



LITERATURE AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE

SESSION 1

The Bridge is Love: Faith and Literature

Professor Christopher Baglow

In this seminar, participants will read and discuss Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, which faces the reality of tragedy, of chance catastrophe, and how to understand the Christian doctrine that, as St. Paul says in Romans 8:28, "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." What purpose could there be in God permitting evil and suffering? And how can literature draw readers into a deeper perspective on tragedy that moves beyond appearances toward faith in God?

[Link to the online talk.](#)

SESSION 2

Shakespeare and the Bible: Teaching *The Tempest*

Susanah Monta

How might a literary approach to the Bible and a religious approach to Shakespeare converge? This talk first explores contemporary scholarship on the ways that the study of religion and the study of literature may enhance and deepen each other. We'll then turn to look at Shakespeare's *The Tempest* alongside the biblical narrative of Joseph (Genesis 37-50) to consider how Shakespeare's play thinks about the biblical story's themes of fraternal conflict, suffering, exile, providence, and forgiveness.

[Link to the online talk.](#)