

# Course Expectation Resource Sheet - REL 101

*“What can students expect if they choose this course?”*

**Course:** REL 101 - Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

**Department:** Languages, Cultures and Religions

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisite:** None

**Catalog Description:** Explores the religion, life experiences, cultures, thoughts, and history of the ancient Israelites as found in their literature and artifacts.

**Catalog:** 2025-2026 **Last Updated:** 2/24/2026

**Gen Ed Course:** Yes

**Gen Ed Area:** HUMAN CULTURES

**Gen Ed Requirement:** Humanities (GEC 111)

**CORE-42 Course:** Yes

**CORE-42 Area:** Humanities & Fine Arts

**MOTR Code - MOTR Title:** RELG 101O -  
Religious Texts-Old Testament

**Is credit also available through:**

**Advanced Placement (AP)?:** No

**College Level Exam Program (CLEP)?:** No

**International Baccalaureate (IB)?:** No

*(click link for more information and required scores)*

## **Responses and Advice from Department Representatives**

*Please refer to your individual class syllabus for details and communicate regularly with your teacher for specific questions and concerns.*

**Last Updated:** 3/23/2026

**The following responses apply to:** Both seated and online courses

### **What expectations do you have for students in this course?**

- To read and obtain a rudimentary understanding of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible in their initial historical context
- To learn fundamental elements about the culture and religion of ancient Israel, and the ancient Near East in general
- To introduce how ancient texts were produced and studied within ancient societies
- To understand the multiple viewpoints and voices expressed in the Hebrew Bible
- To distinguish ancient Israelite religion from Judaism and Christianity
- To practice and develop basic academic skills such as summarizing readings, sharing written work with colleagues, and discussing ideas and reflections (respectfully).
- To generate a sense of curiosity about new academic disciplines.

For the student to become curious about subjects that the student is unfamiliar with.

### **What types of study skills do you expect students to use in this course?**

Reading, writing, and the ability to discuss topics.

### **What study techniques seem to work best for students who do well in this course?**

Reading, writing, memorization.

**What behaviors or habits seem to cause students to struggle in this course? What types of struggles do you see most often? What recommendations do you give to students who struggle in this course? What other advice do you offer to students for success in this course?**

Not investing enough time to prepare for class. Not investing enough time to prepare for class. Become curious, and invest more time reviewing what has been read.

**How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (without using the catalog description)?**

It is about the religious beliefs and ideology of ancient Israel.

**Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?**

This course is an exercise in cultural competence. It is the exploration of an ancient culture, its ideas, history, language, all set in a different historical context and geographical region.

**Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?**

Anyone interested in learning about a society completely unlike our current modern, western civilization.

*Prepared by the Reynolds College Center for Student Success  
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