

GE2125: THE BIBLE: ITS HISTORY, LITERATURE, AND INFLUENCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

The Bible: Its History, Literature, and Influence

Subject Code

GE - Gateway Education

Course Number

2125

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

GE Area (Primary)

Area 1 - Arts and Humanities

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course introduces the history, literature, and impact of the Bible, including both the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the New Testament, for students with no or limited previous knowledge. It surveys the writing and compilation of the Bible, its linguistic and literary forms, and its role as a foundational document for Western civilization. Lectures will cover major topics including the content and structure of the Bible; the history of its formation; the diversity of literary genres within it; its linguistic characteristics in terms of the original languages of its texts, Hebrew and Greek; and its impact on the literary and cultural developments in Western society. Group discussions and readings will emphasize contextualized and critical interpretation of selected biblical texts and scholarly articles.

Course Aims

The course aims to familiarize students with the content and structure of the Bible and its seminal influence in the development of Western civilization. Students are expected to engage critically with readings of selected biblical texts, and to gain an understanding of major issues in biblical scholarship.

In the first part of the course, students will approach the Bible as literary texts in the context of the Ancient Near East and the Hellenistic world; as a collection of books, written over a millennium by authors with diverse backgrounds and in a wide range of genres; and as the product of a complex history of textual transmissions, translations and canonization. Students will be exposed to the original languages of biblical texts, Hebrew and Greek, and to methodologies in critical reading of these texts.

In the second part, students will assess the multi-faceted impact of the Bible on Western civilization and on contemporary society, from historical, literary, cultural, and media perspectives. Illustrations will be drawn from the development of the English language and literature, biblical content as portrayed in modern media, and the different forms of Christianity around the globe and in the local context.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate in-depth knowledge about the content and structure of the Bible		x	x	
2	Read and interpret biblical texts critically		x	x	
3	Assess the impact of the Bible from historical, literary and cultural perspectives		x	x	x
4	Discover and evaluate points of view through independent research on topics related to the Bible		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Students will engage in lectures on the Bible's content and structure and interpretation of biblical text	1, 2, 3	
2	Group discussion and presentation	Students will engage in group discussion and presentations on the significance of the Bible from historical, literary and cultural perspectives.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Reading	Students will engage with weekly readings on selected biblical texts and articles.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Assignments (Two assignments covering the Hebrew Bible and New Testament; 4-6 exercises elaborating on lecture materials)	1, 2, 3, 4	50	
2	Class participation	1, 2, 3	10	

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Examination

Criterion

Ability to present a range of viewpoints on topics related to the Bible and evaluate them with rigorous and persuasive arguments.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. Assignment

Criterion

Ability to demonstrate knowledge of the Bible' s content and background, as well as its significance from historical, literary and cultural perspectives.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

3. Participation

Criterion

Ability to engage in meaningful discussion in class and to complete exercises

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Bible, Old Testament, New Testament, biblical scholarship, biblical languages, literature, translation, textual criticism, Western civilisation

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Assigned chapters in the Bible
2	Sumney, Jerry L. (2014) The Bible: An Introduction, Second Edition.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	R. E. Brown. An Introduction to the New Testament. New York: Doubleday, 1996.
2	F. F. Bruce. The Canon of Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1996.
3	D. A. Carson, D. J. Moo, L. Morris. An Introduction to the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
4	M. D. Coogan. The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
5	J. B. White and W. T. Wilson. From Adam to Armageddon: A Survey of the Bible.
6	J. Barton. The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
7	James L. Kugel. The Bible As It Was. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999.
8	Gary Pratico and Miles van Pelt. Basics of Biblical Hebrew. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.
9	N. Clayton Croy. A Primer of Biblical Greek. Grand Rapids, MI and Cambridge, UK: William Eerdmans, 1999.
10	http://www.biblegateway.com

Annex (for GE courses only)

A. Please specify the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) that the course is aligned to and relate them to the CILOs stated in Part II, Section 2 of this form:

Please indicate which CILO(s) is/are related to this PILO, if any (can be more than one CILOs in each PILO)

PILO 1: Demonstrate the capacity for self-directed learning

1, 2, 3, 4

PILO 2: Explain the basic methodologies and techniques of inquiry of the arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science and technology

1, 2, 3, 4

PILO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

1, 2, 3, 4

PILO 4: Interpret information and numerical data

1, 2, 3, 4

PILO 5: Produce structured, well-organised and fluent text

1, 2, 3, 4

PILO 6: Demonstrate effective oral communication skills

1, 2, 3, 4

PILO 8: Recognise important characteristics of their own culture(s) and at least one other culture, and their impact on global issues

1, 2, 3, 4

PILO 10: Demonstrate the attitude and/or ability to accomplish discovery and/or innovation

1, 2, 3, 4

B. Please select an assessment task for collecting evidence of student achievement for quality assurance purposes. Please retain at least one sample of student achievement across a period of three years.

Selected Assessment Task

Assignment

CILOs: 1, 2, 3, 4

PILOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10