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Alabama
Department of
Postsecondary Education

Representing Alabama's Public Two-Year College System

Jefferson State Community College

**REL 151
Survey of the Old Testament**

- I. REL 151 Survey of the Old Testament - 3 Semester Hours**
Core Area II, ASCI TSCI (Lec 3 hrs)
- II. Course Description**
This course is an introduction to the content to the Old Testament with emphasis on the historical context and contemporary theological and cultural significance of the Old Testament. The student should have an understanding of the significance of the Old Testament writings upon completion of this course.
- III. Prerequisite**
None
- IV. Textbook**
Harris, Stephen L. Exploring the Bible. MacGraw Hill.
ISBN: 0-07-0340736-04
- V. Course Objectives**
A. Demonstrate knowledge of the organization of the Old Testament.
B. Demonstrate knowledge of the geographical and historical setting for the Old Testament.
C. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of the Old Testament.
- VI. Course Outline of Topics**
A. Organization of the Old Testament
B. Geographical and historical setting for the Old Testament
C. Content of the Old Testament
D. Period of the United Monarchy
E. The Divided Kingdom of Israel
F. The Prophets
G. The Exile and the Restoration
H. Wisdom literature and poetry

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Written assessments

Term Papers

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VIII. General Course Competencies

- A. The student will acquire knowledge of the organization of the Old Testament..
- B. The student will acquire knowledge of the geographical and historical setting for the Old Testament for the time period prior to 1200 B.C.
- C. The student will acquire knowledge of the content of the Old Testament.
- D. The student will acquire knowledge of the period of the United Nonarchy.
- E. The student will acquire knowledge of the divided kingdom of Israel.
- F. The student will acquire knowledge of the prophets.
- G. The student will acquire knowledge of the Exile and the Restoration.
- H. The student will acquire knowledge of wisdom literature and poetry in the Old Testament.

XI. Course Competencies Stated in Performance Terms

- A. The student will acquire knowledge of the organization of the Old Testament.
 - 1. describe the types of literature in the Old Testament
 - 2. identify the periods of history represented in the Old Testament.
 - 3. describe the development stages of the Old Testament by demonstrating knowledge of the following concepts:
 - a. Old Testament Canon.
 - b. language of the Old Testament.
 - c. text of the Old Testament.
 - 4. state theological themes of the Old Testament.
- B. The student will acquire knowledge of the geographical and historical setting for the Old Testament for the time period prior to 1200 B.C.
 - 1. state information about the fertile crescent.
 - 2. describe information about the world of the Old Testament.
- C. The student will acquire knowledge of the content of the Old Testament.
 - 1. write information about the creation.
 - 2. name the patricarchs.
 - 3. write information about the patriarchs.
 - 4. state the covenant that God made with the patriarchs.
 - 5. describe facts about the slavery and development of Israel in Egypt.
 - 6. describe facts concerning the exodus of Israel from Egypt.
 - 7. write information about the people of Israel in the wilderness.
 - 8. identify information about the law given to the people of Israel.
 - 9. state facts concerning the international scene.
 - 10. state facts concerning the invasion of Canaan.
 - 11. state facts about the geographical setting of the biblical world, especially Canaan, during this period of time.
 - 12. describe information about the dividing of the land and the renewing of the covenant with the God of Israel.
 - 13. state facts about Moses and Joshua.
 - 14. write a list of the judges.
 - 15. write information about the judges and the people of Israel during this period of time.
- D. The student will acquire knowledge of the period of the United Nonarchy

1. write a list of the kings of Israel during the time of the United Monarchy.
 2. state information about the life and time of King Saul.
 3. state information about the life and time of King David.
 4. state information about the life and time of King Solomon.
 5. identify facts about the geography of the biblical world during this period of history.
 6. describe information about the building of the temple.
- E. The student will acquire knowledge of the divided kingdom of Israel
1. state reasons for the cause of the divided kingdom.
 2. identify information about the geography of the two kingdoms.
 3. state facts about some of the kings of each of the kingdoms.
- F. The student will acquire knowledge of the prophets
1. write a list of important prophets of the Old Testament.
 2. state time frames for important prophets.
 3. write central messages of the prophets.
- G. The student will acquire knowledge of the Exile and the Restoration
1. describe circumstances that caused the Exile.
 2. identify geographical information about the Exile.
 3. state facts concerning the international situation.
 4. describe the roles that the prophets played during this period of time.
 5. write facts concerning the restoration of the people of Israel.
- H. The student will acquire knowledge of wisdom literature and poetry in the Old Testament
1. name the books of the Old Testament classified as "the Writings".
 2. classify poetry in the book of Psalms.
 3. describe purposes for the writing of the wisdom literature.
 4. name the books in the Old Testament which are wisdom literature and poetry.
 5. state the time frames for "the Writings".

X. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student's ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

XI. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual's race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

XII. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College. The ADA Accommodations office is located in FSC 300 (205-856-7731).