

UC 11838 12F

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

APPROVED APR 24 2013

Undergraduate Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Core Category: Lang/Phil/Culture Effective Fall 2014

or  
 Graduate/Professional Studies Council  
 New Course  Course Change  
 Effective Fall 2013

1. Department: RELS College: CLASS  
 2. Faculty Contact Person: Lynn Mitchell Telephone: 3-3213 Email: lemitchell@uh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:  
 • Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
RELS / 2310 / Bible and Western Culture I  
 • Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)  
RELS / 2310 / BIBLE AND WESTERN CULTURE I  
 • SCH: 3.00 Level: SO CIP Code: 38.0203.00 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

RECEIVED OCT 12 2012

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements  
 5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course?  Yes  No

If Yes, please complete:  
 • Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:  
 \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
 • Course ID: \_\_\_\_ Effective Date (currently active row): \_\_\_\_

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): \_\_\_\_  
 • Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department?  Yes  No  
 • Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments?  Yes  No  
 • Can the course be repeated for credit?  Yes  No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title  
RELS / 2310 / Bible and Western Culture I  
 • Course ID: 41375 Effective Date (currently active row): 1172012

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)  
 Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1304 Description (30 words max.): Bible as a primary document of Western culture, basic to the understanding of the western philosophical, literary, cultural, and scientific tradition. Focus on ideas developed in Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and their literary, philosophical and political impact.

10. Dean's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10/8/12  
 Print/Type Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: Comparative Cultural Studies/RELS

Person Making Request: Lynn Mitchell

Telephone: 3-3213

Email: lemittchell@uh.edu

Dean's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: Click here to enter text.

Course Number and Title: RELS 2310: Bible and Western Culture I

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

Students will be able to recognize and explain the Old Testament and its relationship to the formation of western philosophical, literary, cultural, and scientific tradition.

Students will demonstrate that understanding through original, well-developed papers that are directed to the appropriate audience.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

Communication

American History

Mathematics

Government/Political

Science

Language, Philosophy, & Culture

Social & Behavioral Science

Creative Arts

Component Area Option

Life & Physical Sciences

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Teamwork

Communication Skills

Social Responsibility

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency.

Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

#### Critical Thinking:

Writing assignment. Minimum 3000 words

Using assigned texts, student will construct an essay that explains the relationship between the Bible and your selected topic from the choices listed. The essay will develop an intellectual discussion of the Bible's impact on modern social/political movements. Regardless of the subject matter, the paper should be the final, succinct result of critical reading and thinking. Students should avoid lines of analysis which involve a personal statement of your faith, or lack thereof, except to include evaluation of personal responsibility as related to subject. Emphasis should be placed on integrating understanding of ideas and their social implications. The paper will be graded for style, form, and content.

*Content: paper should AT MINIMUM discuss the relationship between the subject chosen and the Bible.*

*Possible issues to be addressed include the following:*

- *How has the Bible and the biblical worldview impacted the subject in question?*
- *What are the origins of the movement?*
- *Where and how is the issue dealt with in the Bible?*
- *How has the issue or social movement changed over time?*
- *How has the culture, across time, changed things? In your opinion, is this a positive or negative change?*

#### Communication Skills:

In the same required writing assignment as above, student will demonstrate ability to communicate effectively through written form.

#### Empirical & Quantitative Skills:

Click here to enter text.

#### Teamwork:

Click here to enter text.

#### Social Responsibility:

In the same required writing assignment as above, student will evaluate and explain issues of social responsibility as it concerns religion.

#### Personal Responsibility:

In the same required writing assignment as above, student will evaluate and explain issues of personal responsibility as it concerns religion.

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course?     Yes         No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:

The comprehensive writing requirement will be constant across sections.

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature: \_\_

**Instructor: Lynn E. Mitchell, Ph. D.**Email: [lemitchell@uh.edu](mailto:lemitchell@uh.edu) (not via blackboard)

Office Hours: By appointment only (don't be shy!)

**Graduate Assistant: John Sherer**Email: [jcsherer@central.uh.edu](mailto:jcsherer@central.uh.edu)

Telephone (713) 743-3213

Office: 113 A.D. Bruce Religion Center

Class Meets: 10:00-11:30 TTH in AAA AUD2

**Course Description:**

The study of the Bible as a primary document of Western culture, basic to the understanding of the western philosophical, literary, cultural, and scientific tradition. Focus on ideas developed in Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and their literary, philosophical and political impact.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will be able to understand the Old Testament and its relationship to the formation of western philosophical, literary, cultural, and scientific tradition.
- Students will write original, well-developed papers that are directed to the appropriate audience.

**Expectations of Students for the Course:**

Come to class every meeting

Arrive to class on time, stay for the duration, and leave when dismissed

Complete weekly reading assignments before the start of class

Check Blackboard frequently for announcements and course administration

Do not use cell phone, pda, text messaging, beeper, chat during class. If you have an emergency and/or are expecting an important phone call that cannot wait until class is over, please let the instructor know before class that you anticipate a phone call. Sit by an exit door. When you receive the call, please quietly exit the room and then answer your phone. Quietly return to class when your call is complete.

If you need to leave class early or anticipate arriving to class late, please let the instructor know before-hand, so as to minimize disruption.

Do not engage in side-bar or personal conversations during class (this is distracting to the instructor and to other students).

**DO NOT CHEAT OR PLAGARIZE!** This will never be tolerated in this course. If you need help with the material or to learn how to properly cite sources please let the instructor know.

Turn in your term paper on time (or before)

**To each exam bring a pencil, blue scantron (form 4521), your peoplesoft ID and your university or state picture ID.**

***Ask questions and get involved with the material!***

For those who will be participating university sanctioned events / athletic competitions it will be your responsibility to give written notice to the instructor IN ADVANCE of the anticipated absence. All assignments/tests that occur during the absence will become due before the date of absence unless other arrangements have been made. Failure to give notice will be considered an unexcused absence with a zero assigned for the work missed.

**Course Grading:**

Clicker Quizzes	10%
Essay	30%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%

- You will not be able to earn an A in this class if you do not attend.
- Attendance will be taken randomly during the semester.
- If you are participating in a university-sanctioned event you must give notice to the instructor during the first week of class.
- There are no excused absences for this course, except for university-approved situations. If you are not present then you will not receive credit for being in class that day. Please arrange your appointments at times other than during class.
- You must know your Student ID #.

**Important Dates:**

**Exam 1** Tuesday, Oct 4  
**Essay Due** (online via blackboard) Tuesday, Nov 27  
**Exam 2** Thursday, Dec 6

**Textbooks:**

## Required:

1. The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels (Hinges of History) (Paperback) (Abbr: GOJ)  
~ Thomas Cahill (Author)  
· ISBN-10: 0385482493  
· ISBN-13: 978-0385482493
2. The Unfolding Drama of the Bible (Paperback) (Abbr: UDB)  
~ Bernhard W. Anderson(Author)  
ISBN-10: 0800635604  
ISBN-13: 978-0800635602
3. Reconciling the Bible and Science: A Primer on the Two Books of God (Paperback) (Abbr: RBS)  
~ Kirk Blackard (Author), Lynn Mitchell (Author)  
· ISBN-10: 1439240094  
· ISBN-13: 978-1439240090
4. The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Augmented Third Edition, College Edition, New Revised Standard Version (Paperback) (Abbr: Bible)  
· ISBN-10: 0195288831  
· ISBN-13: 978-0195288834

## Recommended:

- The Oxford Companion to the Bible (Oxford Companions) (Hardcover)  
~ Bruce M. Metzger (Editor), Michael David Coogan (Editor)  
· ISBN-10: 0195046455  
· ISBN-13: 978-0195046458

**Required Reading Pace:**

Dr. Mitchell will announce additional reading assignments in addition to the weekly required readings listed below:

**Week 1: Aug 28, 30**

Topics: Course Introduction  
What is Religious Studies?

**Week 2: Sep 4, 6**

Topics: What is the Bible?  
Reading Assignment:  
UDB pp 9-17  
RBS Chapter 11-12

**Week 3: Sep 11, 13**

Topics: Creation  
Film: *Testament: The Bible and History "As It Was In The Beginning"*  
Reading Assignment:  
UDB Study 1 Prologue  
RBS Chapters 1-3  
Bible Genesis 1

**Week 4: Sep 18, 20**

Topics: Genesis & The Idea of History  
The First Covenant  
Reading Assignment:  
RBS Chapters 4-6  
Bible Genesis 2

**Week 5: Sep 25, 27**

Topics: Genesis

Reading Assignment:

RBS Chapters 8-10  
Bible Genesis 3**Week 6: Oct 2, 4****Exam 1.....Thursday, Oct 4 BRING YOUR SCANTRON**

Topics: Genesis

Reading Assignment:

RBS Chapters 8-10  
Bible Genesis 1-3**Week 7: Oct 9, 11**

Topics: Genesis

Reading Assignment:

RBS Chapters 11-13  
Bible Genesis 1-3**Week 8: Oct 16, 18**Topics: The Law  
The Pentateuch

Reading Assignment:

RBS Chapter 15  
Bible Genesis 1-3**Week 9: Oct 23, 25**Topics: The Kingdom, The Nation  
Gifts of the Jews

Reading Assignment:

UDB Study 2 A Way into the Future  
Study 3 The Discipline of DisasterGOJ Introduction: The Jews are It  
Chapter I – The Temple in the Moonlight: The Primeval Religious Experience  
Chapter II, The Journey into the Dark: Unaccountable Innovation**Week 10: Oct 30, Nov 1**Topics: Wisdom  
Proverbs, Sex

Reading Assignment:

UDB Study 4 A New Exodus  
Study 5 The People of the Torah  
GOJ Chapter III, Egypt: From Slavery to Freedom  
Chapter IV, Sinai: From Death to Life

**Week 11: Nov 6, 8**

Topics: The Psalms  
The Prophets

Reading Assignment:  
GOJ Chapter V, Canaan: From Tribe to Nation  
Chapter VI, Babylon: From Many to One

**Week 12: Nov 13, 15**

Topics: Job and His Friends  
Job and God

Reading Assignment:  
GOJ Chapter VII, The Jews are Still It

**Week 13: Nov 20**

Topics: Jonah  
Amos & Hosea

Reading Assignment:

**Week 14: Nov 27, 29**

**Essay Due.....Tuesday, Nov 27 by 11:59 PM via Blackboard**

Topics: Isaiah  
Messiah

Reading Assignment:

**Week 15: Dec 4, 6**

**Exam 2.....Thursday, Dec 6 BRING YOUR SCANTRON**

Topics: Isaiah  
Messiah

Reading Assignment:

**ESSAY REQUIREMENTS**

Essays are to be submitted via the course Blackboard Turnitin assignment. Late Papers are counted off 15 points per day starting after due date/time to upload to Blackboard. *Early papers welcomed and encouraged.*

**Essay Topic Choices**

Law and the Bible	Evolution and the Bible
Feminism and the Bible	Jung and the Bible
Slavery and the Bible	Creationism and the Bible
Literature and the Bible	Science and the Bible
Politics and the Bible	

**Topic:** Using your assigned texts construct an essay that explains the relationship between the Bible and your selected topic from the choices listed. You will construct an intellectual discussion of the Bible's impact on modern social/political movements. Regardless of the subject matter, your paper should be the final, succinct result of critical reading and thinking. You should avoid lines of analysis which involve a personal statement of your faith, or lack thereof. Instead, emphasize understanding of ideas and their implications. The paper will be graded for style, form, and content.

**Content:** *Your paper should AT MINIMUM discuss the relationship between the subject you have chosen and the Bible. Possible issues to be addresses include the following:*



- *How has the Bible and the biblical worldview impacted the subject in question?*
- *What are the origins of the movement?*
- *Where and how is the issue dealt with in the Bible?*
- *How has the issue or social movement changed over time?*
- *How has the culture, across time, changed things? In your opinion, is this a positive or negative change?*

**Length:** 3000 words (MINIMUM) using Times New Roman font size 12.

<u>Word count:</u>	<u>Maximum Grade Possible based on word count alone</u>
3000+	100
2500-2999	80
2000-2499	60
Less than 2000	50

**Style:** MLA or APA (copies of the format available in the library or online)

**Due date:** Essay is due Tuesday, April 24 by 11:59 pm to Blackboard.

- Email papers will NOT be accepted.
- **PLAGERISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU MUST ASK. IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE.**
- Late Papers are counted off 5 points per day starting after due date/time to upload to Blackboard.