

Standards for Elective High School Humanities Course: History and Literature of the Biblical Era

Concept 1: History and Literature of the Old Testament Era

This concept focuses on the literary style and historical impact from texts of the Old Testament era, the customs and cultures of the peoples and societies, and the influence of the texts upon law, history, government, literature, art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture. Topics may include historical background and events of the period; the poetry; the influence of the history and literature of the era on subsequent art, music, literature, law, and events, including recent and current events.

<u>Standards</u>
<i>Students are expected to:</i>
HS.OTE.1. Demonstrate an understanding of the major narratives, characters, stories and poetry contained in biblical texts and how they are used in literature, art and music. <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Demonstrate comprehension of the variety of literary forms in the biblical text.b. Identify, analyze and apply knowledge of structures, symbolism, motifs, and the use of language (e.g. diction, imagery, figurative language, alliteration) in biblical text.c. Understand and explain the influence of the Bible in classic and contemporary art, music and literature, including poetry, drama, and prose.
HS.OTE.2. Participate in discussions related to academic analysis of biblical texts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Analyze the significance of biblical texts.b. Examine, compare, and contrast various translations.c. Demonstrate understanding of biblical narratives and analyze their influence on allusions in western literature.
HS.OTE.3. Demonstrate an understanding of biblical text and their impact on the history, religion, government, and law of various cultures. <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Compare and contrast the events and people from the text to the historical era.b. Investigate the influences of the texts on contemporary culture, to include history, government, law, customs, morals, and values.

Standards for Elective High School Humanities Course: History and Literature of the Biblical Era

Concept 2: History and Literature of the New Testament Era

This concept focuses on the literary style and historical impact from texts of the New Testament era, the customs and cultures of the peoples and societies, and the influence of the texts upon law, history, government, literature, art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture. Topics may include historical background and events of the period; the poetry; the influence of the history and literature of the era on subsequent art, music, literature, law, and events, including recent and current events.

Standards

Students are expected to:

- HS.NTE.1. Demonstrate an understanding of the major narratives, characters, stories and poetry contained in biblical texts and how they are used in literature, art and music.
- Demonstrate comprehension of the variety of literary forms in the biblical text.
 - Identify, analyze and apply knowledge of structures, symbolism, motifs, and the use of language (e.g. diction, imagery, figurative language, alliteration) in biblical text.
 - Understand and explain the influence of the Bible in classic and contemporary art, music and literature, including poetry, drama, and prose.
- HS.NTE.2. Participate in discussions related to academic analysis of biblical texts.
- Analyze the significance of biblical texts.
 - Examine, compare, and contrast various translations.
 - Demonstrate understanding of biblical narratives and analyze their influence on allusions in western literature.
- HS.NTE.3. Demonstrate an understanding of biblical text and their impact on the history, religion, government, and law of various cultures.
- Compare and contrast the events and people from the text to the historical era.
 - Investigate the influences of the texts on contemporary culture, to include history, government, law, customs, morals, and values.

Standards for Elective High School Humanities Course: History and Literature of the Biblical Era

Arizona Revised Statute:

ARS 15-717.01. [Bible influence; elective course; requirements; immunity](#)

A. The state board of education shall include in history or English arts standards, or both, concepts that include:

1. The history and literature of the old testament era.
2. The history and literature of the new testament era.

B. The standards adopted pursuant to subsection A of this section shall not require that pupils who do not enroll in the elective course prescribed in this section receive instruction on the historical study of biblical text.

C. A school district or charter school may offer an elective course pertaining to how the bible has influenced western culture for pupils in grades nine through twelve. A school may offer this course as an online course. A school district or charter school may develop a new curriculum or use an existing curriculum that includes teachers' guides and that is currently in use in public schools in this state or in other states. An existing curriculum that is used by a school district or charter school shall meet the standards and guidelines prescribed in this section.

D. Before a school offers a course under this section, a legal review shall be conducted to ensure that the course complies with the first amendment to the United States Constitution.

E. A course offered under this section shall be designed to:

1. Familiarize pupils with the contents, characters, poetry and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding society and culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory and public policy.
2. Familiarize pupils with the following:
 - (a) The contents of the old testament and the new testament.
 - (b) The history recorded by the old testament and the new testament.
 - (c) The literary style and structure of the old testament and the new testament.
 - (d) The influence of the old testament and the new testament on laws, history, government, literature, art, music, customs, morals, values and culture.

F. A course offered under this section shall follow applicable law and all federal and state guidelines in maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse religious or nonreligious views, traditions and perspectives of pupils. This section is not intended to violate any provision of the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Arizona or state law or any rules, guidelines or regulations adopted by the United States department of education, the state board of education or the Arizona department of education.

G. A pupil shall not be required to use a specific translation as the sole text of the old testament or the new testament and may use as the basic textbook a different translation of the old testament or the new testament from that chosen by the school district governing board, the charter school governing body or the pupil's teacher.

H. Personnel shall not be assigned to teach a course offered under this section based on any of the following:

1. A religious or nonreligious test.
2. A profession of faith or lack of faith.
3. Prior or current religious affiliation or a lack of religious affiliation.

I. A teacher who instructs a course offered under this section in its appropriate historical context and in good faith shall be immune from civil liability and disciplinary action pursuant to section 15-535.