

Georgia Performance Standards for Literature and History of the Old Testament Era

Course Name: Literature and History of the Old Testament Era
Course Credit: Elective – ½ Carnegie Unit credit
Course Number: 23.02400 e (ELA Classics and Comparative Literature)
Course Description:

The purpose of the course shall be to accommodate the rights and desires of those teachers and students who wish to teach and study the Old Testament and to familiarize students with the contents of the Old Testament, the history recorded by the Old Testament, the literary style and structure of the Old Testament, the customs and cultures of the peoples and societies recorded in the Old Testament and the influence of the Old Testament upon law, history, government, literature, art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture. Topics may include historical background and events of the period; the history of the Kingdom of Israel; the poetry of the Old Testament; the influence of Old Testament history and literature on subsequent art, music, literature, law, and events, including recent and current events in the Middle East.

Performance Standards:

B1. The student demonstrates an understanding of the major narratives, characters, stories and poetry contained in the Bible and how they are used in literature, art and music.

B1a. Demonstrates comprehension of the variety of literary forms in the biblical text

B1b. Identifies, analyzes and applies knowledge of structures, symbolism, motifs, and the use of language (e.g. diction, imagery, figurative language, alliteration) in biblical text

B1c. Recognizes and traces the development of various translations of biblical text

B1d. Understands and explains the influence of the Bible in classic and contemporary art, music and literature, including poetry, drama, and prose

B2. The student participates in discussions related to curricular learning regarding the Bible.

The student:

B2a. Reflects on the significance of translations on biblical text

B2b. Examines, compares and contrasts various translations

B2c. Demonstrates understanding of biblical narratives and applies them in a variety of modes of discourse

B3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the Bible's impact on the history, religion, government and law of various cultures

B3a. Explains how the Bible came to be, including different Bibles, the methods and tools of writing at the times the Old and New Testament were written, the means by which they were preserved, the languages in which they were written and translated, and the historical and cultural events which led to the translation of the Bible into the English language

B3b. Investigates and explains the biblical roots and influences on contemporary culture, to include history, government, law, customs, morals, and values

Textbook:

The book or collection of books commonly known as the Old Testament shall be the basic text for Literature and History of the Old Testament Era. The book or collection of books commonly known as the New Testament shall be the basic text for Literature and History of the New Testament Era. The local board of education may determine which version of the Old or New Testament shall be used as the main text or, if the local board of education does not do so, that determination may be made by the teacher of the course. No student shall be required to use one version as the sole text of the Old or New Testament. If a student desires to use as the basic text a different version of the Old or New Testament from that chosen by the local board of education or teacher, he or she shall be permitted to do so. (Ga Code 20-2-148 Section 3)

Reading Materials:

Students may be assigned a range of reading materials for the courses, including selections from secular, historical and cultural works and selections from other religious and cultural traditions. These supplemental instructional materials are solely for the purposes of commentary or expansion of discussion and do not replace the Bible as the text.

Lesson Plans:

Because of the availability of a variety of versions of the Bible and a wide range of supplemental reading materials, the State Board of Education recommends that local school districts review the numerous lesson plans which are commercially available to determine which, if any, will best meet their needs.