
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

THE BIBLE IN LITERATURE I ONLINE

Course Overview and Essential Skills

The Bible has been and still is one of the most influential books ever published. Its influence is seen in literature, art, music, public policy, and public debate. A student's knowledge of the Bible can be a key to unlock other subjects – especially literature, art, music, and the social sciences.

The Bible in Literature I is designed to function as an engaging survey course, not a mastery course. The overriding objective for the elective is to enrich the educational experience of students by providing a solid background in the Bible that will:

- assist students in their other studies
- enhance their own writing and communication
- help them understand and interpret the use of the Bible in society in general.

The ultimate aim is a civic one – to improve biblical and religious literacy.

The Bible in Literature I course will provide students with the opportunity to study one of the most influential books ever written - the Bible. In the Bible in Literature I, students will learn about the different kinds of writing and the various books that make up the Old Testament, otherwise known as the Hebrew Scriptures. Parts of the Bible like Genesis, Exodus, the Prophets, and the Psalms will be read for their literary impact and narrative appeal. In addition, students will also read other classic works of literature - a novel, short stories, and poetry - to analyze and interpret the Bible's influence. Knowledge of the Bible and its stories has long been recommended by colleges and universities because of the many biblical allusions that are found in great literature.

Students will be able to ...

- Interpret the definition of cultural literacy and examine why bible literacy is important.
- Trace the history of the Bible's development and translation and examine the impact of the English Bible on the English language.
- Read, analyze, and interpret the different kinds of writing and the various books that make up the Hebrew Scriptures or the Old Testament.
- Discover major themes and the kinds of literature found in the Hebrew Bible. Themes for inquiry and analysis will include the following: sacrifice, obedience, faith, promise, exodus, emancipation, exile, return, justice, law, family matters, and sibling rivalry.
- Interpret the importance of literary elements and literary devices such as plot, character, irony, theme, point of view, symbolism, etc. in the Old Testament.
- Identify and reflect on the important events, persons, symbols, and motifs within the Old Testament selections.
- Identify and reflect on the significant roles of persons in the Old Testament, such as Noah, Abraham, and Moses, in the forming of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

- Identify and analyze the importance of epic events associated with the Fall, the Flood, the Israelites' departure from Egypt, and other epic events depicted in the Old Testament.
- Discover how an understanding of biblical allusions contributes to the study and enjoyment of literature, music, and art.
- Read, analyze, and interpret a variety of literature; listen to and analyze a variety of music; and view and analyze a variety of art to identify and appreciate biblical allusions.

Course Textbook and Required Materials

Course Sites (Online LMS)

Schippe, Cullen and Chuck Stetson, eds. *The Bible and Its Influence*. Ft. Royal, Virginia: Bible Literacy Project, 2006. Print.

Milton, John. *Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained*. Ed. Christopher Ricks. New York: Signet Classic, 1982. Print.

Required Material:

- Pocket folder
- Pens and pencils
- School-issued journal

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
Unit of study or major topic as outlined in curriculum	Unit specific skills or concepts, could include projects or labs, movies used or other specific resources, etc	May indicate the month or amount of time for unit
Introduction to Online Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize copied course material in a pocket folder. • Maintain an updated journal, filled with weekly reflections to various prompts and weekly biblical allusion observations. • Effectively participate in online Discussion Board posts in Course Sites. • Navigate tabs in Course Sites to find course material. • Utilize reliable digital resources to conduct research. 	1 week
Reading, Writing, and Communicating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare literary works on the basis of form, structure, and content. • Identify and evaluate the effective use of literary devices in given works. • Demonstrate an increase in the scope of vocabulary. • Participate in class discussions and prepare a variety of presentations. 	1 week

Introduction: Why Study the Bible?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on the benefits gained from an academic study of the bible as literature and in literature. • Recognize and interpret the constitutionality of studying the Bible. • Recognize the influence of the Bible on American history and culture. • Examine the impact of the English Bible on the English language. • Analyze and interpret the major themes and the kinds of literature found in the Hebrew Scriptures. • Identify biblical allusions in various pieces of literature, art, and music. 	1-2 weeks
Genesis: The Origins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and interpret cross cultural / archetypal symbols. • Identify, analyze, and interpret the key themes of the biblical account of creation. • Identify and analyze the important epic events and archetypal plot motifs within the creation account of Genesis. • Identify and analyze the significant roles of persons in Genesis. • Identify, interpret, and analyze biblical allusions in excerpts from John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>. • Identify, interpret, and analyze poetic devices within excerpts of <i>Paradise Lost</i>. 	2-3 weeks
Genesis: The Call and the Promise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, interpret, and analyze major themes in the Abraham narrative. • Identify and analyze the significant roles of persons in the narrative. • Analyze how the covenant God made with Abraham differs from earlier covenants described in Genesis. • Read, analyze, and interpret literature that contains allusions to the Abraham narrative. • View clips from The A&E documentary <i>Abraham One Man, One God</i>, parts I, II, and IV. 	2 weeks

Exodus and the Land of Promise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about the epic events relating to Moses, and identify and analyze how his image is reflected in literature and history. • Read and interpret the plot elements in the narratives of Joshua, the Judges, and the prophet Samuel. • Identify and analyze the roles of other major figures in the biblical narratives. • Analyze and discuss the characteristics and values reflected in biblical heroes and leaders. • View clips from the A & E Biography: <i>Moses and the Ten Commandments</i>. • View scenes from The 1956 Academy Award-winning classic, <i>The Ten Commandments</i> (G). 	2-3 weeks
Kingdom and Exile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the role of King David, as one of the most influential figures in the Hebrew Scriptures. • Identify, interpret, and analyze major themes and literary elements in the biblical narratives. • Read, analyze, and interpret a variety of works that contain allusions to the story of Exodus and other biblical narratives. • View scenes from the Bible Stories film series <i>Solomon</i> (NR). 	2-3 weeks
The Prophets and Prophetic Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and interpret the literary styles and patterns of prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures. • Analyze and interpret the central accounts, themes, and messages of the major and minor prophets. • Analyze the poetry in the books of the Prophets according to key poetic elements. • Cite examples of allusions in other works of literature inspired by the biblical prophets. • Cite examples of the influence the biblical prophets' messages have had on American culture. 	2 weeks

Writings and Wisdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the structure of psalms and the literary devices used that make poetry such a concentrated form of language. • Analyze and interpret the themes, characters, plot, and familiar passages of the Book of Job. • Analyze the structure and famous sections of the Book of Proverbs. • Analyze the themes of hope and restoration expressed I the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah. 	2 weeks
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