

Religion I Syllabus 2016-2017

INSTRUCTOR	Alan Meis	Days/Period:	M-F/4th Period MWF(10:16 AM – 11:16 AM) TTh (10:16 AM – 10:46 AM)
PREREQUISITE	None	Duration:	Semester 1 & 2
TEXTBOOK	The Bible (contemporary English translation of your choice)		
CONTACT INFO.	ameis@battlecreekacademy.com; (269) 965-1278 ext. 1019; (248) 459-6299 (cell); Classroom and Office Hours: 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM (M-Th) & 7:30 AM – 3:15 PM (F); I'm available after school and by appointment. Please don't call after 9:00 PM. Thank-you!		

PURPOSE OF COURSE: Jesus commissioned His followers to 'go, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...' (Matt. 28:19). This is the primary purpose of the Adventist Encounter Curriculum. Never has there been a greater time in our world's history to make this the focus of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Ultimately, Encounter seeks to obey the Three Angel's Message of Revelation 14—a call for people to stand in these last days in a real relationship with God, to be aroused from their apathy and worship our Creator alone.

CONTENT DESCRIPTION: This course explores the developmental, spiritual, and psychological concerns of teens through a study of the book of Genesis and the Life of Jesus.

REQUIRED TOOLS FOR SUCCESS: Your Bible! Everyone must have their Bible in class every day! This is critical for success! We also need to pray for the Holy Spirit every day too. Of course you will need your brain! :) Besides these, please bring loose leaf paper, a writing utensil, and something to keep all your assignments organized. Please bring a red pen too!

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:

Rules: I have one rule in five parts – **Be Respectful!**

- A. Respect God** – Bow your heads in prayer and close your eyes. Refrain from ever taking God's name in vain.
- B. Respect your teacher** – Always be polite and follow instructions.
- C. Respect each other** – Always be kind and courteous to each other.
- D. Respect yourself** – Never hurt yourself or put yourself down.
- E. Respect school property** – Treat all school property with care. Refrain from writing in textbooks. Use tables and chairs properly.

COURSE FOCUS

- RS.9.0.1 Identify and examine Scripture as the revelation of God.
- RS.9.0.2 Explore and explain Seventh-day Adventist biblical doctrines.
- RS.9.0.3 Apply Seventh-day Adventist beliefs in discipleship of Christ through relationships, lifestyle, and service.
- RS.9.0.4 Outline and explain the role of Ellen G. White as a prophet of God and utilize her writings.

COURSE ABILITIES

- RS.9.0.5 Develop a range of techniques for studying the Bible and incorporating its relevance from past to present; for studying Ellen White's writings, and other contemporary and historical documents.
- RS.9.0.6 Acquire and integrate knowledge to research and analyze Biblical stories/ spiritual concepts.
- RS.9.0.7 Develop critical and creative thinking skills (research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, etc.).
- RS.9.0.8 Use verbal and non-verbal responses to convey a clear message across a range of communication types about spiritual concepts to meet the needs of the context, purpose and audience.
- RS.9.0.9 Develop the skills to reflect on personal positions and consider other perspectives, adjusting one's own perspective as necessary.
- RS.9.0.10 Examine and discuss the relevance of biblical themes explored, and apply this to one's life.
- RS.9.0.11 Identify and explain that one's relationship with God is life changing and is expressed through knowledge, attitudes and actions.
- RS.9.0.12 Learn relationship-building skills by applying Christian principles of: genuine care for others, handling challenges in human relationships, accepting responsibility, participating in community and serving others.

COURSE CONTENT

Character of God, God on Earth, Creation, Sabbath, Grace, Identity

Students will:

- 9.1 Be able to understand who God is, what He is like, and how to have a real relationship with Him.
 - 9.1.1 Investigate biblical and other evidence for the existence of God.
 - 9.1.2 Explain how the desire to worship is central to humanity.
 - 9.1.3 Identify faith as a central component of belief in God.
 - 9.1.4 Study characters from the Bible who developed a relationship with God
 - 9.1.5 Research Bible passages about the character and nature of God (including the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
 - 9.1.6 Identify ways in which a meaningful relationship with God can be developed.

- 9.2 Be able to understand the person of Jesus Christ through the Gospels.
 - 9.2.1 Study narratives of the gospels (setting, character, conflict, etc.).
 - 9.2.2 Investigate themes (Christ's mission, His character, His great love, the great controversy, plan of salvation, etc.).
 - 9.2.3 Comprehend and respond to Christ's first and second advent (projects, outreach, research etc.).
 - 9.2.4 Recognize the impact of having a relationship with Christ (art and music, writing, worship, testimony, etc.).
 - 9.2.5 Participate in developing the kingdom of God (witnessing and service).
 - 9.2.6 Appreciate the deep love of God for humanity through the gift of His Son.
- 9.3 Be able to understand God's gifts of creation and the Sabbath.
 - 9.3.1 Appreciate God's gift of an intricate and beautifully created world.
 - 9.3.2 Investigate the differences between biblical creation and Darwinian evolution worldviews.
 - 9.3.3 Explore morality and other big questions from the perspective of both worldviews.
 - 9.3.4 Identify the responsibility of humanity for caring for the earth.
 - 9.3.5 Research God's intention behind His Sabbath gift.
 - 9.3.6 Explore the unique gift of the Sabbath through history, and as a distinguishing sign of one's relationship with God.
- 9.4 Be able to understand God's gifts of undeserved grace and the fact that our identity is found in Him.
 - 9.4.1 Recognize and investigate the gift of God's grace as a central theme in the Bible.
 - 9.4.2 Explore God's grace as a hermeneutic through the experience of Old Testament people.
 - 9.4.3 Develop a spiritual awareness of grace.
 - 9.4.4 Explore various worldly bases of identity.
 - 9.4.5 Investigate biblical passages that reveal God's value of individuals.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING: Cumulative.

Grading scale is as posted in the Handbook.

SEQUENCE FOR THE YEAR

IMPORTANT: The textbook is a resource; it does not determine the content of the course though it may influence the sequence of the topics.

Semester 1

We will begin the year with an exploration of God's existence, Who He is, what He is like, and how we can have a real relationship with Him. Then we will study God's response to the problem of sin. It was to send Jesus, the ultimate gift to humankind. Through Jesus' humble birth, His childhood, baptism, temptation, ministry in the Passion Week, and His death and resurrection, we come to see a loving Father who gives all as a result of His love for us.

Semester 2

We will study God's gifts. God has chosen to lavish His love upon us through many gifts. Through a deeper understanding of the gift of creation, we can appreciate and defend a creationist worldview. In looking at the Sabbath throughout history, and how God has sought to restore it for His people, we truly come to appreciate this gift. God's gift of grace as seen through Old Testament stories shows us a loving God who forgives in spite of failure. When we view our lives in light of who we truly are (God's sons and daughters), this changes the way we see ourselves and others. These gifts illustrate God's desire to have an intimate and unique relationship with us.

This syllabus is tentative. It may change throughout the school year depending upon how the students are progressing and understanding the material. Thank-you for your understanding!

Religion I Syllabus

Parent-Teacher-Student Agreement

Parent Rights and Responsibilities

1. I have the right to accurate weekly grade reporting.
2. I have the right to clear and timely communication from the teacher.
3. I have the responsibility to cooperate and communicate with the teacher.
4. I have the responsibility to keep abreast of my child's progress.

My best mode of communication is (email, cell, text message, etc.):

Student Rights and Responsibilities

1. I have the right to regular, coherent classes with clear and consistent expectations.
2. I have the right to ask for assistance or clarity.
3. I have the responsibility to cooperate and communicate with the teacher.
4. I have the responsibility to fulfill all course expectations, including regular attendance.

Teacher Rights and Responsibilities

1. I have the right to be the first contact for concerns of instruction, assessment, or reporting.
2. I have the right to use professional discretion in matters of instruction and assessment.
3. I have the responsibility to provide regular and consistent feedback to students and parents.
4. I have the responsibility to provide quality instruction, assessment and weekly reporting.

Parent/guardian name

Parent/guardian signature

Date

Student name

Student signature

Date

Teacher name

Teacher signature

Date