COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Three required novels (Pratchett)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pratchett, Terry</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>ISBN10</th>
<th>ISBN13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>Hogfather</td>
<td>Harper Collins</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>0-06-105905-6; 978-0-06-105905-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>Small Gods</td>
<td>Harper Collins</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>0-06-109217-7; 978-0-06-109217-6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry</td>
<td>Pyramids</td>
<td>Harper Collins</td>
<td>PB</td>
<td>0-06-102065-6; 978-0-06-102065-0</td>
<td></td>
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These, and other editions, are also available through other book sources, online and offline. You may use any edition of the required textbooks you wish.

Catalog Course Description: A thorough study of the age, the work, and the influence of a selected literary figures such as Chaucer, Spenser, Samuel Johnson, Blake, Hardy, Dickens, Auden, Lawrence, Fowles and Greene: or treatment of two of three important figures who have some close relationship to one another. May be repeated for credit when the topic changes.

Terry Pratchett is regarded as one of the most significant authors publishing in Britain today. He has won numerous awards for his children’s and adult fantasies, was named an Officer of the British Empire “for services to literature” in 1998, and has received four honorary doctorates. His novels have sold more than 45 million copies and have been translated into 33 languages.
This course will focus on three thematically linked novels by Terry Pratchett (out of his more than forty books published), analyzing in detail how the novels construct the effects of religions and philosophies on cultures. Class assignments will consist of: online discussions, a class bibliography on the topic of religions and philosophies in literatures, and a 3-5 page (not counting Working Bibliography) formal proposal for an essay on at least two of the three assigned novels that could be submitted to an anthology or themed journal on "religions and philosophies in literatures."

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Learners will demonstrate that they are active and engaged members of our learning community. This outcome will be assessed by evaluation of posts in the discussions and on the Religion and Philosophy in Literature Bibliography (which will have its own dedicated discussion thread).

2. Learners will demonstrate that they have engaged in a writing process over the course of the semester. This outcome will be assessed by evaluation of drafts written for the Bibliography and for the Proposal.

3. Learners will demonstrate that they understand the scope of the scholarship that has been published on Pratchett's work, can identify peer-reviewed articles as opposed to editor reviewed or general publications, and can create an argument that is in response to the scholarly dialogue. This outcome will be assessed by evaluation of Bibliography entries and discussion and by the final draft of the Proposal.

4. Learners will demonstrate an understanding of the basic elements of an academic proposal: a clearly stated thesis at the start which makes an original argument on the assigned topic; a summary which shows their understanding of the scholarship on the text; a focus on specific elements of the primary texts in a summary of evidence, and clear attribution in the text connected to the Working Bibliography. This outcome will be assessed by evaluation of the final draft of the Proposal.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Learners will demonstrate that they understand the scope of the scholarship that has been published on Pratchett’s work, can identify peer-reviewed articles as opposed to editor reviewed or general publications, and can create an argument that is in response to the scholarly dialogue. This outcome will be assessed by evaluation of the Bibliography assignments and by the final draft of the Proposal.

2. Learners will demonstrate an understanding of the basic elements of an academic proposal: a clearly stated thesis at the start which makes an original argument; a summary which shows their understanding of the scholarship on the text; a focus on specific elements of the primary texts in a summary of evidence, and clear attribution in the text connected to the
Working Bibliography. This outcome will be assessed by evaluation of the final draft of the **Proposal**.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Students will access and follow all course instructions found in the content area of the eCollege/NExT course.
- Students will listen to all online lectures. Online lectures are collected on the "Lectures" Page.
- Students will use the eCollege discussion tool to post to classmates in assigned discussions.
- Students will complete and submit assignments electronically using the eCollege dropbox tool/tab or assigned discussions.
- Students will access their grades in the eCollege gradebook, including comments uploaded in eCollege as well as marked on drafts that have been uploaded.

**Instructional Methods and Activities Assessments**

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives/outcomes. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments.

The class assignments consist of: online discussions, a Class Bibliography, and a Formal Proposal.

Each assessment/assignment has a handout uploaded on the Navigation Tree in the Class Assignments Unit and in Doc.Sharing. The handouts contain detailed information on due dates, learning objectives, and grading criteria (in rubric form), format and structure, along with information on models and resources to use in preparing the assignment.

I expect those assignments to be printed out, read, and annotated if necessary. Please ask any questions you have about the assignment handouts in the Virtual Office or in the relevant class discussion.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Online Discussions: (50/100 points)**

Online discussions are the single most important element in building a class community in an online environment. You will be reading and responding to classmates nearly every day of the mini-mester term. The reason that you will be writing so many responses, and the reason I am awarding them such a large...
percentage of your grade (more than the final project) is because I plan for the
discussions to be used as a type of process writing toward the final project. These
are the virtual equivalent of our face/face class time, and I have weighted the grades
to reflect that importance.

There will be class discussions assigned for: introductions; each of the three
novels; and the Bibliography assignment (covering secondary scholarship).

Learners are expected to review the length requirements and grading rubric before
they post. They must post in response to my prompts, and in response to
classmates’ posts, as well as posts about the citations and research they do for the
Class Bibliography (in that case, the quality of those posts play a part in the grading
process). And, finally, there will be two times when the class will be assigned to
write summative responses that cover previous class discussions.

These summative responses will consist of overviews of the arguments/insights
made by your classmates (with attribution), and your analysis of what arguments
have been made and what gaps might still exist: the summative responses allow you
to practice the rhetorical tools needed to write reviews of literature in which you
not only have to analyze the scholarly arguments on a text, but analyze the theories,
methods, arguments, areas of agreement and disagreement, and what sort of
consensus or gaps exist in the scholarship.

You need to understand that I expect at least the same time commitment from you
in this online venue as I would in a face/face class where, during the mini-mester,
we would be meeting four hours every weekday. You would have to prepare for
those meetings by having completed all the reading and writing assignments
scheduled for each day.

You should schedule approximately that same amount of time to work in the online
discussions most days of the term; I say approximately because variations in
reading speed and typing speed can make quite a difference. Certainly, if you spend
less time than you would for a face/face class, or if you plan to do nothing during the
week and do your work only on weekends, the result will be less than satisfactory
for everybody.

Religions and Philosophies and Literatures Class Bibliography (10/100
points)

This assignment consists of a short, guided process of doing research on an assigned
topic to find peer-reviewed scholarship on the topic (NOT on Pratchett’s work itself;
I’ve provided a Bibliography of Pratchett scholarship that’s appeared in peer-
reviewed journals).
Learners will be expected to:

1. Listen/read my online lecture(s) on research for scholarship in literary studies and on how to "read" and use peer-reviewed research when you have a short time to do the work. Ask questions if they have any.

2. Do research in the MLA Bibliography (*only* Do NOT use JSTOR, MUSE, ERIC, or any other scholarly index/resource) on the search terms "religion and literature" and "philosophy and literature," finding five citations for the class bibliography, and reporting on what you chose and why. (REMEMBER: you are not looking for scholarship on Pratchett, but for scholarship on the topic of religions and philosophies in literature, since that's the focus for our course.)

3. Do additional research in the MLA Bibliography on selected articles from the Pratchett Bibliography I prepared for the class to find additional information and perhaps additional articles (on the same topic but different authors) that you could use for your Formal Proposal’s Working Bibliography (I’m assuming that your five citations for the class Bibliography will be applicable to your Pratchett project!).

4. The products for this assignment are: five citations (formatted in MLA style) which are turned in as an attachment in the Bibliography Discussion and in a dedicated Dropbox; your Research Report about your searches and choice of citations for the class Bibliography and for your project which is turned in to the Discussion and the Dropbox.

**Formal Proposal (3-5 pages, plus Working Bibliography) for an essay that could be submitted to an anthology or themed journal on "religions and philosophies in literature." The NPZ does not apply to the FINAL DRAFT. (40/100 points)**

The project assignment for this class will be a formal proposal (meaning, highly developed and fairly detailed) for an essay that you could, if you wish, write on in future to submit to an anthology or journal interested in scholarship on religion and philosophy in literature.

You will be working with at least two of the assigned novels (depending on your research question and your knowledge of Pratchett’s work, you might be able to work with all three, but I don't require it, and I would advise against it in such a short term).

You will be engaging in a process of writing as thinking, moving to writing as arguing, a process which will take place in the class discussions, in the Topic Idea drafts (one paragraph long!), the first draft, and then moving toward the final draft, with my feedback.
You will be looking at the information contained in the MLA International Bibliography and (if available) the full text of articles linked from the MLA Bibliography only briefly; given a mini-mester and the proposal assignment, I do not expect people to read the entire articles.

The purpose of the research is to find scholarship that you could study more fully in the future if you choose to write this article. You will be looking at abstracts (if provided), or reading only the first introductory paragraphs (if the article is available in full-text).

Think of this assignment as an overview/introduction to the scholarly process: it is not unusual for working academics to write papers only after the proposals have been accepted (for a presentation or a publication).

Here are the assignments which are related to the Formal Proposal, and their relative grade weight (a weight which balances rewarding effort with revision and the quality of the final product):

**10 points:**  Topic Idea (first draft, revised draft)  
**10 points:**  First Draft of Formal Proposal and Working Bibliography  
**20 points:**  Final Draft of Formal Proposal and Working Bibliography

1. **Topic Idea:** Due August 13; Revision Due August 16.

Write a paragraph where you identify what research questions seem most useful to start to analyze Pratchett’s use of religions and philosophies in the novels we’re reading, and which of the novels the questions would be most applicable to in your project.

You are NOT committed to working with the question or novels you first propose! I will provide feedback, and you will be able to revise.

2. **First Draft of Formal Proposal and Working Bibliography:** Due August 19

Your first draft should build on what you have written in the topic idea paragraphs, and in the discussions, and should include a rough statement of your research questions/topic, an overview of the secondary scholarship you will be drawing on (remember, I do not expect you to have READ the entire articles, but you should have familiarized yourself with the abstracts, if provided, or the thesis paragraphs in the introductions of the articles, and which two novels you’ll be working with (you’re committed at this point!). Include a draft of your Working Bibliography.
3. **Final Draft of Formal Proposal and Working Bibliography**: 20 points

Three to five (Double Spaced) pages

(750-1000 words, not including Bibliography)

**Due August 24 (NPZ DOES NOT APPLY)**

Your final draft should be written for an academic audience (an editor of a themed anthology or journal on religion and philosophy in literature) and should provide a clearly stated thesis early in the proposal; your thesis (which may be a paragraph) should make an original argument in the context of the scholarship on Pratchett’s work; a summary which shows your understanding of the scholarship that you have chosen to work with; and a clear but brief overview of the specific elements of the primary texts that you would be drawing on for evidence. The proposal must have clear textual attribution and a Working Bibliography that must include at least five peer-reviewed articles that I’ve approved at earlier stages. This final draft should show evidence of revision and the use of my feedback from the first draft.

All three parts of the Individual Project have their own dedicated dropbox.

All the assignment Dropboxes are in the Assignment Unit on the blue navigation tree.

**Grading**

The class grade is based on a 100 point system, with each assignment being assigned a specific weight (percentage) of the grade. I have set up the gradebook with the assignments weighted: your grades will be entered in percentages, which the program will translate to "points earned."

If at any time you have a question or concern about your grade (which only you and I can access), please contact me (by email or by posting in the appropriate Dropbox). Please do not post about grades in the Virtual Office which is a public space.

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
59-lower = F

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION, TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, TECH SUPPORT**

This course will be taught entirely using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx.
You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

Since this course will be offered partially online, special requirements must be considered. First, and perhaps most important, is that the student enrolled in this course must have access to a computer with the necessary software and services. The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

If your computer and internet services do not meet the minimum requirements for eCollege, you are welcome to use any of the computer labs on campus.

Secondly, it is also vital that the student have a working knowledge of the hardware and software they will be using. The Distance Education Department maintains a FAQ page for students taking online and web-enhanced courses. The web address for this information can be found at:

http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/itde/FAQs.asp

eCollege Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

If you run into problems accessing eCollege through the standard online class link, try this alternate College web address is:

http://online.tamuc.org

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

I have regular office hours for face/face meetings and phone calls. I do not expect students to come to campus if they are enrolled in online courses, but I expect them to realize they may contact me by phone during those office hours.

However, the official medium of communication for the university is email which is handled through our eCollege platform.

All email correspondence for this course will be sent to student myLeo email accounts.

An Adobe Presenter/Breeze presentation is available to demonstrate how to access your Leo email: http://breeze.tamu-commerce.edu/myleomail/. Please make it a habit to check email often and log in to the course daily to stay connected with the class.

Warning: Because this course is offered entirely online, the only way to verify that people emailing me are the students registered in the class is via their email accounts. Please use your official university email if you must email me, especially if you have questions about a grade.

I post information in the "Class Announcements" section of our online course and send it out via email to make sure students get the information in a timely manner. You are responsible for checking your university email and the Class Announcements at least once a week.

INSTRUCTOR, UNIVERSITY, AND DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES PROCEDURES/POLICIES
Take some time to read: university faculty have a good deal of latitude in some of their policy areas.

The first set of policy statements are mine.

The second set of policy statements are mandated by the University and Department of Literature and Languages.

By staying in the class after reading this syllabus, you are contractually obligated to meet class requirements and follow *all* class policies.

**Instructor Policies**

**Late Work:** Late work will not be given credit but will receive feedback. In this class, "late" means anytime after the No Penalty Zone (NPZ).

The NPZ appears in all my courses; in the summer mini-mesters, the NPZ can only be 24 hours long. Therefore, the course schedule and assignments with the exception of the FINAL project due date are due at midnight of the listed date; the NPZ is automatically midnight of the next day.

As long as you turn work by the NPZ, your work is on time. Be careful of your use of this option: with assignments due nearly every day, and with the NPZ not applying to the final draft (because of my grading schedule), you cannot afford to use it for every assignment.

However, all the Bibliography and Proposal assignments must be turned in to earn a passing grade for the assignment; since revision is built into the class, your best choice is to turn whatever you have in on time even if it is not perfect.

**WARNING ABOUT NPZ:** always aim to complete your work the midnight deadline; then, if life intervenes, you have a safety net. If you aim to complete your work by the NPZ and life intervenes, which it will, there will be no safety net.

**If you have a medical condition or emergency which affects your ability to do the work for this class, please email me as soon as possible with documentation. I will work with you the best way I can.**

**University & Department Policies**

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:** Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or
removal) of resource material. Academic dishonesty can also include writing assignments for someone else, turning in papers someone else wrote for you, and tests that you took for someone else or that someone else took for you. Turning in work written for another class is also dishonest.

A "Positive Learning Environment" is one which allows and encourages contemplation, thoughtful discourse and critical analysis of information. Since almost all contact will be take place via electronic means, it is important to be courteous and respectful in responding to ideas that may differ from yours. This is an educational environment, and therefore each student should exhibit a decorum that lends itself to the intellectual exchange of views and ideas.

**Literature and Languages Policy on Plagiarism:** Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty such as collusion. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1, 2, 3])

The Department of Literature and Languages defines plagiarism as occurring when a writer uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Simply having a list of sources at the end of the project does not sufficiently meet the academic standards for acknowledging sources. The Department defines collusion as selling academic products (any written or recorded or pictorial material intended to be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement). You must acknowledge and document all sources (quoted and paraphrased) in your formal report. Documentation requires clear identification within the text (embedded in your sentences or in parentheses, endnotes, or footnotes) of the source for material that has been summarized, paraphrased in your own words, or quoted directly. Page numbers must be given for direct quotes.

Plagiarism is not excused by saying "I did not mean to do it!" Intentional and unintentional plagiarism will both result in a failing grade on an assignment, or, in repeated cases, in a failing grade for this class.

Plagiarism or collusion will result in an automatic failing grade on the assignment. A second instance of plagiarism or collusion will result in an automatic F for the class.

If you have declared a major, I will notify your Department Head and the Dean of your college of your plagiarism. A report of the incident will also be filed with the Office of the Dean of Students. This report may stay on your permanent collegiate record and you may also be subject to further disciplinary action being taken by the university.

Online resources on plagiarism:
http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html

http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml

**Courtesy:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, conduct).

**Drop Policy:** The university drop procedure has changed as of Summer 2012.

**Students who are eligible may now drop their classes with a “Q” drop grade without Instructor approval through their MyLeo.**

This procedure does not apply to students with advising holds (Athletes, International Students, Honor Students, UC College, etc). Students with advising holds will have to complete a Drop/Add form and get approvals manually, and turn in to the Registrar’s Office for processing.

The Drop/Add form is located online at: http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/2012AddDropForm.pdf.

**The deadline to drop with a “Q” drop grade can be found on the** Academic Calendar at: http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/default.aspx

The drop process steps are listed below.

- Go to MyLeo
- Go to Registration, Records & Grades
- Registration
- Register/Add or Drop Classes
- Select a Term
- Under “Action”, click on Course Drop
- Click on “Submit Changes” at bottom form

If you are only enrolled in one class or need to drop all your classes, you will not be able to drop through this procedure.

The Withdrawal Form is available at:


These forms must be turned in to the Registrars’ Office for processing.

**Incomplete Grades:** The Incomplete grade is reserved for those students who have been active in class and have maintained a passing grade until nearly the end of the course. If circumstances in the last few weeks make it impossible for a student to hand in the last assignments(s), then the Incomplete can be granted. The student
must supply documentation concerning the circumstances that have made it impossible for course work to be completed.

Students who have failed to turn in assignments in earlier weeks are *not* eligible for an Incomplete and will not be granted one. Anyone who is unable to complete the work in the semester they are enrolled will not be able to do it alone in the following term.

If the missing work is not handed in by the end of the next long semester, the grade automatically goes to an F, by university policy. There is no appeal for that grade.

Since this class is an online class you should be aware of the following university policy: You will be required to complete the course outside of the eCollege platform. The class platform is available for student access for only two weeks after the close of each semester.

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR
AUGUST MINI-MESTER 2012

8/10/2012 through 8/24/2012

Fri. 8-10  Read:  Class Assignments (Discussions, Class Bibliography, Formal Proposal).

Sat. 8-11  1 Post:  Your introduction in Class Introductions Discussion
               1 Post  Response to Prompt in Bibliography Discussion

Sun. 8-12  5*Post:  Responses to all classmates in Class Intro.
               5 Post:  Responses to all classmates in Bib. Discussion

*When this syllabus was created, the enrollment was six: if the class enrollment goes down, the assigned number will go down to "total number of your classmates." If the class enrollment goes up, the assigned number will remain at 5.

Mon. 8-13  1 Post:  Response to prompt in Hogfather Discussion
                   Upload:  Paragraph on Idea for Proposal Dropbox

Tues. 8-14  1 Post:  Five citations of peer-reviewed articles in Bibliography Discussion
                   1 Post:  Research Report about research process for Class Bibliography

Wed. 8-15  5 Post:  Response to all classmates in Hogfather Discussion

Thurs. 8-16 5 Post:  Response to all classmates in Bibliography Discussion
                   Upload:  REVISED Paragraph on Idea for Proposal Dropbox

Fri. 8-17  1 Post:  Response to prompt in Small Gods Discussion

Sat. 8-18  1 Post:  Summative response on all classmates’ entries in Hogfather Discussion
                   5 Post:  Responses to all classmates in Small Gods Discussion


NOTE: All of the last week's assignment information is on the next page! Don't stop here!
Mon. 8-20  1 Post: Response to prompt in Pyramids Discussion

Tues. 8-21  5 Post: Response to all classmates in Pyramids Discussion

Wed. 8-23  NOTHING DUE! Response to first draft will be made within 24 hours of when it comes in, and today can be spent mostly on revision.

THE NPZ DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FINAL DUE DATES BECAUSE OF GRADING SCHEDULE AND GRADE DUE DATES

Thurs. 8-24  1 Post: Summative response on all classmates’ entries in Small Gods discussion
Upload: Final Draft of Formal Proposal and Working Bibliography
Upload: Revision of citations and research report if unhappy with original grade.