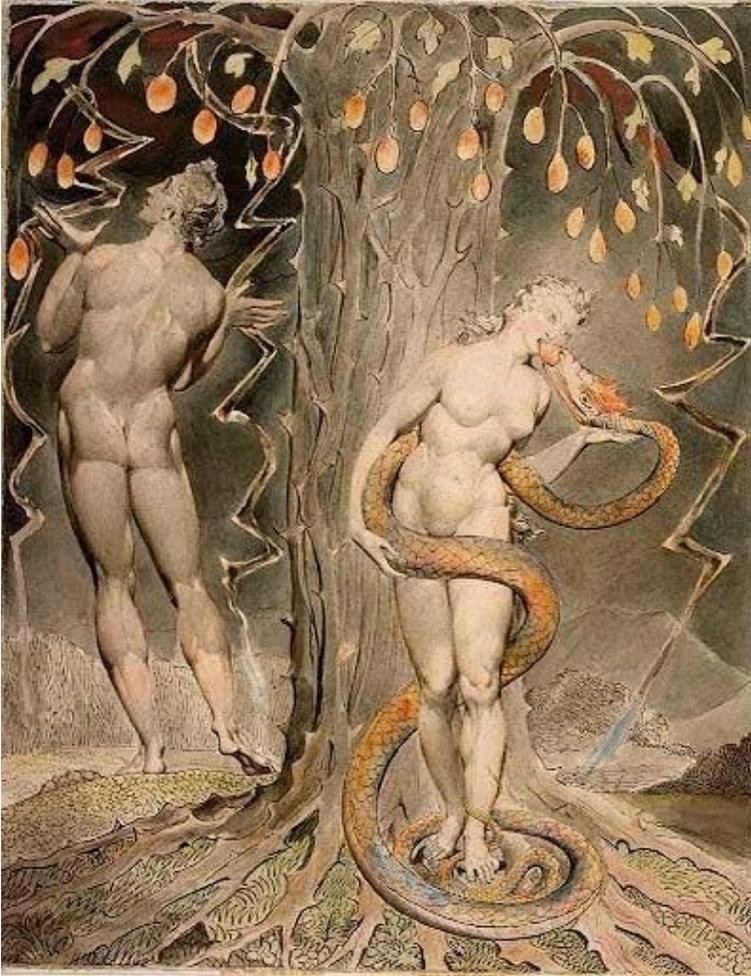


## English 260: Bible as Literature



William Blake, Illustration to Milton's *Paradise Lost*: "The Temptation and Fall of Eve" (1808)

### **Description:**

This course is an introduction to some of the greatest stories ever told. The Bible remains a cornerstone of English literature – and also of Western history and philosophy, art and ethics. From Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in the Hebrew Bible (also known as the Old Testament) to the cataclysmic apocalypse of the Book of Revelation in the New Testament, we will learn to critically read and explore some of the key stories, characters, plots and ideas in the Bible. Our themes will include sibling rivalries, prophets and kings, the character of God, divine punishment, the problem of evil, gender and sexuality, God's chosen people, violence human and divine, monotheism and polytheism, human beginnings and the end of all things. We will strive to recognize the richness and the complexity of the Bible through literary analysis. We will discover the artistry of the Biblical text's many genres as we learn its

stories and literary techniques – as well as how to listen to its silences. You don't have to be religious to take this course, and you don't need to be irreligious either: we will welcome diverse perspectives in this critical introduction. Besides, how can you accept your university degree in the Humanities (or Sciences!) without learning to critically read the Bible? Everything. Starts. Here. Instructor: [@crddouglas](#)

**Proposed Assignments:**

- One biblical text “rewrite” (20%). Look at the gaps in a biblical story, and rewrite it, filling in those gaps, using a biblical style. Explain your re-vision.
- Two written responses. (10%)
- Final Project – **two** options (35%): an argumentative essay of 2,000 words **or** a creative project (drawing, painting, song, play, sculpture, video, game, etc.) engaging with a Biblical text, with your written analysis.
- Final exam (35%)

**Text:**

Michael Coogan et. al, *The New Oxford Annotated Bible New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha*, Fifth edition.