

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

**Course Prefix and Number:** REL 255

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Selected Problems and Issues in Religion - Women and the Bible

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

Introduces students to the portrayal of women in the Bible. Examines, through selected Biblical texts, the role and depiction of women within this text. Studies the impact of scriptural writing on the role of women in the Western world through the lens of feminist scholars. Students are asked to think critically about the texts, the issues raised by feminist perspectives, and to analyze the impact of the Bible on women today and society as a whole. Prerequisites: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test. Lecture: 3 hours / week.

**General Course Purpose**

1. To introduce students to several Biblical texts that deal primarily with women.
2. To examine the particular role of women in the Old and New Testament period.
3. To examine specific Biblical texts which include women and identify both negative and positive influences that these texts have on the role of women in western civilization today.
4. To foster critical thinking about the Bible and its impact on the role of women in Western society.
5. To encourage analytical thinking about specific Biblical texts and their relationship to the treatment of women.
6. To explore questions and challenges raised by feminist scholarship in the area of Biblical studies.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites** (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

Prerequisites: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Identify and relate stories of the Bible that deal primarily with women.
- Think critically about the Bible and its impact on the role of women in western society.
- Understand feminist criticism of the Bible and the challenges made by feminist scholars in biblical studies.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- The portrayal of women in the Old and New Testaments
- The role of women in both testament periods
- Women and the Roman-Greco World
- Feminist criticism

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** May 1, 2007