

Date Prepared: May 2004

New Revised
(*Check One*)

Effective Date: Fall 2004

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE PREFIX and NUMBER: ENG 295 CREDIT HOURS: 3
2. COURSE TITLE: SPECIAL TOPICS: THE OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE
3. PREREQUISITES: ENG 112
4. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament, as a literary text, and incorporates literary critical techniques to the student's reading. This course will focus on selected texts and will also incorporate historical information and reader response strategies for reading the King James translation of the Old Testament. Lecture 3 hours per week.
5. CONTENT:
 - a. Analytical/critical study of selected books of the Old Testament with an emphasis on its component genres, literary conventions, and languages.
 - b. Understanding of the King James translation of the Old Testament as part of British Literature.
 - c. Introduction to Old Testament history and archeology in order to understand the Old Testament in its proper historical and cultural context.
 - d. Introduction to the canon of Old Testament texts, the narrative tradition, including analysis of themes, symbols, and characters.
 - e. Introduction to biblical interpretation, including reader response theory.
 - f. Introduction to the literary types found in the Hebrew Bible: folklore, myth and legend, poetry, narratives, fables, parables, allegories, and proverbs.
6. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

 - a. Summarize, analyze, and synthesize texts of the Old Testament.
 - b. Understand the King James translation of the Old Testament within the canon of British Literature.
 - c. Understand the historical context for and literary types found in the Old Testament.
 - d. Apply critical strategies to the reading of the Old Testament.
 - d. Write 25-40 pages of informal writing in response to the reading of selected Old Testament texts.
 - e. Write 15-20 pages of formal writing in an effort to analyze and synthesize texts of the Old Testament.