p>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</p> <p>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration).</p>  |
|                       | <p>Hebrew/Jewish Wisdom Literature: Ketuv’im (Writings): Proverbs and Ecclesiastes</p>   | <p>Read:</p> <p>First 20 Chapters of Proverbs<br/>First 20 Chapters of Ecclesiastes</p> <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of Proverbs</li> <li>▪ Ecclesiastes</li> </ul>       | <p><b>Write Your Own Proverbs</b></p> <p><b>Write 10 Proverbs to 10 friends who need your advice. Your proverbs must be based on your life experiences.</b></p> <p><b>Presentations and Discussion with VoiceThread</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Week 10</b></p> | <p>Hebrew/Jewish Wisdom Literature: Nevi’im (Latter Major Prophets) Daniel</p> <p>The objectives</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine’s Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p> | <p>Lecture: Everyone Can Overcome a Fear</p> <p>Read:</p> <p>The entire Book of Daniel</p> <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of Daniel</li> <li>▪ Way of the Exile</li> </ul> | <p>Writing Assignment – (2 pages)</p> <p><b>On Overcoming Fear</b></p> <p>1. Tell your story about a time when you had to overcome your fear of doing the right thing.</p> <p>2. In your story, tell about the challenge(s) you experienced.</p> <p>3. In your story, tell how you overcame the challenge (redemption).</p> <p>4. In your story, tell how the entire experience changed you. (restoration).</p> <p><b>Story Vocabulary</b><br/><b>Create Your Vocabulary from this week’s stories (20 words for each story)</b></p> <p><b>Presentations and Discussion with VoiceThread</b></p> |

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| <p><b>Unit IV: The Hero's Journey in the Gospels: Jesus as Hero</b></p> <p><b>Week 11</b></p> | <p>Objectives for Weeks 11-15</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine's Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p> | <p>Lecture: Jesus and the Hero's Journey Through the Gospels</p> <p>Read:<br/>Matthew Chapters 1-25</p> <p>Watch:<br/>How to Read the Gospels<br/>What is a Parable?<br/>Overview of Matthew Part 1&amp;2</p> | <p>Book Quiz 1: Matthew's perspective on the Hero, Jesus.</p> |
| <p><b>Week 12</b></p>   | <p>Objectives for Weeks 11-15</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine's Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p> | <p>Read:<br/>Gospel of Mark Chapters 1-6</p> <p>Watch:<br/><br/>Overview of the Gospel of Mark Part 1&amp;2</p>   | <p>Book Quiz 2: Mark's perspective on the Hero, Jesus.</p>    |
| <p><b>Week 13</b></p>   | <p>Objectives for Weeks 11-15</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p> <p>Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine's Journey in the selected sacred narratives</p> <p>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience</p> | <p>Read:<br/>Gospel of Luke Chapters 1-15; 25</p> <p>Watch:<br/>Overview of the Gospel of Luke</p>  | <p>Book Quiz 3: Luke's perspective on the Hero, Jesus.</p>    |
| <p><b>Week 14</b></p>   | <p>Objectives for Weeks 11-15</p> <p>Describe the storyline in selected Biblical sacred narratives</p>  | <p>Read:<br/>The Gospel of John Chapters 1-10</p>   | <p>Book Quiz 4: John's perspective on the Hero, Jesus.</p>    |

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|                | Name the three elements of Hero/Heroine's Journey in the selected sacred narratives<br><br>Apply the story and its elements to your own life experience | Watch:<br>Overview of the Gospel of John         |  |
| <b>Week 15</b> | Week Fifteen: Systematic Racism and Interpretations of Scripture: Who Tells the Story   | Watch:<br>White Rage<br>Blacks in the Scriptures | Book Quiz 5: Systematic Racism and the Interpretation of Scripture |
| <b>Week 16</b> | Preparing for the Test  |  | <b>Reflection Paper Due</b><br><b>Final Test</b>                   |

**Vocabulary: Reading the scriptures is a daunting task for beginners, even if you grew up in the Christian religious tradition. Making meaning of a story within the scriptures is and should be an internal reflective exercise. Therefore, you will choose 20 words from each storyline to research and build your vocabulary. Under the guidance of your instructor, your words will be entered into the class vocabulary database for the entire class.**

## VII. Course Requirements

To successfully pass this course, all readings, assignments, and attendance to class and/or video conferencing must be completed.

## VIII. Course Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be based on the assessments listed below.

| <b>Assignment</b>  | <b>Points</b>          |
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| 10 Writing Assignments @ 10 points                                   | 100 Points             |
| 5 Book Quizzes @ 12 points   | 60 Points              |
| Final Test   | 30 Points              |
| Your Proverbs  | 20 Points              |
| Your Vocabulary  | 70 Points              |
| Reflection Paper   | 20 Points              |
| Open Forum on the Storyline and Elements of the Hero/Heroine Journey | 20 Points              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>320 points/100%</b> |

## COURSE Grading Scale Course Breakdown:

The grading scale is based on 100-90% is an A, 89-80% is a B and so forth and so on.

320-279 = A    300-259 = B    280-239 = C    260-219 = D    220-0 = F

**10 Writing Assignments** (100 points) – Write a weekly two- to three-page essay on your thoughts on the Hero/Heroine Journey observed in your life and in the life of your classroom-partner.

**5 Book Quizzes** (60 points) – Open book quizzes on the Jesus-story as hero in the Gospels

**Final Test** (30 points) – True/False, Multiple Choice test on the theme of the Hero/Heroine Journey and the four elements.

**Your Proverbs** (20 points) – Create proverbs (wisdom sayings) to share in the class forum with other students. This forum is not graded.

**Your Vocabulary** (70 points) – Create weekly vocabulary to share in the class forum with other students. This forum is not graded.

**Reflection Paper** – (20 points) Your thoughts on the ways in which systematic racism influences interpretations of the scriptures.

**Open Forum** – Share a song, story, poem, or movie that conveys the elements in the hero/heroine journey on VoiceThread.

## IX. Course Textbook

NRSV

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1&version=NRSV>

## X. Course Reading, Listening, and/or Viewing List

You are expected to click all links to view and listen to content for each week. All assignments are expected to be submitted through E-Learning. Final Test will be posted on E-Learning.

**Issues or concerns:** You can reach me by phone, text, or email. If you have any concerns, contact me immediately.