

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**ENGL-217**  
**The English Bible as Literature**  
**3 Credits**

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

The English Bible as Literature studies the King James version of the English Bible as literature, providing necessary background to understand the books of the Bible in historical and cultural context, including the questions of authorship, canonization, and translation. The course also emphasizes the types of literature to be found in the Bible, including narrative, poetry, biography, history, epistolary writing, wisdom literature, prophetic literature, and apocalyptic literature. In addition, the course explores the influence the Bible has had on other literature and on different disciplines, such as art, music, film, and contemporary popular culture. This course is writing intensive. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

**Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning**

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and apply literary terms, concepts, critical strategies and stylistic characters in the texts studied.
2. Demonstrate critical and independent thinking in the interpretation of texts.
3. Write analytically about literary works, using appropriate research and documentation.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of ways the literature studied reflects its intellectual, social, historical and cultural contexts.
5. Evaluate the power of literature to address personal values and goals and to challenge human endeavors.
6. Describe the impact of the English Bible on different fields, such as other literature, art, music, and popular culture.
7. Apply critical judgment and aesthetic standards in evaluating works of art, music, and film as reflections of biblical influence.

**Major Topics**

- I. Historical background of the Old and New Testaments.
- II. The process of canonization of the Old and New Testaments, including comparison of Jewish and Christian canons.
- III. The process of translation of the Bible into English, with special emphasis on the development of the King James Version of the Bible.
- IV. Biblical narrative.
- V. Biblical poetry.
- VI. Relevant genres, including history, biography, epistolary writing, apocalyptic writing, wisdom literature, prophetic literature, satire.
- VII. Influence of the Bible in other literature and other disciplines, including film, art, music, and contemporary popular culture.

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but may include exams, essays, class participation. Specific writing assignments will require at least 2,500 words of formal academic writing, as well as in-class assignments to explore ideas and respond to class materials. Research tasks will focus heavily on literary analysis of biblical text and the influence of the Bible through the years on other literature, other disciplines in the arts and contemporary popular culture.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is a Literature, Humanities, and Fine Arts core course and a Humanities, Fine Arts, English, and Arts and Sciences elective.