



Live Classes

From Prison to Pilgrim's Progress: The Life and Works of John Bunyan

Mrs. Cecelia Bader

Syllabus

2026-2027



Personal Note from Instructor:

The four, main goals of this course are as follows:

1. Literary Analysis & Interpretation

- Students will analyze allegory, symbolism, characterization, and narrative structure in *The Pilgrim's Progress* and Bunyan's autobiography, demonstrating how these texts convey moral and spiritual truths through literary devices.

2. Historical & Cultural Understanding

- Students will analyze the historical context of 17th-century England and evaluate how this shaped Bunyan's theology, writing style, and life experiences.

3. Biblical Connections & Theological Reflection

- Students will identify and interpret key biblical references used in Bunyan's works and reflect on how the texts illustrate themes such as salvation, perseverance, sanctification, community, and the Christian journey.

4. Personal Application & Communication Skills

- Students will articulate personal and ethical insights drawn from Bunyan's themes and express them through structured writing and discussion, demonstrating growth in critical thinking, clear reasoning, and spiritual reflection.

Recommended Grade Level:

10th-12th grade

Prerequisites:

None

Live Lecture Date & Time:

Monday, 1:30-2:30pm 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.

Description:

This course introduces students to the rich spiritual and literary world of John Bunyan through *The Pilgrim's Progress: Parts 1 and 2* and his autobiography, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*. Students will explore Bunyan's masterful use of allegory, symbolism, and character development to portray the Christian journey from conversion to glory. Through close reading and discussion, they will examine how Bunyan's personal experiences—shaped by persecution, faith, and perseverance—influenced his writings. The course also highlights the theological depth of Bunyan's work, tracing its many biblical allusions and doctrinal themes. Students will gain historical insight into 17th-century England while strengthening skills in literary analysis, biblical interpretation, and reflective writing. By the end, they will understand why Bunyan's works remain some of the most influential and beloved texts in Christian literature.

Required Class Materials:

The Pilgrim's Progress: Parts 1 and 2 by John Bunyan

Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners by John Bunyan

(We will be using the **abridged** versions in class.)

Recommended Class Materials:

We will be utilizing the ESV Bible most commonly in class, so it is recommended to have either an electronic or hard copy as well as a journal to take notes.

Course Topics:

- A study of John Bunyan's autobiography, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, and how 17th century England and Bunyan's own experiences influenced his writing of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.
- A study of *The Pilgrim's Progress: Parts 1 and 2* and the literary elements, allegory, symbolism, and theological themes.

Assignment Structure:

Each week, you will have a reading from one of the three literary works we will be studying in this course, along with a short quiz to test your comprehension of what you've read.

At the conclusion of each book, you will be required to write a 750-1,000 word essay.

To wrap up each semester, you will have an exam consisting of questions of various forms.

Grading:

- Weekly Quizzes - 50% of final grade
- Essays, one per book (3 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.

All deadlines are Saturday 11:59pm eastern time (ET). A late penalty of 10% will be applied as soon as the assignment is turned in late, regardless of the day or time. If an assignment is submitted past class time on Monday, the assignment will receive a **0%** unless an extension request is received from 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!
- 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. Any type of cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using **Chat GPT** to complete assignments, 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.

Instructor Availability for Questions:

Please email me at MrsBader@Apologia.com