

## Course Outline

**Course Title:** ENGL 2547 *The Bible as Literature*      **Submitted By:** Carol Helland/Sue Devereux  
**Semester Course Prefix and Number:**      **Approval Date:**  
**Old Quarter Course Prefix and Number:**      **Revision Date:**  
**Number of Credits:** 3      **Number of Lecture Credits:** 3  
**Semester(s) Offered:** Spring/Summer      **Number of Lab Credits:** 0      **Number of Lab Hours:** 0  
**Class Size:** 35      **Number of Studio/Demonstration/Internship Credits:** 0  
**Negotiated by AASC on**  
**(Date)\_\_\_**

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### Course Purpose Code:

- 0 – Developmental Courses
- 1 – Non-transferable, General Education
- 2 – Technical course related to career programs
- 3 – College course which has the primary goal of applying certain concepts (e.g. vocal ensemble)
- 4 – Other college course not considered a part of general education (MNTC) e.g. computer science, health, physical education
- 5 – Course which is intended to fulfill the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MNTC) requirements.
- 9 – Continuing Education/Customized Training specialized credit course (not occurring in 0-5)

### Catalog Description:

*The Bible as Literature* is designed to introduce the student to the literary qualities of the Bible. Students will examine the Bible's use of language through a study of its various narratives, lyric poetry, imagery, allegory and metaphor. The course will also examine the historical and cultural background of selected books of the Bible.

### Prerequisites and/or recommended entry skills/knowledge:

Course Prerequisite(s):      None  
Reading Prerequisite:      None  
Composition Prerequisite:      None  
Mathematics Prerequisite:      None

### Career Programs and Transfer Majors Accessing this Course:

This course transfers as a liberal arts course to the following universities/colleges:

UMD Category 9 Literary and Artistic Expression: Analysis and Criticism  
Bemidji State University Category 6: Humanities and the Arts

**Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal(s) partially met by this course if applicable:** Notes: No more than two goals may be met by any one course. (Curriculum Committee review and the Chief Academic Officer's approval are required).

- 0.  None
- 1.  Communications
- 6.  The Humanities and Fine Arts
- 7.  Human Diversity

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| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Thinking                              | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global Perspectives   |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Sciences                               | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Ethical and Civic Responsibility |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematical/Logical Reasoning                 | 10. <input type="checkbox"/> People and the Environment      |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences |  |

**Learning outcomes, including any relevant competencies listed in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum:**

**Goal 6:** To expand students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures. especially in relation to behavior, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought.

Student Competencies: Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of literary works in the Bible.
- Understand the literary works of the Bible as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
- Develop the skills necessary to read and interpret Biblical texts as literature.
- Recognize various types of literature: narrative, lyric poetry, dramatic literature, biography, allegory, metaphor.

**Goal 8:** To increase students' understanding of the growing interdependence of nations and peoples and develop their ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic and political experiences.

Student competencies: Students will be able to:

- Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
- Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
- Show an understanding of the many historical and cultural elements of the Bible.

**Student assessment methods:**

- Response papers
- Quizzes
- Online and classroom discussions
- Term papers
- Midterm and final exams

**Use of instructional technology** (includes software, interactive video and other instructional technologies):

Online version of the course will be offered

**Outline of the major course content:**

1. Backgrounds of the Old Testament and the Apocrypha
  - Palestine and Its People
  - The nature, origin and contents of the Bible

2. History of the Bible
  - The founding of the Hebrew Nation
  - Rise and Fall of the Monarchy
  - Establishment of a church state after the Exile
3. Prophetic Literature
  - Eighth-century Prophets
  - Judah's Pre-Exilic Prophets of the Seventh and sixth centuries
  - The Exilic Prophets
  - The Post Exilic Writings
4. Lyric Poetry
  - The Psalms: Hymnbook for Jews and Christians
  - Minor Lyrical Books
5. Dramatic Literature
  - Job: A Drama of the Inner Life
  - The Song of Solomon: A Wedding Idyl
6. Short Stories and Tales
  - Fourth-century Stories Advocating Tolerance
  - Second and First Century Stories Encouraging Integrity
7. Wisdom Literature
  - Ethical Precepts and Cynical Pessimism
8. Apocalyptic Literature
  - II Esdras: Visions Attributed to Eara
9. Parables
10. Allegory/Metaphor
  - The Book of James

**Additional special information** (special fees, directives on hazardous materials, etc.)

None

**Transfer Information:** (Please list colleges/majors that accept this course in transfer.)

**UMD**--Category 9 Literary and Artistic Expression: Analysis and Criticism

**Bemidji State University**--Category 6: Humanities and the Arts

**Approvals:**

Body	Representative Signatures	Date
Curriculum Committee		
Faculty Association		
Academic Affairs Standards Committee		
Chief Academic Officer		

Distribution: Original – Administrative Office

Copies: Curriculum Committee Chair, Learning Center, Library, Originating Faculty Member, Records, Student Services, Scheduler, Transfer Specialist

Revised February 10, 2004