

**College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline**

1. COURSE ID: LIT. 809 **TITLE:** Bible as Literature

Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: P/NP Only

2. COURSE DESIGNATION:

Non-Degree Credit

Transfer credit: none

3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Catalog Description:

Study of selected texts from the Old and New Testaments and from the Apocrypha. Lectures, discussions, related readings, quizzes, and optional project. (Units do not apply toward AA/AS degree.)

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

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

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.

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.
4. Participate in optional 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.

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. In addition, students participate in optional 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.
4. Sample course timeline is attached.

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Other (Specify): Related reading, small group work

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

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

Writing Assignments:

Course includes a detailed term paper analyzing the influence of the Bible on another work of literature. Students also 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. Since Literature 809 is a non-credit course, students may opt out of the term paper.

Reading Assignments:

Reading assignments may include the following:

- 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

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Projects
- C. Optional creation of a project and participation in discussions.

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. -. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Augmented Third Edition, New Revised Standard Version*, ed. -, 2010

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 2016

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: February 2017

Effective Term: Fall 2017

Course Originator: Daniel Keller