



## **St. Olaf College General Education Curriculum Biblical and Theological Studies–Bible (BTS-B) Requirement**

### **Description:**

A course that introduces first-year students to dialogue between biblical traditions and the cultures and communities related to them. Students study major biblical texts and their interaction with theology, religious practice, ethics and social values, while considering methods and fields in the study of religion in a liberal arts setting.

### **Intended learning outcomes:**

*Students will demonstrate:*

1. familiarity with the central narratives of the Bible.
2. familiarity with the diversity of types of writing in the Bible.
3. introductory knowledge of important methods and findings of the scholarly study of the Bible.
4. the ability to make informed judgments in reading and interpreting biblical texts.
5. an understanding of the ways in which biblical texts and the communities that read them influence one another.

### **Course guidelines:**

1. The principal focus of these courses must be the content of the Bible, including its central narratives and other principal literary types, and the major theological views it presents.
2. Courses must introduce scholarly tools and conventions for academic study of the Bible.
3. Courses must provide opportunities for students to practice skills as readers and interpreters of biblical texts and related materials.
4. Courses must consider the use of the Bible by communities of readers and its influences upon various cultures.

5. Courses must include a topical focus that places biblical study in the context of its use by specific communities and highlights its cultural significance.

**Information for instructors proposing BTS-B credit for a specific course:**

The St. Olaf Curriculum Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving proposals to designate individual courses as meeting the Bible requirement. Instructors may seek BTS-B credit as part of a proposal for a new course, or may seek to add BTS-B credit to an existing course. BTS-B credit is attached to the *course*, not to the instructor or to the specific term in which the course is offered. A proposal for BTS-B credit must show how the course meets each of the BTS-B course guidelines. Forms and additional instructions for submitting proposals electronically are available on the website of the [Office of the Registrar](#).

*August 2011*