

### **Course Description**

#### **REL1210 | Religion of the Old Testament | 3.00 credits**

This course is an introductory course on the Old Testament/Hebrew bible, where we will explore the literature, religions, and beliefs present within this ancient text and examine its cultural and historical development within the Western canon. Through an in-depth study, we will seek to understand the various levels and forms of religion reflected in Jewish and Christian scriptures and analyze how these religious aspects interacted with society over time.

#### **Course Competencies:**

**Competency 1:** The student will increase their understanding of the historical relationship between changing culture and its effect on religion by:

1. Identifying and describing how religion influences the daily practice of secular and religious life in early Judaism
2. Analyzing how different cultural contexts affect an individual's ability to practice religion based on status and gender
3. Applying theological principles to understand the relationship between the individual and religious practice
4. Analyzing the issue of theodicy and changes to it through time
5. Analyzing the correlation/causation considering religious differences and similarities in modern faith practices worldwide

**Competency 2:** The student will create a framework of religious practices and meanings to analyze the differences and similarities by:

1. Using the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament
2. Identifying and defining specific religious beliefs and practices for each religion
3. Analyzing religion's practices and theology for connection to its sacred reality
4. Defining and analyzing each religion's unique characteristics
5. Analyzing the ethical principles of each religion and comparing them to modern secular ethical principles
6. Analyzing death rituals and connecting them to understanding the sacred reality

**Competency 3:** The student will practice college-level research and analytical writing skills with short-essay responses and comprehensive term papers by:

1. Defining and accessing academic online research practices for journal articles
2. Analyzing sources for academic writing
3. Using resources in the campus library and online to interact with the librarians as part of an academic research assignment regarding different aspects of the religions studied
4. Using online resources for editing and ai to improve writing skills

#### **General Education Learning Outcomes:**

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information