

Course Description:

This semester-long course focuses primarily on biblical texts, examining their literary techniques, genres, and narrative structures. Students will develop critical analysis skills while studying one of the most influential literary works in Western literature.

Detailed Weekly Schedule:**Unit 1: Foundations of Biblical Narrative (Weeks 1-3)***Week 1: Introduction to Biblical Literature*

Prologue

- The Bible in American History and Culture
- Influence of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation on the Bible
- Jewish and Christian scriptures
- Differences in translations
- Canonization
- The Apocrypha
- Masoretic Texts
- The Septuagint (LXX)

Week 2: Creation

- Primary Readings:
 - Genesis 1-2 (Comparative creation accounts)
 - Introduction to Biblical literary genres (Course Packet)
- Analysis Focus: Parallel narrative structures, literary patterns

Week 3: Early Genesis Narratives

- Primary Readings:
 - Genesis 3-4 (Fall narrative and Cain/Abel)
 - Genesis 6-9 (Flood narrative)
- Analysis Focus: Character development, plot structure

Week 4: Patriarchal Narratives

- Primary Readings:
 - Genesis 12-13, 15-16 (Abraham cycle)
 - Genesis 22 (Binding of Isaac)

- Analysis Focus: Tension, conflict, resolution

Unit 2: Epic Narratives (Weeks 4-6)

Week 5: Joseph Cycle

- Primary Readings:
 - Genesis 37, 39-45 (Joseph narrative)
- Analysis Focus: Character arc, dramatic irony

Week 6: Exodus Narrative

- Primary Readings:
 - Exodus 1-6 (Moses's early life)
 - Exodus 7-14 (Plagues and Exodus)
- Analysis Focus: Epic conventions, heroic journey

Week 7: Leadership Narratives

- Primary Readings:
 - Joshua 1-6 (Jericho narrative)
 - Judges 4-5 (Deborah narrative)
- Analysis Focus: Historical narrative techniques

Unit 3: Poetry and Wisdom (Weeks 7-9)

Week 8: Psalmic Poetry

- Primary Readings:
 - Psalms 1, 23, 29, 45, 88, 137
 - Introduction to Hebrew poetic forms
- Analysis Focus: Poetic devices, imagery

Week 9: Wisdom Literature

- Primary Readings:
 - Proverbs 1-9
 - Ecclesiastes 1-3, 12
- Analysis Focus: Didactic literature, metaphor

Week 10: Love Poetry and Lament

- Primary Readings:
 - Song of Solomon 1-4
 - Lamentations 1
- Analysis Focus: Poetic voice, imagery

Unit 4: Prophetic Literature (Weeks 10-12)

Week 11: Major Prophets

- Primary Readings:
 - Isaiah 5:1-7 (Vineyard Song)
 - Isaiah 40-42
 - Jeremiah 1-2
- Analysis Focus: Prophetic voice, metaphor

Week 12: Vision Literature

- Primary Readings:
 - Ezekiel 1 (Throne vision)
 - Ezekiel 37 (Valley of Dry Bones)
 - Daniel 7
- Analysis Focus: Symbolism, visionary literature

Week 13: Minor Prophets

- Primary Readings:
 - Amos 1-5
 - Jonah (complete book)
- Analysis Focus: Social commentary, satire

Unit 5: Gospel Narratives (Weeks 13-15)

Week 14: Synoptic Narratives

- Primary Readings:
 - Mark 1-5
 - Matthew 5-7 (Sermon on Mount)
- Analysis Focus: Teaching narratives

Week 15: Parables

- Primary Readings:
 - Luke 10:25-37 (Good Samaritan)
 - Luke 15 (Lost Parables)
 - Matthew 13 (Kingdom Parables)
- Analysis Focus: Allegory, metaphor

Week 16: Johannine Literature

- Primary Readings:
 - John 1:1-18 (Prologue)
 - John 18-19 (Passion narrative)
- Analysis Focus: Symbolic narrative

Unit 6: Final Studies (Weeks 16-18)

Week 17: Letters as Literature

- Primary Readings:
 - 1 Corinthians 13 (Love Chapter)
 - James (complete letter)
- Analysis Focus: Epistolary form

Week 18: Apocalyptic Literature

- Primary Readings:
 - Revelation 1-5, 21-22
- Analysis Focus: Apocalyptic conventions
- Review and prepare for final assessment

Assessment Methods:

1. Literary Analysis Essays:
 - Character analysis
 - Genre studies
 - Comparative passages
2. Projects:
 - Literary device portfolio
 - Narrative structure analysis
 - Final research presentation
3. Regular Assessments:
 - Reading comprehension checks
 - Literary terms quizzes
 - Class discussions

Teaching Resources:

- Literary terms glossary
- Historical context guides
- Writing prompts
- Discussion questions
- Analysis frameworks

Note to Teachers:

- Provide historical and cultural context
- Focus on literary analysis techniques
- Create reading guides for complex passages

- Include regular writing opportunities
- Maintain academic perspective

Important Considerations:

1. Academic Focus:

- Maintain literary analysis approach
- Avoid theological interpretation
- Respect diverse perspectives

2. Content Support:

- Provide vocabulary support
- Create reading guides
- Offer historical context
- Include visual aids

3. Assessment Variety:

- Written analysis
- Oral presentations
- Creative projects
- Group discussions