

**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 major literary genres found in the Bible, refining skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. 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 equivalent. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** ENG 233 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for humanistic study, and promotes an understanding of selected American literature from the pre-colonial period through the mid-nineteenth century. 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 equivalent

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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. Compose writing about literature that includes clear and concise argumentation and organization, valid textual evidence for support, and correct documentation; and
- e. Use literary study as a means for engaging in 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

**Date Created/Updated (Month, Day, Year):** July 23, 2018