

MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
Semester/Year: Spring 2011

COURSE NUMBER: REL 211 (50)

INSTRUCTOR: Brian W. Busch, Ph.D.

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to the Old Testament

OFFICE NO: NA

CREDIT HOURS: 3

OFFICE HOURS: Email Instructor

CONTACT HRS/WK: 6

PHONE NO: Contact Dr. Broughton (252)789-0246

PREREQUISITES: None

FAX: (252)789-0826

COREQUISITES: None

E-MAIL: bbusch@mcc.martincc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a survey of the literature of the Hebrews with readings from the law, prophets, and other writings. Emphasis is placed on the use of literary, historical, archeological, and cultural analysis. Upon completion, students should be able to use the tools of critical analysis to read and understand Old Testament literature. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirements in humanities/fine arts.*

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to problem solving.
2. Use appropriate technology.
3. Exhibit effective oral and written communication skills.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Explain the historical and cultural background of the Old Testament
2. Identify the themes of the individual books of the Old Testament
3. Recognize the process of the writing and organization of the Old Testament

REQUIRED RESOURCES: Drane, John. (2001). *Introducing the old testament* (Revised). Minneapolis: Fortress.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES: The course will require some readings from the Bible. Any published Bible version will suffice though I suggest the New International Version (NIV), the Living Bible, or the New Living Bible (NLB). Students will probably find one of these translations/paraphrases easiest to read and comprehend. (Note that some writing assignments may be drawn from the Bible readings.) Students will also be expected to make use of resources found in MCC's Library and at NC Live in preparing some assignments. Orientation to the Library resources will be provided by the Library staff.

LEARNING/TEACHING METHODS: Reading Assignments, Outside Reading Assignments, Online Class Discussion, Individual Projects, and Blackboard Online Assignments

OUTSIDE READING ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be assigned outside reading for this course, with reading/research forming the basis for two written reports.

ASSESSMENTS:

1. Tests (2)	30%
2. Quizzes (6)	20%
3. Weekly writing assignments (8)	30%
4. Essay/Article/Outside Reading Assignments (3)	20%

GRADING: This course will use a 10-point grading scale.

A	90 or greater
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

This course is approved for transfer through the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement between the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina System. In addition to the sixteen UNC schools, many private colleges and universities honor the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement. **A grade of “C” or better will satisfy the admitting College’s/University’s requirements.**

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY: Martin Community College recognizes that academic success is tied to regular attendance and completion of assigned work and tasks in a timely manner.

To enter section 50 (Internet) courses, students must do two things:

- (1) First, students must complete a technology assessment located on the Blackboard or Moodle login page.
- (2) Second, students must login into Blackboard or Moodle and complete the first assignment within seven (7) school days.

Both the technology assessment and the first assignment must be completed for students to remain in the course. If students are taking more than one online course, the student **ONLY** takes the technology assessment **ONE** time.

REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES: In compliance with G.S. 115D-5, MCC policy permits a student to be excused, with the opportunity to make-up any test or other missed work, a minimum of two excused absences per academic year for religious observances required by the student’s faith. The policy limits the excused absences to a maximum of two days per academic year.

Students who wish to be excused for a Religious Observance required by their faith must complete and submit a request form to the instructor(s) prior to the census date of each class. The ***Request for Excused Absences for Religious Observances*** form can be picked up from Student Services. This does not supersede the college-wide attendance policy as outlined in the college catalog or syllabus, with the exception of a reasonable accommodation for the make-up of missed course work

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY continued: A word from your online instructor about this class...

Be present immediately: While traditional classroom students must be present in at least one class during the first ten percent (10%) of a course in order to be considered enrolled in the class, **online students must respond to an online class within seven (7) days after classes begin.** Traditional classroom students who have not attended at least one class by the ten percent census date will be administratively withdrawn by the instructor. **Online students who do not respond to an online class within seven (7) after classes begin will be administratively withdrawn by the instructor.** (Note 1: Some students are taking traditional and online courses. Be sure to note the distinctions and requirements for each type of class. See your college catalog: Academic Regulations/Attendance Policy. Note 2: To enter section 50 [Internet] courses, students must first complete a technology assessment located on the Blackboard login page.)

Be present regularly: According to MCC policy, students must attend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of the total hours for a course. Missing an excess of twenty percent (20%) of the course will result in the student being administratively withdrawn. **For the purposes of this internet course, attendance is taken by the completion of your weekly assignments.** The syllabus shows that nineteen (19) assignments are due during our class. Twenty percent (20%) of nineteen (19) assignments constitutes 3.8 assignments. Thus, **if 4 assignments are not submitted on-time by the**

student, he or she will have missed an excess of twenty percent (20%) of the course, and the student will be administratively withdrawn.

At least two assignments are due each week. It is important that you complete each of your weekly assignments *on time*. Late assignments may not be accepted. **Any length of time past the due date is considered late.** For example, if an assignment is due on Wednesday, it should not be turned in 12:01 AM on Thursday. It would be a late assignment.

In such cases as described above, students will be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor and given a grade of “WF.” The “WF” will be equivalent to an “F” when calculated into the student’s GPA. Students may remove a “WF” by submitting appropriate paperwork for an official withdrawal *by the last day* to officially withdraw without receiving an “F.” **The official withdrawal date for this course is February 14, 2011.**

COURSE OUTLINE (See below): Subject to change. SEE BLACKBOARD FOR WEEK ASSIGNMENTS.

Week 1 January 5-11	Read textbook chapters 1 & 2.	Old Testament Reading	Quiz	Writing Assignment	
Week 2 January 12-18	Read textbook chapters 3 & 4.	Old Testament Reading	Quiz	Writing Assignment	
Week 3 January 19-25	Read textbook chapter 5.	Old Testament Reading	Quiz	Writing Assignment	
Week 4 Jan. 26 – Feb. 1	Read textbook chapters 6 & 7.	Old Testament Reading	Test	Writing Assignment	Article #1
Week 5 February 2-8	Read textbook chapters 8 & 9.	Old Testament Reading	Quiz	Writing Assignment	
Week 6 February 9-15	Read textbook chapter 10.	Old Testament Reading	Quiz	Writing Assignment	Article #2
Week 7 February 16-22	Read textbook chapter 11 & 12.	Old Testament Reading	Quiz	Writing Assignment	Essay
Week 8 Feb. 23 – Mar 1	Read textbook chapter 13.	Old Testament Reading	Test	Writing Assignment	

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: The general rule for our course is as follows: LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. A grade of zero will be given for late assignments. If an assignment is due at 11.59 p.m., then assignments submitted at 12:01 a.m. the following morning are late.

In some limited circumstances, the instructor may choose to accept a late assignment. Students should notify the instructor by email BEFORE the assignment due date to qualify for a makeup. Serious personal sicknesses or the death of a close family member constitute serious circumstances that will be considered. In such cases, the student may be required to provide printed and verifiable documentation showing the reason for the absence in order to qualify for a makeup. The documentation may be brought or faxed to Dr. Broughton’s office no more than two school days following the missed assignment. If the instructor determines that the absence/missed assignment is justifiable, the student has no more than four school days following the missed assignment to makeup the work. If the assignment is not made up in the required time, a grade of zero will be given. **Late assignments are accepted at the discrepancy of the instructor.**

QUIZZES AND TESTS: A note regarding the nature of these assignments: **Quizzes are not cumulative.** For example, week two quiz will not draw from material read during week one. **Tests are cumulative.** Test questions will draw from current and prior week's assignments. On quizzes and tests students will be allowed to use their books as a resource. In such cases where students must respond with a sentence or paragraph, students are *not* allowed to copy portions of the text and submit that material. Students must always provide an answer "in their own words."

On such occasions that the instructor curves a quiz or test score, the maximum score that a student may receive is a 100. Do well on each quiz or test as a curve may not be applied to each student's final score.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: These assignments will require students to summarize as well as interact with what they have read. Students are expected to write well (proper grammar, spelling, complete sentences, etc.). **Written assignments should be completed in newer version of MS WORD and saved with the *.doc filename.** If you do not possess a newer version of MS WORD, you may purchase the product at the college bookstore. Computers in the college's labs are equipped with MS WORD. (You may also download the free software *Open Office* at openoffice.org.) It is important to use the software mentioned here as your instructor may make comments to you using the *Tracking* feature. To see this item, open the *Review* folder in MS WORD. **Use Times New Roman, 12 pt. font. Use one inch margins. Include your name and the title of the assignment on line/row one. Begin the body of your assignment on line/row two.**

DISCUSSION BOARDS: If you wish to raise a question with the instructor or your fellow students related to the course material, our discussions will take place through a discussion board. In this way, other students (who may have the same question) can participate, providing their on insights and asking follow-up questions. If a more personal issue needs to be addressed the student may email the instructor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: Lying, cheating and plagiarism are forms of academic dishonesty that violate the integrity of any academic process and will not be tolerated. For purposes of this class **lying** includes but is not limited to falsifying information provided as verification for the reason you were not able to complete work on time.

Cheating is but is not limited to (a) receiving help/information or giving help/information to another student on any assignment without the permission of the instructor, (b) copying work from another student, or submitting work done by another student as your own, (c) using unauthorized materials or equipment for the completion of an assignment, e.g. notes or books or electronic devices, (d) communicating the subject matter or contents of an assignment to another student unless authorized by the instructor to share it, (e) completing an assignment for another student, (f) obtaining quiz or test questions beforehand, including viewing any quiz or test presented on the Internet before answering for submission, (g) tampering with the grading of an assignment, (h) working with others in completing assignments unless the instructor authorizes collaborative work.

To plagiarize is defined by *Webster's New World Dictionary* as "to take (ideas, writings, etc.) from (another) and pass them off as one's own." Plagiarism is fraud, and under US law it is theft. Almost all forms of expression are covered by some form of legal protection, as intellectual property of the originator.

Lying, cheating, or plagiarizing will result in an "F" for the assignment for a first offense, and an "F" for the class for the second offense. You will receive instructions describing how to footnote and cite information before being asked to turn in written material. Consult that information, and properly cite the works you use as references.

For more information concerning the behavior expected of a student at Martin Community College please see the Student Governance and Conduct Code in the Martin Community College Career Catalogue online at www.martincc.edu.

Keep in mind that as your instructors are often asked to provide your references, Academic Integrity Violations and/or violations of the Student Governance and Conduct Code may affect your ability to get a job in the future. As future professionals you should cultivate a professional attitude and professional conduct and behavior now. Unprofessional habits are hard to break later on!

CONTACT: If you cannot reach your instructor, you may contact Dr. Phyllis Broughton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services at 252-789-0246 or 252-789-0247 by phone, pbroughton@martincc.edu by e-mail, or in person at her office in Building 2, Room 33.

COLLEGE CATALOG: To access the Martin Community College Career Catalog for policies and curriculum requirements, please go online to www.marticc.edu.

DISABILITY STATEMENT: If you have a need for a disability-related accommodation, please notify the Student Services counselor at (252) 789-0293.