

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: ENG 233

Credits: 3

Course Title: The Bible as Literature

Course Description (as it should appear in the catalog)

Provides an introduction to the study of the Bible as literature. Examines the intent and presentation of major literary genres found in the Bible, refining skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. ENG 233 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English Department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or approval by the English program head. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course introduces students to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the Christian New Testament as literary texts, and incorporates literary critical techniques to the student's reading. This course involves the analytical/critical study of selected books of the Bible with an emphasis on its component genres, literary conventions, and languages. This course will introduce students to the literary types found in the Bible: folklore, myth and legend, poetry and narrative, metaphor, irony, and allegory. ENG 233 instructors will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, and will give students the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. This course serves as an approved humanities general education elective.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Summarize, analyze, and synthesize texts of the Bible.
- b. Understand the most important literary influences on the Bible.
- c. Understand the historical context for and literary types found in the Bible.
- d. Apply critical strategies to the reading of the Bible.
- e. Produce at least 12-15 pages of informal writing in response to the reading of selected texts from the Bible.
- f. Produce at least 12-15 pages of formal writing in an effort to analyze and synthesize texts of the Bible.

Major Topics to be Included

- a. Introduction to the canon of texts in the Bible, the narrative tradition, including analysis of themes, symbols, and characters.
- b. Introduction to biblical interpretation, including reader response theory.
- c. Introduction to the literary types found in the Bible: folklore, myth and legend, poetry, narratives, fables, parables, allegories, and proverbs.
- d. Analytical/critical study of selected books of the Bible with an emphasis on its component genres, literary conventions, and languages.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year): April 21, 2011