





Kentucky Academic Standards for Historical and Cultural Influences of the Bible Elective Social Studies Course

Kentucky Board of Education Meeting

April 2018

704 KAR 3:306

April 11, 2018

Standards and Regulation

- **704 KAR 3:306**. Kentucky Academic Standards for Historical and Cultural Influences of the Bible Elective Social Studies Course.
- This administrative regulation adopts into law the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Historical and Cultural Influences of the Bible Elective Social Studies Course*.



Legal Basis

- **KRS 158.197 School council or governing body authorized to display historical and nonreligious artifacts, monuments, symbols and tests in conjunction with course of study**
 - In 2017, the Kentucky General Assembly passed House Bill 128 which amended [KRS 158.197](#) to permit a School-Based Decision Making Council (SBDM) to offer an elective social studies course in grades 9 or above and required the KDE to develop course standards on the Hebrew Scriptures, Old Testament of the Bible, the New Testament or a combination of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible.



Constitutionality

- Any course offering will be expected to follow all applicable laws and federal and state guidelines in maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse religious views, traditions and perspectives of students in the school.
- Any course offering shall not endorse, favor, promote, disfavor or show hostility toward any particular religion, non- religious faith or religious perspective.



Timeline

- September
 - Applications for writers open and selected committee members were notified
- October
 - October 19: first writing committee meeting to develop standards architecture and individual standards
- November
 - Public comment period opened for feedback sought on proposed draft standards
- December
 - Public comment period closed for feedback sought on proposed draft standards
- January
 - January 11: second writing committee meeting to revise draft standards based on public feedback
- February
 - February 6: Higher education focus group to review revised standards
 - February 12: High school social studies teachers focus group to review revised standards
 - Draft standards finalized based on feedback collected during focus groups



Writers' Vision

- The writing team envisioned standards that would:
 - afford teachers flexibility in how they could be translated for classroom instruction;
 - allow students a variety of opportunities to know major events and characters depicted in the Bible, engage in academic analysis of biblical texts and relevant scholarship, and explore the Bible's relevance to contemporary society and culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory, government and public policy;
 - be accessible and appropriately challenging for students in grades 9-12; and,
 - enable students to understand religion is diverse, dynamic and culturally embedded.



The Architecture

► Organized into three strands:

- Disciplinary Literacy
- Historical Thinking
- Analyzing Influences

► Each of the three strands is anchored by a key idea.

- The key idea communicates the broad learning goal of the standard.
- Each key idea is supported by two or more conceptual understandings.

The three strands (disciplinary literacy, historical thinking and analyzing influences) serve as the organizational structure for the standards.

The conceptual understandings (1A, 1B, 1C) clarify the key ideas.

Disciplinary Literacy	Historical Thinking	Analyzing Influences
DL1. Analyze literary aspects of the Bible. DL1.A. Determine and analyze the themes, concepts, figures, places and events depicted in biblical texts. DL1.B. Recognize and analyze various literary forms and genres found in biblical texts. DL1.C. Identify and analyze figurative language and literary structures in biblical texts.	HT1. Analyze the influence of economic, political, social, geographical, historical, cultural, linguistic and anthropological impacts on the development of the Bible and other religions' texts. HT1.A. Examine the Bible and other religions' texts considering a variety of textual elements. HT1.B. Analyze the Bible and other religions' texts, engaging in the skills of sourcing, close reading, contextualizing and comparing. HT1.C. Compare and contrast various Bible versions to analyze the contextual influences of canons, translations and editions.	A11. Analyze the relationships between the Bible and society and culture. A11.A. Examine the influence of the Bible on historical, political and social movements and realities. A11.B. Analyze influences of the Bible on the development of religious and secular identities. A11.C. Determine the interplay among the Bible and cultural expressions through the examination of a variety of literature, art, language, oratory and music.

The key ideas (DL1, HT1, A1) communicate the broad learning goal of the strand.

