

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

Section 01 M/W/F 8:00-8:50, S500

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Office hours posted on door – Bolin 135

TEXTS

Required Texts:

Anderson, Bernhard W. *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2006.

Harbin, Michael. *The Promise and the Blessing: A Historical Survey of the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, c2005.

The Holy Bible (NIV Preferred, NAS and NRSV will also be used numerous times throughout the course)

Highly Recommended Texts:

DeYoung, Curtiss Paul, et. al, eds. *The People's Bible New: Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.

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 in-class discussions initiated by student presentations of assigned chapters (students have been pre-assigned to discussion groups, a comparison paper, midterm and final exam. Study guides and maps should be used to enhance the lectures for the purpose of topic clarification and will also be a resource for exam questions.

NOTE: The student is encouraged to make copies of his or her assignments and the project before submitting them to the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to make provisions for any lost materials. **The grade of any late assignment will be reduced by a letter grade for each class period that it is late. This means work must be presented at the beginning of the class period to be on time. With the exception of extreme situations, projects more than three class periods late will not be graded. See the professor immediately if you encounter problems.**

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 assignments, other assigned readings, and selected biblical passages** as indicated in the Course Outline below. **Bring your Bible and textbooks to class daily.** The student is expected to read the entire textbook and all Bible reading as scheduled. *The Promise and the Blessing* will directly discuss the historical narrative of the Bible as it corresponds to each Old and New Testaments (OT/NT) book. Scripture readings for which you will be held responsible in class discussions and exams are assigned on the tentative course outline. As well, student must answer specified questions from the Review Questions section. As such every student must purchase a two-pocket folder with fasteners in which to collate all study questions for each chapter. *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible* provides a good overview of each section of the biblical story. It also places important biblical themes in modern context, particularly in the Questions to Think About section. More will be said about this text in class.

Carefully and actively work through every assigned textbook and article readings in your preparation for each class session. This will be pivotal in the difference between, let us say, an A and a B student. Maintain accurate class notes in a form useful for objective and/or essay preparation (for example, date of your notes for each class session and place a topic/chapter heading on the first page. Exam questions will cover textbook readings, review questions, lecture notes, and the Bible reading.

3. **After class, review your class notes for that days lecture.**

Rationale: The assignments given are for a clear purpose. To work with success in the 21st 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.

Books of the Bible Quiz: The student will be asked to write all the books of the Bible from memory (spelling will be counted). Test date will be **Jan. 29. Purpose:** To provide a base point for the structure and organization of the Books of the Bible to aid in the development of notions and responses to other assignments in the course, such as Review Questions and Comparison Paper.

4. **Homework Assignments:** At the end of each chapter reading in *Promises and Blessings* students will answer specified Review Questions. Number and write out the Review Question, then provide your answer below. Students must write in Times New Roman font, 12pt., single spaced with 1" margins. Homework folders will be collected each Friday, starting Jan 22. See tentative course outline for specified questions. **Purpose:** To encourage analytical reading comprehension; and, in the process, help students assimilate new material as it relates to the larger biblical context.
5. **Biblical Theological Comparison Paper.** This paper will address a theme that carries through the course of the Bible. The paper will cite the theme in the OT and NT and should be found in at least four of the following sections: the Pentateuch, Historical books, Poetic books, Prophets, the Gospels, Acts, Letters, and the Apocalypse. Examples of possible topics are: healing, miracles, murder, the roles of women, uplifting of the poor, ethnic issues, worship, marriage, societal relations, community of God, war and peace, the Sabbath and suffering. While this is not a research paper, citation of academic sources is not required, but will strengthen the paper when done well. A more detailed outline for this paper and a Grading Rubric will be posted on Blackboard at a later date. The professor will alert the class at the time

this material has been posted. **Purpose:** This paper intends to encourage written communication skills. It also provides the platform for students to move beyond analysis, using reasoning skills to research, construct, and articulate well-reasoned and coherent viewpoints themes that emerges throughout the biblical story.

6. **Book Review (Extra Credit).** Read *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*. 1) Write a 2 page book review on the textbook. Guidelines will be provided during the first week of class. 2) Choose 2 study questions from any of the chapters and work through your response. Your 1 page response must address issues that are relevant to our modern context. **Purpose:** To help develop analytical skills and the ability to apply biblical principles to the real life issues.
7. **Exams.** Each student will complete a midterm and a final exam. The mid-term exam date is posted on the tentative course outline below. However, the professor may adjust these dates to ensure that the material has been covered before an exam is given. Exact exam dates will be announced one week in advance of the exam. In order to utilize class time as economically as possible, exams will not be returned to students; however, the conscientious student may sign up in my office to review their test answers with the answer key. **Make-up exams will only be administered to students with unavoidable emergencies and must be taken within one week of returning to class.** Make-up exams may be either essay or objective. There is no extra credit assignment in this class other than what is prescribed on this syllabus.

The make-up exam policy does **not** extend to the final exam. Anyone who does not attend class for the final exam will be given a 0% grade. **Purpose:** The exams in this class are intended to encourage retention of the story of salvation history. The content is standard material that encourages familiarity and easier use of Scripture, promotes personal spiritual development, encourages the development of better lay teachers for the local church, and provides a foundation for further biblical studies.

D. FINAL EXAM POLICY STATEMENT:

Every professor is obligated to administer a final exam or hold an appropriate class during the regularly scheduled exam period. Every student is obligated to take the final exam or attend that appropriate class during the regularly scheduled exam period. Please plan accordingly and carefully for final exams.

You must not plan vacations, ministry appointments, weddings, airline flights, or any other similar activity or engagement that will conflict with the final exam schedule. Also, do not schedule any of these activities so close to your final exam that the commute to the activity conflicts with the final exam schedule.

Final exams will be administered in the room where the class normally meets. Students with *more* than 3 exams scheduled on one day can petition the instructor and department chair/college dean to take one of the exams another day.

E. 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:

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 Friday, March 19, 2010. 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 March 19, 2010.

NOTE: All Work for this class is to be submitted in paper form and not by email.

F. 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.

G. COURSE EVALUATIONS STATEMENT

In order to help us to assess the effectiveness of our courses and instructors, all registered students must complete a course evaluation at the end of the semester. You **must** complete a course evaluation form for this course before your grade can be posted.

H. CLASSROOM STANDARDS

1. Please turn off your cell phone before class begins. Cell phones are not to be used or answered in class. If the cell phone rings then turn it off as soon as possible. Answering the cell phone in class will result in a one letter grade deduction for the next exam. Do not text-message in class.
2. Laptops are not needed in class. Specific lectures have already been pre-posted on Blackboard, which students may print off and bring to class. Inductive studies from the Bible will occasionally be given on the board and should be copied down on notebook paper at that time. Students who bring their laptops to class and work on other projects, surf the web, or email will receive a one letter grade deduction from the next exam. Laptops may only be used for the subject being addressed in the course on that day (such as group presentations).
3. Do not listen to music in class. If the professor notices that you have an earpiece in your ear, regardless of whether audio is being listened to at the moment, this will result in a one letter grade deduction from the next exam.
4. Students may not leave class early. Do not ask the teacher if you can do this. You have signed up for the class at the designated times. Do not leave the classroom until the class is dismissed. Doing so will result in a one letter deduction for the next exam.
5. The above statements are for those few students who may not take their educational opportunity seriously. Most students understand this opportunity and the responsibility that goes with it. All

students are encouraged to take full advantage of the education opportunity before them in preparation for vocational calling.

Consent to Comply

I _____ have read, understand, and
Student's Name (print)

will keep in my possession the Course Syllabus for _____(course code),

Southeastern University, Spring 2010. I understand that in compliance with the syllabus and the Student

Handbook, for both instructional and evaluation purposes, I will be responsible for electronically submitting my

written work to Turnitin®. With the affixing of my signature below, I agree to comply to the terms therein.

My Signature

Date

I.