

REL 211
INTRODUCTION TO OLD TESTAMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090, or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course is a survey of the literature of the Hebrews with readings from the law, prophets, and other writings. Emphasis is on the use of literary, historical, archeological, and cultural analysis. Upon completion, students should be able to use the tools of critical analysis to read and understand Old Testament literature. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

- a. Recognize and identify the various types of Old Testament literature.
- b. Discuss major archaeological discoveries relative to the Old Testament.
- c. Demonstrate in writing an understanding of basic historical, geographical, and cultural information concerning the Israelite people.
- d. Prepare a formal research paper using standard tools of literary research and correct documentation of source materials.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Introduction: The Old Testament from a 20th Century perspective
 - A. Role of the Old Testament in society
 - B. Looking back: new approaches
- II. The Pentateuch
 - A. Its setting in the Ancient Near East
 - B. Problems of literary analysis: One author, or four?
 - C. The story: Abraham to Moses
- III. The "Conquest"
 - A. Conflicting theories: literary and archaeological perspectives
 - B. Tribal patterns of social and political structure

- IV. Rise of a Monarchy
 - A. Looking back and looking forward: Deuteronomy
 - B. External imperialism and military threat
 - C. Shift to monarchy: Three Kings
 - D. Internal dissention and division

- V. Rise of Prophecy
 - A. Early prophets: Amos and Hosea
 - B. Major prophets: Isaiah and Jeremiah

- VI. Exile in Babylon
 - A. Ezekiel and Second Isaiah: Prophets of hope
 - B. Persian deliverance and a return to Judah

- VII. Other Sacred Writings
 - A. Hebrew poetry: the Psalms
 - B. Israelite "Wisdom" literature
 - C. Apocalyptic vision: Daniel
 - D. Close of the Hebrew Canon

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

To be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.