

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

**Course Prefix and Number:** ENG 233

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** The Bible as Literature

**Course Description:** Provides an introduction to the study of the Bible as literature. Examines the intent and presentation of the major literary genres found in the Bible, refining student skills of analysis, synthesis, and presentation. Involves critical reading and writing. ENG 233 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or its equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** ENG 233 develops skills in critical literacy and promotes an understanding of the Bible as a collection of literary texts. As a writing intensive course, ENG 233 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, and substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Students will produce at least 12 pages (3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and at least 12 pages (3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

**Prerequisite:** ENG 112 or its equivalent

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing this course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe, analyze, and interpret themes and features of literary texts from a variety of genres, using appropriate literary terminology;
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of the literary movements covered in the survey, including literary techniques, innovations, major writers, and major texts;
- c. Explain the relationship between literature and the historical and cultural contexts in which it is produced, with particular attention to the shaping of cultural identities as reflected in the literature;
- d. Produce at least 12 pages (a minimum of 3000 words) of formal writing, including academic essays and essay examinations, and at least 12 pages (a minimum of 3000 words) of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries; academic writing about literature should include clear argumentation and organization, valid textual evidence for support, and correct documentation;
- e. Participate in interactive discussions, peer reviews, and/or one or more formal individual and/or group multi-modal presentations;
- f. Locate and evaluate information retrieved from electronic sources, such as academic databases and web resources;
- g. Use available electronic technologies for creating and submitting texts; and
- h. Recognize literary study as a means for intellectual, aesthetic, and personal growth and for engaging meaningful and enduring questions across human cultures.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

Students may expect to study the following:

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

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** Spring 2014 (revised 6/10/2014)