

**COLLEGE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES AND RELIGION  
INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE – BIBL 1703**

Prof. H.-G. Camilla Belfon, Assistant Professor

Section 01 T/Th 7:35-8:50pm

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Office hours posted on door – Bolin 135

**TEXTS**

Chatham, James O. *Creation to Revelation: A Brief Account of the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2006.

Marshall, I. Howard, et al, ed. *New Bible Dictionary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1996.  
*The Holy Bible* (NIV Preferred)

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A general overview of the Old and New Testaments emphasizing the themes and historical background of the following groups of books: the Pentateuch, Historical, Wisdom, and Prophetic books of the Old Testament and the Gospels/Acts, Paul's Writings, the General Letters and Revelation in the New Testament. The course will also include a study of how the Bible was formed, how the Intertestamental Period contributes to the study of the New Testament, the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, and the importance of the Bible in North American culture.

No Prerequisite Required                      Credit Hours: 3

**A. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Explain the cultural importance of the Bible for North American society and its theological importance for the North American Church.
2. Know the general factors involved in determining the formation and transmission of the Old Testament and New Testament.
3. Understand the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
4. Explain how the Intertestamental Period contributes to the study of the New Testament.
5. Know the themes and general background of the specific groups of books in the Bible and how they contribute to the theology of the specific testament in which they are found.
6. Emphasize how the themes of the Old Testament and the New Testament contribute to God's Act of salvation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Behavioral Indicators:**

1. Observe and analyze the cultural and theological importance of the Bible for North American culture and the North American church respectively.
2. Identify the general factors involved in determining the formation and transmission of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
3. Describe the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
4. Demonstrate a general knowledge of the themes of the major groups of books of the Old and New Testaments.
5. State how the groups of books in each testament contribute to the theology of the testament in which they are found.
6. Discuss how the themes of the Bible contribute to God's Act of salvation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## B. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES

The basic method of instruction for this class will be lecture. This method will be augmented by student participation through class discussion of relevant issues, a contextual project, an interaction paper and final exam. Extemporaneous readings and biblical passages will be assigned to help the student assimilate the material and will be a source from which the final exam will be created. PowerPoints, study guides, and maps may also be used to enhance the lectures for the purpose of topic clarification and will also be a resource for exam questions. **Late work for this class will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade drop per late class period.**

## C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

1. **Attend all classes and be on time.** For this class, I will allow two classes missed without penalizing your grade. The third cut (excluding absentees covered by authorized university activities) will result in a letter grade drop for the class. You are responsible to keep track of how many times you have been absent. Except for the statement below, the professor assumes there will be no exceptions. I will not file an appeal for you. **You may not miss class when an exam is scheduled.**

Prolonged and/or unusual absences not covered by this policy may be appealed to the Vice President of Academic Affairs by (either the professor or) the student. Appeals must be submitted in writing.

Be on time. Habitual tardiness is not acceptable. Three tardies will result in one missed class. Students should stand quietly just inside the door if Bible reading or prayer is in progress before taking their seats.

2. **Before class, read the textbook, dictionary and selected biblical passages** as assigned in the Course Outline. **Bring your Bible, textbook and dictionary to class daily.** The student is expected to read the entire textbook and all Bible reading as scheduled. The For Deliberation section at the end of each chapter in *Creation to Revelation* is important for being successful in this class. Students are expected to use these answers to participate in class discussions and to prepare for exams. The New Bible Dictionary (NBD) is critical to your understanding of certain common words used in the field of biblical study. Reading each assigned entry and actively using this dictionary in your preparation for each class session will be pivotal in the difference between, let's say, an A and a B student. Maintain accurate class notes in a form useful for objective and/or essay preparation. Exam questions will cover textbook assignments, lecture notes, and the Bible reading.

**Rationale:** The assignments given are for a clear purpose. To work with success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there are certain necessary skills that should be developed. Here are the skills or Learning Outcomes most agree are most needed for your future success in ministry.

The Eight Learning Outcomes -- content standards, collaboration, critical thinking, oral communication, written communication, career preparation, practical ministry experience and ethics, and technology literacy -- which are embedded in projects, assessments, discussion sessions, and graded assignments. Projects and discussion sessions are designed to tackle complex problems requiring critical thinking. The strategy is simple:

*To learn collaboration, work in teams.*

*To learn critical (i.e. analytical) thinking, take on complex problems.*

*To learn oral communication, present a paper, preach, teach.*

*To learn written communication, write.*

*To learn technology, use technology.*

*To develop ministry skills, think about and practice genuine practical ministry.*

*To learn about careers, observe successful ministers and ministries, do ministry practicums, complete an internship.*

**Critical Analysis** is the ability to examine a viewpoint and assess or evaluate assumptions, problems, and implications of that viewpoint.

**Critical Reasoning** is the ability to research, construct, and articulate a well-reasoned and coherent viewpoint. This will also include the ability to avoid potential fallacies, define key terms and/or concepts related to the viewpoint, provide the logical conclusions and/or applications that result from the viewpoint, and anticipate potential counter-claims to the viewpoint.

- 3. Contextual Project.** The assignment is to find a current event that relates to a biblical theme. This event might be cultural, political, geographical or social in nature. Sources for observation might include but not be limited to the major news papers or news sources across America (i.e. The Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, New York Times, US News and World Report, LA Times, Miami Herald, CNN, etc.) Most of these can be found by doing an online search. You might also choose a movie, song, or poem. Your task is to analyze the information using the 5 diagnostic questions (who, what, when, where, why). Write the answers to these 5 questions on a clean sheet of paper. Next, using the New Bible Dictionary, search for a biblical term, person, or event with which your event might coincide or share some kind of relationship. Next, offer some suggestion to how the believer might view the event using specific scripture verses. The goal of this assignment is to provide a platform whereby students can observe society and make analysis of what the Bible might say about such an issue. It is not to synthesize the material into prescriptive remedies or final judgment. A list of possible topics will be posted on Blackboard. A Grading Rubric will be posted on Blackboard in class at a later date. The professor will alert the class at the time the rubric has been posted.
- 4. Comparison Paper.** This paper will address a theme that carries through the course of Scripture. The paper will cite the theme in the OT and NT, including at least four of the following sections of the Bible: the Pentateuch, Historical books, Poetic books, Prophets, the Gospels and Acts, Letters, and the Apocalypse. Examples might be: healing, miracles, the roles of women, uplifting of the poor, ethnic issues, worship, marriage, societal relations, community of God, war and peace, and suffering. While this is not a research papers, focusing on personal interaction with the text, citation of academic sources will strengthen the paper. The student will be given an outline that

will discuss this paper, giving further directions. A Grading Rubric will be posted on Blackboard in class at a later date. The professor will alert the class at the time the rubric has been posted.

5. Each student will complete 2 unit exams and one final exam. Dates are posted on the tentative course outline below. Again, you may not miss class on the date of an exam. Anyone who does not attend class for an exam will be given a 0% grade for that exam.

**NOTE: ALWAYS make a copy of all submitted assignments; submit the ORIGINAL, keep the copy.**

## D. EVALUATION

### Course Grade:

1. Collaborative Subject Engagement 10 %  
(Blackboard chat room journal and class participation)
2. Contextual project 15%
3. Comparison paper 15%
4. Exam one 20%
5. Exam two 20%
6. Final exam 20%

Grading Scale -      90 - 100 – A    70 - 79 -- C  
                                 80 - 89 -- B    60 - 69 – D    0 - 59 - F

Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Work for this class is to be submitted in paper form and not by email.

### Official Communication Statement:

Southeastern University requires all faculty, staff and students to use their Southeastern email address for official university communication. Students are required to check Southeastern email daily as they will be held accountable for all communications sent through this medium. On campus, you can log in to check your email using Outlook. Off campus, you will need to go to <https://webmail.seuniversity.edu>.

Viewing Final Grades on Jenzabar

### Note from the Registrar's Office:

All academic, policy, and financial holds must be removed from your student account in order to view your final grades online.

The last day to officially withdraw from this course is Monday, October 20, 2008. A Course Withdrawal form (available in the Office of the Registrar or on the University website under Academics/Registrar/Forms) must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM on October 20, 2008.

**E. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Southeastern University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with learning and or physical disabilities, as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 1973. If you think you may qualify for these accommodations, notify your instructor. You will need to contact the Director of Academic Services at 863-667-5157 and submit official documentation to receive proper academic accommodations.

**F. COURSE OUTLINE:** Dates are tentative.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Text Reading</b>	<b>New Bible Dictionary Reading</b>	<b>Bible Reading</b>
Aug 21	Introduction		
26	Contours of the Land	“Canaan,” “Israel” (pp 519-523)	Gen 12:1-9;
Sep 28	Contours of the Mind	“Promise,” “rest,”	T BD
2	The Beginning: Good!	”Creation,” “Sabbath”	T BD
4	Not So Good	“Evil,” “Covenant”	T BD
9	Exodus and Wilderness	“Chronology of the Old Testament”	T BD
11	The Promised Land	“Promised Land”	T BD
16	Era of the Judges	T BD	T BD
18	Class Discussion/Review for Exam	T BD	T BD
23	<b>Unit Exam 1</b>		T BD
25	The United Monarchy	“Temple”	T BD
30	The Beginning of the Divided Monarchy ( <b>Contextual Project Due</b> )	T BD	T BD
Oct 2	Great Struggle and Great Hope	T BD	T BD
7	Reform, Destruction, and Exile	T BD	T BD
9	Return	T BD	T BD
14	Reconstruction and Beyond	T BD	T BD
16	Class Discussion/Review for Exam	T BD	T BD
21	<b>Unit Exam 2</b>		T BD
23	The Gospel of Matthew	“Chronology of the New Testament”	T BD
28	The Gospel of Mark	T BD	T BD
30	The Gospel of Luke	T BD	T BD
Nov 4	The Gospel of John	T BD	T BD
6	The Resurrection	T BD	T BD
11	<b>Chat room Discussion/</b> The Early Church	T BD	T BD
13	The Apostle Paul	T BD	T BD
18	The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Revelation	T BD	T BD
20	The Whole Story’s meaning: Psalm 90	T BD	T BD
24-28	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	T BD	T BD

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Dec	2	One Story: God's Call	TBD	TBD
	4	Review for Final Exam		
	9	<b>Final Exam – Tuesday at 8:00 – 9:50 AM</b>		

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