

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: HUMAN 10.1 Title: LITERATURE OF BIBLE
Full Title: Consciousness & the Literature of the Old Testament
Last Reviewed: 3/10/2025

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable
Grading: Grade or P/NP
Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:
Formerly: HUMAN 10A

Catalog Description:
Growth and change of human consciousness demonstrated in a critical survey of the great stories, personalities, themes and history of the Hebrew Bible.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 100A or ENGL 100.

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Growth & change of human consciousness demonstrated in a critical survey of the great stories, personalities, themes & history of the Hebrew Bible. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100A or ENGL 100.
Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities		Fall 1981	
CSU GE:	Transfer Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities		Fall 1981	
IGETC:	Transfer Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities		Fall 1981	
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Not Certificate/Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

The student will:

1. Overcome the structural problems arising either from a fear of or an unfamiliarity with the style of the biblical text.
2. Acquire the skills to read and discuss the biblical text with reasonable ease and comprehension.
3. Distinguish between the assumptions and hermeneutic techniques of traditional biblical exegesis and the methodology and conclusions of modern biblical criticism.
4. Distinguish between the assumptions and techniques of traditional biblical exegesis and the theory and methodology of modern biblical criticism.
5. Learn to think historically about the origins and redaction of biblical literature.
6. Distinguish and appreciate the distinctive and varying styles of biblical literature: the narrative, the saga, the genealogy, the legal code, poetry and prophecy.
7. Discern the major literary and religious themes and recognize their dynamic development throughout Scripture.
8. Identify the major personalities, events and political geography of Ancient Israel and become familiar with the unfolding story line of the biblical narrative.
9. Appreciate and discuss the biblical text as the classical literature of an ancient culture, as a genuine and reliable source of historical awareness and record and as a repository of evolving spiritual understanding which has helped to shape the development of the western world.

Topics and Scope:

1. Introduction to traditional understandings of the Hebrew Scripture; Divine Revelation; the literalist argument.
2. Modern methods of biblical research including Documentary Theory, comparative middle eastern literature; the theory of the original matriarchy and the nature of patriarchy and its literary heritage, Midrash and biblical literary style compared with other narrative styles, contemporary historiographic and hermeneutic criticism; using Genesis 1-11 to illustrate these methods including stories of the Creation, Adam and Eve in the Garden, Cain and Abel, the genealogies and Distribution of the Nations, the story of the Flood and the Tower of Babel.
3. The Covenant - tracing its literary presence in the creation story, the Flood and Abraham: Abraham as ancestor of the Israelite and Ishmaelite traditions.
4. The Akedah: its literary history, traditional interpretations; its connections to the sacrificial cult; its centrality in the history of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.
5. Machpelah - the burial of Sarah; the ubiquity of narratives concerning claim to the land of Canaan.
6. The story of Sodom and the code of hospitality.
7. The Jacob Tradition: Tribal history and legend.
8. The Rape of Dinah and the Levitical origins.
9. Judah and Tamar and the beginnings of the Judean Davidic traditions.
10. Joseph and the Northern Israelite traditions.
11. The Exodus Story: Testing the historical reality of the story; testing the durability and thematic credibility of the story; miracles, historiography and literary style; the figure of Moses: the nature of prophecy and Yahwist understanding, the evolutionary reality of the "Mosaic" traditions.
12. The Book of Joshua: the Tribes of Yahweh and the period of the Conquest/rebellion.
13. The Book of Judges: The period of the Settlement: Israel facing the external threat of Canaanite and Philistine domination - Deborah as prophetess and military leader; Israel facing the internal threat of assimilation and acculturation - the story of Samson and Delilah.
14. The Monarchy: the tradition from Samuel to Saul with emphasis on the literary characteristics of these figures as they interact; the beginnings of prophetic criticism of the monarchy. The advent of David, his rise and reign; The accession of Solomon and the transformation of Israel from an agrarian, egalitarian, tribal confederation to an urban, military aristocracy.
15. The monarchies of David and Solomon.
16. The divided kingdoms and the rise of the literary prophets: (Elijah), Hosea, Amos and Isaiah through the Assyrian invasion and the destruction of Israel.
17. The nature and content of prophecy: Yahwist social criticism, the Yahwist hermeneutic.
18. The Deuteronomists and the reform of Josiah.
19. The Babylonian Exile.
20. Yahwism vs. Zoroastrian dualism.
21. II Isaiah and the coming of Cyrus and the Persian conquest.
22. Job.

23. Ezra, Nehemiah and the Restoration and the canonization of the Torah.
 24. Yahwist Wisdom literature: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations and the Song of Solomon.

Assignment:

Assignments for Humanities 10.1 include the following:

1. Regular reading assignments from course texts.
2. No less than five written essays which are to be critical responses to biblical texts. These will also involve some reading references outside the text of the Bible.
3. A short answer midterm exam which will include map identification questions.
4. A similar short answer final examination.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Reading reports

Writing
5 - 75%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Exams

Problem solving
10 - 25%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances

Skill Demonstrations
10 - 25%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, True/false, Matching items, TEXT ANALYSIS

Exams
5 - 20%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Other Category
0 - 5%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

NEW ENGLISH BIBLE (or its equivalent).

ANCIENT ISRAEL by H. Orlinsky, 2nd ed., Cornell Univ Press, 1960.

ATLAS OF BIBLE LANDS by Hammond, revised ed., Hammond, 1990.

