

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

**Course Prefix and Number: ENG 295**

**Credits: 3**

**Course Title:** Topics in English: The Bible as Literature I

**Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)**

Introduces students to the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament, as a literary text, and incorporates literary critical techniques to the student's reading. Focuses on selected texts and incorporates historical information and reader response strategies for reading the King James translation of the Old Testament. Prerequisites: ENG 111 and ENG 112. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

ENG 295 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes understanding of the role of the Old Testament in influencing later literatures. As a writing intensive course, ENG 295 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites** (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)  
ENG 111 and ENG 112.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing 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.
- e. Write 25-40 pages of informal writing in response to the reading of selected Old Testament texts.
- f. Write 15-20 pages of formal writing in an effort to analyze and synthesize texts of the Old Testament and issues relevant to their study

**Major Topics to be Included**

- 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.

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year):** July 15, 2009