

§74.36. Requirements for Elective Courses on the Bible's Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament and Their Impact on the History and Literature of Western Civilization.

(a) Pursuant to this rule, a school district may offer to students in Grade 9 or above:

- (1) an elective course on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and its impact and an elective course on the New Testament and its impact; or
- (2) an elective course that combines the courses on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and its impact and on the New Testament and its impact.

(b) The purpose of a course under this section is to:

- (1) teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters, poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding contemporary society and culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy; and
- (2) familiarize students with, as applicable:
 - (A) the contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;
 - (B) the history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;
 - (C) the literary style and structure of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament; and
 - (D) the influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament on law, history, government, literature, art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture.

(c) 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 views, traditions, and perspectives of students in their school district. A course under this section shall not endorse, favor, or promote, or disfavor or show hostility toward, any particular religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective.

(d) A course offered under this section shall follow the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Special Topics in Social Studies or the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Independent Study in English as set out in this subsection until the 2011-2012 school year.