



Live Classes

English Literature 101: Exploring Biblical Principles Through Literature

Cecelia Schmidt

Syllabus

2025-2026



Personal Note from Instructor:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

- Understand more about the five key elements of a novel (narration, setting, characters, plot, and theme).
- Appreciate quality Christian literature and be able to explain what they've read.
- Improve their story comprehension and vocabulary skills as well as increase their biblical knowledge.
- Be able to think critically about a story and apply the biblical lessons to their daily lives.

Recommended Grade Level:

5th-8th

Prerequisites:

None

Live Lecture Date & Time:

Tuesday from 10:00-11:00am ET

NOTE: The instructor does not require attendance of the live lectures but highly recommends students attend as many of the live lectures as possible to take advantage of live Q&A. Lectures are recorded and posted on the course Canvas page under the associated week and module. If you miss a lecture, please watch the recording. You can also use the recording for review as you prepare for the online exam.

Description:

In this course, students will read eight books by Lamplighter Ministries that will help to build character and strengthen their relationship with Christ. We will spend 3-5 weeks reading and studying each book. Students will answer discussion questions, which will help them to think critically about story elements such as characters, plots, and themes. Along with the discussion questions, students will also read and memorize portions of Scripture and engage in guided biblical studies as they pertain to the Christian themes woven throughout each book. At the end of each book study, students will be required to write a short 350-500 word essay, summarizing one of the book's main biblical themes and how they can practically apply those truths to their own lives. To conclude each semester, students will take an exam

that will quiz their knowledge of the five books studied (two exams for the year).

Required Class Materials:

- A Basket of Flowers by Christoph Von Schmid.
- Amy and Her Brothers by Sarah S. Baker.
- Christie, the King's Servant by Mrs. O.F. Walton.
- The Giant Killer by A.L.O.E.
- My Golden Ship by Mary E. Ropes.
- Jack the Conqueror by Mrs. C.E. Bowen.
- Joseph's Shield by Pansy.
- The White Knights by W.E. Cule.
- Bible (we will be using the NKJV in class)

Recommended Class Materials:

Pen/highlighter and notebook

Course Topics:

Honesty, honoring parents, fighting/killing sin, modesty, envy/jealousy, procrastination/laziness, sibling relationships, etc.

Assignment Structure:

Depending on the book, you will have anywhere between 3-8 chapters to read each week, with the chapters varying in length. I recommend completing one or more chapters each day, along with the corresponding study guide. Each study guide will include discussion questions, definitions, and a Bible lesson. During the last week of studying each book, you will write a short 350-500 word essay in proper format (introduction, body, and conclusion which will be discussed further in class). If you devote a little time each day to this class and submit your assignments on time, you'll do well!

Grading:

Weekly Study Guides - 50% of final grade

Essays, one per book (8 total) - 35% of final grade

Exams, one per semester (2 total)- 15% of final grade

Due Dates and Late Policy:

All due dates are labeled on the course calendar found on your Canvas Course page. Students will be reminded of due dates at the beginning of each lecture. Students are responsible for keeping track of all scheduled due dates and are responsible for any changes announced during lecture and/or on Canvas. The instructor reserves the right to change due dates at any time, but must give students notice at least one week prior. All assignments (study guides, essays, and exams,) need to be turned in before starting a new week in class.

All deadlines are **Saturday 11:59pm eastern time (ET)**. A late penalty of 5% will be applied every day an assignment is late unless an extension request is submitted by a parent or guardian.

IMPORTANT:

I will only consider extensions if requested by parents or guardians via email for situations beyond the student's control. If the extension is approved, all late penalties will be waived.

Student Conduct:

Class Behavior

The online class environment requires special rules to minimize distractions. Abiding by proper classroom courtesies and conduct enables everyone to maximize the benefit and enjoyment of attending class. As the instructor, it is my job to provide the best learning environment possible for all students. The classroom rules include:

- Treat my classroom as if we were in a physical classroom together.
 - Do not talk or type while I am lecturing unless you have a question or we are having a class discussion.
 - Do not multitask during lecture. This includes the use of cell phones, tablets, playing games, using social media, or engaging in any other online activity.
 - If you must leave early, please message me on Zoom before exiting. Otherwise, I may think that you have gotten disconnected and might pause the class unnecessarily.
 - If you join the meeting late, please do not disrupt the lecture with messages. It will be your responsibility to watch the class recording later in order to catch up on missed material.
 - Come to class prepared!
- *Make sure you have read the correct chapters in the book before you come to class.
- *Bring your book, study guide, and Bible to every class.
- Remember, these lectures are recorded. Please make sure all conversation is God-honoring and appropriate for the classroom setting.

- If you join class before lecture time, feel free to talk and chat with the other students. Music will begin playing 15 minutes before class starts.
- I will answer questions regarding due dates and course details at the beginning and end of class, if time allows. Please save course relevant questions for those times or just email me privately after class ends.

Thank you in advance for honoring these requests and working to make this class a great experience for everyone.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is any type of cheating that occurs on any assignment or exam related to this course. It can include plagiarism, fabrication, deception, cheating, bribery, sabotage, professional misconduct, and impersonation. Any type of cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, falsifying reasons for missing class, copying other students exams/homework/answers, impersonating a parent, having someone else login to a Canvas/Zoom account to complete

material on another student's behalf, or plagiarizing material that someone else has written and claiming it as your own. All course assignments must be written in your own words. **Assignments that have been cheated on will automatically receive a grade of zero and the parent will be notified.**

Instructor Availability for Questions:

MissSchmidt@apologia.com