

Course: REL 101
Credit Hours: 3

Course Title: Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
Department: Religious Studies

General Education Area:
HUMAN CULTURES - Humanities (*GEC 111*)

Information submitted by a department representative on 4/8/2021 3:15:59 PM – Compiled by Darren Wienberg, Academic Advising & Transfer Center

Typically Offered During:

Fall Full Semester:	YES	Fall 1 st Block:	NO	Fall 2 nd Block:	YES
Spring Full Semester:	YES	Spring 1 st Block:	NO	Spring 2 nd Block:	YES
Summer:	NO				

Typical Instructional Modality:

Traditional (seated):	YES	Blended:	NO	Internet:	YES
Online Video:	NO	Web Conference:	NO		

May Also Count Toward Department Offering:

Major:	YES	Minor:	YES	Certificate:	NO
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Please see online published semester class schedule and undergraduate catalog for detailed course offering information.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (without using the catalog description)?

REL 101 introduces students to the literature, history, and religion of ancient Israel, as preserved in the Old Testament (“Hebrew Bible”). The course leads students through readings within the context of the ancient Near Eastern world, revealed in part through archaeological discovery. The ideas and stories within the Hebrew Bible share all that constitute the human experience in all cultures and times. This encounter with the biblical text and the ideas within should develop creative approaches to examine the world, expanded capacities to understand new cultures and ideas, and increased potential for successful, ethical, and responsible citizenship.

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?

Students can understand how the text of the OT/HB contributed to the knowledge and experiences of the ancient Hebrews, as well as to its continued influences on Western culture. Students will be introduced to various critical and theoretical methods to study and analyze the text and how it continues to impact modern society. Students will appreciate texts as products of an ancient cultures, and begin to identify and master relevant contextual elements and traditions through archaeology and socio-historical study.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?

Students in Nursing, Education, History, English, Art History, Pre-Med, Archaeology

Catalog Description (Fall 2022 Undergraduate Catalog)

Explores the religion, life experiences, cultures, thoughts, and history of the ancient Israelites as found in their literature and artifacts.