

Revised 7/23/07

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND ROUTING FORM**

**Proposal Title:** Bible as Literature

**Initiating Unit or Individual:** Genevieve West, Lang and Lit

**Contact Person's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** westg@ferris.edu **phone:** x3988

**Date or Term of Proposal Implementation:** Spring 2009

- Group I - A – New degree/major or major/redirection of a current offering, or elimination of a degree, major or minor
- Group I - B – New minors or concentrations
- Group II - A – Minor curriculum clean-up and course changes
- Group II - B – New Course
- Group III - Certificates
- Group IV – Off-Campus Programs

Group/Individual	Signature	Date	Vote/Action *
Program or Academic Unit Faculty			<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support with Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Not Support
Department Faculty			<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support with Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Not Support
Department Head	<i>Genevieve West</i>	7/28/08	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support with Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Not Support
College Curriculum Committee			<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support with Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Not Support
Dean	<i>Matthew G. Fisher</i>	8-26-08	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support with Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Not Support
University Curriculum Committee			<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support with Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Not Support
Senate			<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support with Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Not Support
Academic Affairs	<i>David Fisher</i>	9/1/08	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support with Concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Not Support

\* Support with Concerns or Not Support must include a list of specific concerns. Votes must be shown for faculty groups. Administrators check appropriate action taken.

<b>To be completed by Academic Affairs</b>		
<b>President (Date Approved)</b> _____	<b>Board of Trustees (Date Approved)</b> _____	<b>President's Council (Date Approved)</b> _____

**1. Proposal Summary**

(Summary is generally less than one page. Briefly: state what is proposed with a summary of rationale and highlights. Additional rationale may be attached.)

LITH 290, The Bible as Literature will seek to introduce students to a sampling of writings from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as they represent literature in a variety of genres (e.g., poetry, narrative, wisdom literature, historical accounts, parables, epistles, oral traditions, synopitic writings, etc.). The course will also use parallel translations and cross references from the Bible to introduce students to the evolution of the Biblical canon and the various English language translations, both paraphrase and literal versions (e.g., KJ, NKJ, RSV, GN, NIV, ESV, NLT). The course will study how the Bible as a work of literature has intentionally and unintentionally reflected, shaped, responded to, and advanced Western literature and society.

**2. Summary of All Course Action Required\***

**a. Newly Created Courses to FSU:**

Prefix	Number	Title
LITH	290	The Bible as Literature

**b. Courses to be Deleted From FSU Catalog:**

Prefix	Number	Title
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**c. Existing Course(s) to be Modified:**

Prefix	Number	Title
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**d. Addition of existing FSU courses to program**

Prefix	Number	Title
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**e. Removal of existing FSU courses from program**

Prefix	Number	Title
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**CREATE NEW COURSE**  
**Course Data Entry Form**

**FORM F**

**Create New Course**  
**Rev. 07/23/07**

**I. ACTION TO BE TAKEN: CREATE A NEW COURSE**

Notes

1. Complete each item in Section I and Section II.
2. If this course is to be used as a prerequisite for other university courses, Form Fs that reflect the prerequisite change must be submitted for those courses as well.

Term Effective (6 digit code only): <sup>200901</sup> ~~200808~~ Examples: 200801(Spring), 200805(Summer), 200808(Fall)  
Note: The first four digits indicate year, the next two digits indicate month in which term begins.

**II. PROPOSED FOR NEW COURSE: Complete all sections a through r. See manual for clarification.**

a. Course Prefix  (x)   
b. Number   
c. Enter Contact Hours per week in boxes. LECture  LAB  INDependent Study – Check

Practicum:  Seminar:

d. Course Title:  (Limit to 30 characters/spaces.)

e. College Code:  f. Department Code:

Credit Hours: Check (x) type and enter maximum and minimum hours in boxes.

g. Type:  Variable x  Fixed h. Minimum Credit Hours  i. Maximum Credit Hours

j. May Be Repeated for Added Credit: Check (x)  Yes x  No

k. Levels: Check (x) x  Undergraduate  Graduate  Professional

l. Grade Method: Check (x) x  Normal Grading  Credit/No Credit only (Pass/Fail)

m. Does proposed new course replace an equivalent course? Check (x)  Yes x  No

n. Equivalent course: Prefix  Number  See instructions on Replacement courses.

**o. CATALOG DESCRIPTION** – Limit to 75 words – PLEASE BE CONCISE.

LITH 290 will seek to introduce students to a sampling of writings from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as they represent literature in a variety of genres. Parallel translations and cross references from the Bible introduce students to the evolution of the Biblical canon and the various English language translations, both paraphrase and literal versions. Study of the Bible as a work of literature that intentionally and unintentionally reflected, shaped, responded to, and advanced Western literature and society.

p. Term(s) Offered:  (See instructions for listing.) q. Max. Section Enrollment:

r. Prerequisites/Co-requisites/Restrictions: (If none, leave blank.) Limited to 100 spaces.  
**ENGL 150 with a grade of C or better**

UCC Chair Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Affairs Approval Signature/Date:

 9/11/08

To be completed by Academic Affairs Office: - Standard & Measures Coding and General Education Code

Basic Skill (BS)  General Education (GE)  Occupational Education (OC)  G.E. Codes

**Office of the Registrar use ONLY**

Date Rec'd: \_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_ Entered: SCACRSE \_\_ SCADETL \_\_ SCARRES \_\_ SCAPREQ \_\_

## GENERAL EDUCATION APPROVAL FORM

Form G plus justification of the General Education designation being sought must be sent to the General Education Coordinator (preferably electronically). The criteria for each designation can be found FSU General Education website:  
<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/gened/gened.html>

Upon review, the form below will be completed by the **University General Education Committee** for the courses that will meet General Education requirements. The form must be included in the proposal packet.

**Course Prefix:** LITH **Course Number:** 290

**Course Title:** Bible as Literature **G. E. Codes Requested:** C, G

G.E. Codes: G=Global Consciousness; R=Race/Ethnicity/Gender Issues; S=Social Awareness; C=Cultural Enrichment; W=Writing Intensive; Z=Scientific Understanding

**Initiator:** Genevieve West **Date Sent:** 09-02-08

**Proposal Contact:** Genevieve West **Email:** westg@ferris.edu

**Department:** Languages and Literature **Campus Address:** 3080 ASC

**Please Print**

**University General Education Committee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Returned:** \_\_\_\_\_

Based upon University General Education Committee review on \_\_\_\_\_ (date), we

- Support the request to designate the course listed above as a \_\_\_\_\_ (insert Gen. Ed. Designation(s).)
- Do not support the request to designate the course listed above as a \_\_\_\_\_ (insert Gen. Ed. Designation(s)) for reasons listed below.

**Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## NEW COURSE INFORMATION FORM

### Course Identification:

Prefix:	Number	Title
LITH	290	Bible as Literature (Honors)

### Course Description:

LITH 290 will seek to introduce students to a sampling of writings from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as they represent literature in a variety of genres (e.g., poetry, narrative, wisdom literature, historical accounts, parables, epistles, oral traditions, synoptic writings, etc.). The course will also use parallel translations and cross references from the Bible to introduce students to the evolution of the Biblical canon and the various English language translations, both paraphrase and literal versions (e.g., KJ, NKJ, RSV, GN, NIV, ESV, NLT). The course will study how the Bible as a work of literature has intentionally and unintentionally reflected, shaped, responded to, and advanced Western literature and society.

### Course Outcomes and Assessment Plan:

The literature covered in the course will seek to teach students all of the outcomes listed in the Cultural Enrichment checklist and most especially how to:

- Interpret cultural works as a response to society
- Look at the social and historical setting of literature so as to better understand how literature and society are sometimes variant forces
- Increase their knowledge about how language, myth, metaphor, typology shape a cultural and social message
- Better understand their response to literature – to see how the Bible as literature is responsive to not only religious, but also social and institutions
- Gain a better understanding of their own response to literature as a social, political or religious tool or expression, and
- Have an increased interest in engaging in an exploration and discussion of the humanities as a way to better understand themselves and others.

### Course Outline including Time Allocation:

The course will begin with an overview of terminology, genres, Biblical canon, and historical contexts of the various translations. The content will then focus on the various genres demonstrated in both Testaments. The final third of the class will require that students select from a menu of research areas and work in groups to investigate, evaluate, reflect on and present their findings.

- Week one - Overview of the formation of the canon of the Old and New Testaments, and Apocrypha of the Bible
- Week Two – A review of literary genres in the Bible
- Week Three- The Bible's evolution from oral tradition to texts, into various English languages translations and publications
- Week Four - Pentateuch – oral tradition, poetry, and historical accounts
- Week Five- Prophetic writings (Old and New Testament)
- Week Six - Wisdom literature

Week Seven –Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke)  
Week Eight – Gospel (John)  
Week Nine - Parables  
Week Ten - Epistles  
Week Eleven –Biblical translations (e.g., Hebrew, Greek, Vulgate, Guttenberg Bible, illuminated Bibles, Medieval mystery plays)  
Week Twelve -Student projects and presentations  
Week Thirteen – Student projects and presentations  
Week Fourteen - Student projects and presentations  
Week Fifteen -Capstone project

### Selected Bibliography

- Alter, R. (1981). *The art of Biblical narrative*. New York: Basic Books.
- Alter, R. (1985). *The art of Biblical poetry*. New York: Basic Books.
- Bailey, K.E. (1984). *Poet and peasant and Through peasant eyes: A literary-cultural approach to the parables of Luke*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B., Eerdmans.
- Carson, D.A. (2000). *The inclusive language debate: A plea for realism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Frye, N. (1982). *The great Code: The Bible as literature*. New York: Harcourt.
- Gabel, J.B., & Wheeler, C.B. (1986). *The Bible as literature: An introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- McMurtrie, D.C. (1989). *The book: The story of printing and bookmaking*. New York: Dorset Press.
- Metzger, B.M. (2001). *The Bible in translation: Ancient and English versions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Norton, D. (2000). *The history of the English Bible as literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Wegner, P.D. (2002). *The journey from texts to translations: The origin and development of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES COURSE ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

COURSE PREFIX, NUMBER AND TITLE: LITR 290 Bible as Literature

CURRENT DATE: July 8, 2008

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students who complete the course successfully will be able to:

- Identify and discuss the Bible's various forms of literary modes (e.g., poetry, narrative, parable, history, wisdom literature, oracle),
- Demonstrate understanding and use of literary terms introduced in the course,
- Discuss the ways translations operate to shape meanings,
- discuss how the Bible has been and is shaped by culture, history, and politics
- discuss and explain the ways Old and New Testaments moved from oral tradition to print and Hebrew and Greek to English
- Discuss the cultures that formed the literature of the Bible,
- Gain a better understanding of their own response to literature as a social, political or religious tool or expression, and
- Have an increased interest in engaging in an exploration and discussion of the Bible as literature as a way to better understand themselves and others.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Students will be asked to

1. Write response papers,
2. Complete research using the Internet
3. Give presentations on topics they select
4. Work in teams to discuss literature
5. Complete quizzes and a final exam

**COURSE EVALUATION STRATEGIES (How will course successes be measured?)**

1. Evaluation of course-specific questions on student evaluations

2. Student retention and grades
3. Evaluation of student writing, presentations, and research projects
4. Evaluation of capstone assignment that asks students to synthesize the learning they have done in class.

**COLLEGE OF ARIS AND SCIENCES COURSE ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

**COURSE PREFIX, NUMBER AND TITLE:** LITR 290 Bible as Literature

**CURRENT DATE:** July 8, 2008

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students who complete the course successfully will be able to:

- **Identify and discuss** the Bible's various forms of literary modes (e.g., poetry, narrative, parable, history, wisdom literature, oracle),
- **Demonstrate understanding and use of literary terms introduced in the course,**
- **Discuss the ways** translations operate to shape meanings,
- **discuss** how the Bible has been and is shaped by culture, history, and politics
- **discuss and explain the ways** Old and New Testaments moved from oral tradition to print and Hebrew and Greek to English
- **Discuss** the cultures that formed the literature of the Bible,
- Gain a better understanding of their own response to literature as a social, political or religious tool or expression, and
- Have an increased interest in engaging in an exploration and discussion of the Bible as literature as a way to better understand themselves and others.

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## **Literature 290: The Bible as Literature**

### **Cultural Enrichment**

**Student Outcomes Criteria for Cultural Enrichment** On the completion of the cultural enrichment requirement, students should:

- Have an increased ability to interpret the Bible as literature in the context of Western culture.
- Be able to justify those interpretations with an understanding of the interpretive process as it applies to various English language translations.
- Be able to look at the Bible and the evolving English language translations from different perspectives.
- Have increased knowledge of the techniques or methodology of literature as a form of cultural expression (e.g., Hebrew poetry modes, New Testament parables, wisdom literature, oracles / prophecy, historical accounts with a literary purpose, archetypes, themes).
- Have increased knowledge about how ancient and modern cultures viewed the content of the Bible the in similar and very different ways.
- Better understand themselves as part of cultures with rich historical perspectives on how the Bible has shaped Western literature.
- Be able to gain increased self understanding through seeing the differing views of the Bible as a work of culture.
- Have an increased inclination to engage reading about the Bible, reading more of the Bible, and understanding its role as a cornerstone of Western thought and as a way of better understanding themselves and their world or enhancing the quality of their lives.

## College of Arts and Sciences

September 4, 2008

**TO: Daniel Burcham, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Meral Topcu, Chair, College Curriculum Committee**

**FR: Matthew A. Klein, Dean** *MAK*

**RE: LITH 290 – The Bible as Literature**

Enclosed for your information is the proposal for LITH 290 – The Bible as Literature which I have approved to be offered Spring 2009 by the Languages and Literature Department.

Thank you.

Cc: Genevieve West  
Valerie Greenfield



REC'D SEP 05 2008