

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** LIT. 105 **TITLE:** The Bible as Literature
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours
Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only
Prerequisite: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ENGL 105

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

AA/AS Degree Requirements:

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E2b. English, literature, Speech Communication

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E2c. Communication and Analytical Thinking

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities

CSU GE:

CSU GE Area C: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: C2 - Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English)

IGETC:

IGETC Area 3: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: B: Humanities

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

Selected texts from the Old and New Testaments and from the Apocrypha. Lectures, discussions, related readings, quizzes, and project.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of representative works from the Bible and Apocrypha, using the standard techniques and terms of literary analysis to discuss and interpret Biblical texts, identifying major literary, cultural, and historical themes.
2. Present a critical, independent analysis of themes in one or more works of the Bible and Apocrypha in the form of a project, paper, or presentation.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Identify standard forms of literature in major works of the Bible and the Apocrypha, including narrative, poetry, drama, epistle, etc.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the difference between literary study of the Bible and other types, including Bible study per se, Bible as history, exegesis, etc., by using the standard techniques and terms of literary analysis to discuss and interpret Biblical texts.
3. Apply the usual tools of literary study-character analysis, identification of theme, major symbols, importance of setting, etc., to show the influence of the Bible on other works of literature, whether in a major or minor way.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. Importance of the Bible as a literary work and as an influential work in other works of literature.
2. Representative Content:
 - A. Books of the Law (Pentateuch)
 - B. Historical Books (Former Prophets)
 - C. Poetic Books (Psalms, Job)
 - D. Wisdom Literature (Job, Wisdom, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs)
 - E. Books of Prophecy (Latter Prophets)
 - F. Tales of the Bible and the Apocrypha (Ruth, Susanna, Judith, Tobit)
 - G. Biographical Books: the Gospels, Acts
 - H. Letters: selected Epistles
 - I. Apocalyptic literature: Revelation, parts of Daniel
3. To demonstrate students' achievement of understanding of the Bible as a work of literature as well as one

that has influenced many other works of literature (and continues to do so), course content includes a detailed term paper analyzing the influence of the Bible on another work of literature, using MLA format.

4. In addition, students participate in creation of a project, alone or with other students, reflective of a recurring Biblical theme or image. The project may take into account the student's/students' major field of study or special interests.
5. Writing of critical papers.

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Discussion
- B. Other (Specify): Related reading, small group work. Quizzes requiring short essay answers, teach critical thinking skills since they ask students to differentiate between simple identification and application of literary analysis techniques. The term paper does this in more detail, asking students to use sustained analytical skills to find all the ways in which a literary text shows Biblical influence, and to demonstrate knowledge of MLA format. In addition, students may make use of supplemental resources under the guidance of Writing Center faculty.

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

To demonstrate students' achievement of understanding of the Bible as a work of literature as well as one that has influenced many other works of literature (and continues to do so), course content includes a detailed term paper analyzing the influence of the Bible on another work of literature, using the MLA format.

Reading Assignments:

Students will read texts from both the Old and New Testaments such as Genesis, Exodus, Samuel, Deuteronomy, Judges, Ecclesiastes, the Psalms, and the Gospels. The course may also include contemporary texts of commentary and interpretation.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Oral Presentation
- C. Papers
- D. Projects
- E. Quizzes
- F. All writing must show critical thinking skills rather than just summary skills or student's particular interpretation of a Biblical text.

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. -. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, New Revised Standard Version*, 3rd ed. -, 2007

Other:

- A. A supplementary literary text to help illustrate how writers "retell" Biblical narratives or merely touch on Biblical themes is also recommended. *The Book of God: The Bible as a Novel* by Walter Wangerin, Jr. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996, 2001) works well for the former. Collections of short stories or poems are good choices for the latter.

Origination Date: November 2015
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Effective Term: Fall 2016
Course Originator: Daniel Keller