

## Course Syllabus

<b>Course ID</b>	<b>BIBL 1703</b>		
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>INTRODUCITON TO THE BIBLE</b>		
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None	<b>Credit Hours</b>	3
		<b>College</b>	COLLEGE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES AND RELIGION
<b>Instructor</b>	Margaret de Alminana, Ph.D., Assistant Professor		
<b>Availability</b>	Office: Bolin 239; Office Hours –by appointment; Office Phone 863-667-5796, Email <a href="mailto:madealminana@seu.edu">madealminana@seu.edu</a> . Your calls and/or email will be answered within 24 hours. However, on week-ends, late evenings, or holidays, it may be the next school day before a response can be provided.		
<b>SEU Mission Statement</b>	Southeastern, a dynamic, Christ-centered university fosters student success by integrating personal faith and higher learning. Within our loving Pentecostal community, we challenge students to a lifetime of good work and of preparing professionally so they can creatively serve their generation in the Spirit of Christ.		

<b>Catalog Description</b>	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 Testaments, and the importance of the Bible in North American culture.
<b>Course Materials</b>	<i>New International Version Bible</i> . Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984. Fee, Gordon, D., and Stuart, Douglas, <i>How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth</i> , Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. <i>New Bible Dictionary</i> . I. Howard Marshall, Editor. InterVarsity Press, 1996
<b>Course Overview</b>	This course is intended to provide a valuable experience in learning more about the Bible, in particular, a broad overview of the Bible's contents and structure. First, it should enable the student to properly place individual sermons, teachings, and devotional readings into their context for a better understanding of what God has said. Second, the Bible has made a major impact on our culture over the centuries. We should be able to see that impact today. A major goal of this course will be to assist the student in seeing the relevance of the Bible in our world today.
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the cultural importance of the Bible for North American society and its theological importance for the North American Church.</li> <li>• Know the general factors involved in determining the formation and transmission of the Old Testament and New Testament.</li> <li>• Understand the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.</li> <li>• Explain how the Intertestamental Period contributes to the study of the New Testament.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>	<p>As a result of the activities and study in this course, the student should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss the cultural and theological importance of the Bible for North American culture and the North American church respectively.</li> <li>● Identify the general factors involved in determining the formation and transmission of the Old Testament and the New Testament.</li> <li>● Describe the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.</li> <li>● Demonstrate a general knowledge of the themes of the major groups of books of the Old and New Testaments.</li> <li>● State how the groups of books in each testament contribute to the theology of the testament in which they are found.</li> <li>● Discuss how the themes of the Bible contribute to God's Act of salvation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.</li> </ul>
<b>Course Topics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The themes and historical background of the following groups of Old Testament books: Pentateuch, Historical Books, Wisdom / Poetry, and Prophetic Books</li> <li>● The themes and historical background of the following groups of New Testament books: Gospels/Acts, Paul's Writings, General Letters, and Revelation</li> <li>● How the Bible was formed</li> <li>● The Intertestamental Period</li> <li>● Relationship between the Old and New Testaments</li> <li>● Importance of the Bible in North American Culture</li> <li>● The Bible and Christ</li> </ul>
<b>Instructional Methods</b>	<p>The primary method of instruction will be lecture through PowerPoint presentations. Handouts will be used to clarify materials. The reading of the textbook, articles, and prescribed sections of the Bible will be required and will be included in the testable material. Questions will be used by the instructor to create discussion and test assumptions concerning the content and application of the Bible.</p>
<b>Learning Methods</b>	<p>During the course, the student will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Read all assigned readings including the textbooks and Bible</b> as assigned in the Course Chart. Students are expected to read the entire textbook, all Bible readings, and all other readings as scheduled. Reading Assignments will be due each week.</li> <li>● Review, interact with, and comprehend the instructor's PowerPoint presentations in a way useful for objective and/or essay test preparation.</li> <li>● The student will present a typed <b>three-page</b> comparison and personal application paper based on one Old Testament or New Testament Book</li> <li>● Successfully complete a Mid-Term Exam and Final Exam with a minimum of 60%.</li> <li>● The student will participate in a Group Project.</li> <li>● Students must participate in class discussion, activities, and all assignments.</li> <li>● The student is encouraged to make copies of his or her assignments and projects before submitting them to the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to make provisions for any lost materials.</li> <li>● <b>All work is to be submitted according to the schedule on the Course Chart.</b></li> </ul>

## Selected Bibliography and Web Resources

### Old Testament:

- Archer, Gleason. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Rev. ed. Chicago: Moody Press, 1974. Among the finest examples of conservative, evangelical scholarship
- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981. A standard work in the field; outlines the international background of the Biblical narrative with illuminating references to archaeological evidence; places the Scripture in a historical context. 511 pages.
- Bruce, F. F. *New Testament Development of Old Testament Themes*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1968. The author examines a few of the major themes, motifs or images which are used as vehicles of revelation in the OT and considers how the NT writers continue to use them to present the perfected revelation in Christ. 114 pages.
- Craige, Peter C. *The Old Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1986. The book provides good background material from a balanced scholarly approach. 351 pages.
- Geisler, Norman, L. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977. Conservative and evangelical; contains summary paragraphs covering content of each book; strongly Christocentric; argues for traditional authorship.
- Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1969. A monumental work on the Old Testament which can be used as a compendium of the entire field of Old Testament study. Its details study makes it an excellent resource which reflects an evangelical stance.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Old Testament Times*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1970. Deals with the broad social and cultural context in the events in the OT occurred; conservative. 333 pages.
- LaSor, William S., David A. Hubbard, and Frederic W. Bush. *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. A comprehensive evangelical interpretation by OT professors at Fuller Seminary; A critical examination of the historical/cultural setting with judicious use of the JEDP theory; numerous charts, tables, maps, photographs, extensive bibliography; seminary level.
- Schultz, Samuel. *The Old Testament Speaks*. 3rd ed. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1980. A balanced evangelical approach to the Old Testament; Collegiate level.
- Young, Edward J. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949. An older but invaluable work that treats the major critical issues from a scholarly conservative viewpoint.

### New Testament:

- Barrett, C. K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. Revised and expanded. New York: Harper and Row, 1989. A collection of documents that illustrate the background of the NT and the history of the early church; an excellent collection of primary sources.

- Bruce, F. F. *The Books and the Parchments*. New York: Revell, 1950. An account of the history of the text of the New Testament, its canonicity and versions.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Defense of the Gospel in the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1977. Shows how the early Christians defended the gospel against other religions and Christian deviations.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Message of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1972. Presents the distinctive contribution of each book or group of books in the NT.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *New Testament Development of Old Testament Themes*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1968. Examines a few major themes, motifs or images which are used as vehicles of revelation in the OT and considers how the NT writers continue to use them to present the complete revelation in Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The New Testament Documents*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1966. Evaluates the canon, the role of archaeology, the reliability of miracles, and the validity of the NT documents.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *New Testament History*. New York: Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1972. A detailed presentation and analysis of the Roman and Jewish background of the NT, the life of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, and the history of the first two generations of the Church.
- Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1987. Excellent treatment of the Roman and Jewish background of the NT.
- Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament*. Rev. edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981. A well-illustrated volume that introduces the background and contents of the NT and encourages the reader to respond to the text of the NT.
- Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1971. Discusses the latest developments of the study of the NT and deals with historical problems in a thorough manner.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969. An investigation into the economic and social conditions during the NT period.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965. Emphasizes the historical background of the NT. Russell, D. S. Between the Testaments. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965. A concise treatment of this time period.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Stuart, Douglas. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982. Provides guidelines for the different parts of Scripture and confronts the reader with questions of application; 217 pgs.