

Term Paper

Content: Write a concise, detailed, and insightful 8-10-page essay (plus a works cited page) on the following topic:

English Majors/Minors: Pick a literary work and show how it was influenced by the Bible.

Non-English Majors: Pick a literary work **or** a movie **or** a work of art and show how it was influenced by the Bible.

You should develop a careful analysis that is well supported with evidence from the primary work(s) demonstrating how an author uses biblical ideas or passages in his/her work(s). Be aware, however, that a paper that comprises long quotes strung together without analysis will not pass. Equally, a paper that merely paraphrases the story lines of the primary works does not satisfy analysis requirements either. For this assignment, you may use primary and secondary sources.

Format: Please follow the guidelines outlined in the *Guide to Style* containing the format guidelines of the *MLA*, plus instructions on writing papers, sample introductory paragraphs with developed theses, frequent errors in critical writing, and a list of tools for the literature student. Please review documentation procedures and follow the distinctions outlined for citing prose or poetry as well as shorter and longer quotations. Failure to provide the correct format will result in lower grades. An explanation of grade rubrics can be found on my website under Engl. 304. Sample English literature papers will be available on my website soon. Email me for the password.

Structure: I would like to reiterate that you are writing a **formal** paper, both in content and in style. Thus, your paper needs an introduction providing a context and a precisely phrased thesis at the end of the first paragraph (see especially #2-3 in *Guide to Style*). I encourage you to edit, revise, and proofread your papers, striving for coherence, grammatical correctness, and good transitions. First drafts rarely hold up to critical scrutiny. I am available in office hours or via email to discuss ideas, outlines, and drafts of your paper with you before it is due.

Evaluation: On the reverse of this sheet, you will find the grading sheet I use to evaluate your essay. The numbers on it refer to the *Guide to Style* (2004 ed.).

Note: The following sections in the *Guide to Style* might be especially helpful for this assignment: **1-10, 11-12 (if doing a poetry explication), 13, 17, 26, 28-33, 43-60, 72-73, 78, 81, 95-96.**

You should clear the topic of your choice with me by Thursday, November 11, either in person, via email, or on paper.

Due Date: Thursday 12.2.2004.