

SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
1000 Longfellow Blvd.
Lakeland, Florida 33801

BIBL 1703 INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE
(3 credit hours)

Professor: Michael L. Dusing, D.Min. Bolin—Johnson Chapel mldusing@seu.edu T/Th, 1:25-2:40 p.m. (701) 320-7634

COURSE SYLLABUS

UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

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.

COURSE 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.”—SEU Catalog

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the participants should be able to:

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.

TEXTBOOKS

Bartholomew, Craig & Michael Goheen. The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story. Baker Academic, 2004.

The Bible.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The basic method of instruction will be lecture. This will be augmented by student participation through interactive dialogue and class discussion of relevant issues. Interaction papers and study questions from *The Drama of Scripture* will be used to help the student assimilate the material. Occasional handouts and maps will be used to clarify materials.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance at each class session is expected and required. (See “Attendance Policy” below for more information.)
2. Classroom participation is strongly encouraged and can have a positive impact on the student’s grade (see “Assessment,” below).
3. Thoroughly read the textbook and the corresponding sections of the Bible which are being discussed. Additional outside reading (e.g., commentaries; Bible dictionaries; books on the class bibliography; etc.) may help the student gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the class material. Students will report on their reading of the required text and biblical passages on a biweekly basis. Further instructions on this will be given in class.
4. Students must successfully pass three examinations given over the course of the semester. Again, more details will be provided in class.

COURSE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

1. The following grading scale will be used in this course:
 - 90-100 A
 - 80-89 B
 - 70-79 C
 - 60-69 D
 - 0-59 F
2. The final course grade will be determined by the average of all assignments and exams. Assignments will be weighted as follows:
 - Unit Exam One 25%
 - Unit Exam Two 25%
 - Unit Exam Three (Final Exam) 25%
 - Required reading reports 15%
 - Class Attendance and Participation 10%

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are both expected and encouraged to attend classes regularly. The lack of attendance may affect a student's grade.

For traditional fall and spring semesters, a student may miss a class without penalty equal to the number of times a class meets per week as follows:

If the class meets once a week a student may miss one class.

If the class meets two times a week a student may miss two classes.

If the class meets three times a week a student may miss three classes.

If a student's absences exceed the number of times a class meets per week, a professor may: Subject the student to a penalty of not more than one letter grade based on attendance alone. Recommend to the Vice President for Academic Affairs that a student with excessive absences be withdrawn from the course.

Program directors must provide lists of students participating in authorized university activities or field trips to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Once approved, program directors must provide copies of the lists to the participating students for submission to the students' instructors. Faculty must take this information into account as they log attendance and not consider it an absence.

ADA (DISABILITIES) STATEMENT

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 (or "Americans with Disabilities Act") of 1973. If you think you may qualify for these accommodations, notify your instructor. You will be directed to contact the Coordinator of Academic Services at 863-667-5157.

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.

FINAL EXAM INFORMATION

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 activities or engagements 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 at the designated date and time 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.

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COURSE EVALUATIONS

In order to help us to assess the effectiveness of our courses and instructors, if you receive a course evaluation for this course, you are required to complete it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anderson, Bernhard W. Understanding the Old Testament. 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1986. Accepts documentary hypothesis, contains an updated bibliography.
- Archer, Gleason. A Survey of Old Testament Introduction. Rev. ed. Chicago: Moody Press, 1974. Among the finest examples of conservative, evangelical scholarship
- Barrett, C. K. ed. The New Testament Background: Selected Documents. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1961. A collection of documents to illustrate the background of the NT and the history of the early Church.
- Benko, Stephen and John J. O. Rourke. The Catacombs and the Coliseum. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1971. Presents the Roman Empire as the setting of primitive Christianity and analyzes the social and political forces which affected the development of the early Church.
- 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: Eerdmans, 1968. Examines a few of the major themes, motifs or images used as vehicles of revelation in the O.T. and considers how the NT writers continued to use them to present the complete revelation in Christ. 114 pages.
- _____. New Testament Development of Old Testament Themes. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 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.
- _____. New Testament History. Garden City: Doubleday and Co., 1972. A detailed presentation and analysis of the Roman and Jewish background of the NT, the lives of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, and the history of the first two generations of the Church.
- _____. The Books and the Parchments. New York: Fleming Revell, 1950. A readable account of the history of the text of Scripture, its canonicity and versions.
- _____. The Defense of the Gospel in the New Testament. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977. Shows how the early Christians defended the gospel against paganism, other religions and forms of heresy, and points to ways this defense would be made today.

_____. The Message of the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972. Presents the distinctive contribution of each book or group of books in the New Testament.

_____. The New Testament Documents. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1966. Evaluates the canon, the role of archeology, and the reliability of miracles and various NT document.

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_____. The Time is Fulfilled. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. Examines five examples of the fulfillment of the O.T. in the NT. It is a combination of scholarship and spiritual insight.

_____. Israel and the Nations. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963. A good overview of the history of Israel to the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. Bruce is a top conservative scholar.

Childs, Brevard, S. Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979. Emphasizes the canonical shape of the text; theologically quite mature; moderately liberal in orientation but often conversant with conservative scholarship.

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.

Davis, Stephen L. The New Testament-A Contemporary Introduction. Hagerstown: Torch Publishing, 1989. Designed for introductory courses to encourage students to interact directly with the NT.

Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. How to Interpret the Bible for All It's Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982. An excellent text on interpreting biblical literature. A MUST for all serious Bible students. Reflects an evangelical position.

Ferguson, Everett. Backgrounds of Early Christianity. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. Excellent treatment of the Roman and Jewish background of the NT.

Flanders, Henry Jackson, Robert Wilson Crapps, and David Anthony Smith. People of the Covenant: An Introduction to the Old Testament. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. A historical and theological approach to OT studies. It provides numerous helpful articles on key issues and concepts from a moderate to liberal perspective.

Francisco, Clyde T. Introducing the Old Testament. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1977. Contains excellent summaries of the Old Testament books and contains many interesting insights from the conservative perspective.

Freed, Edwin D. The New Testament-A Critical Introduction. Second edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 1991. Very good background and summary of each NT book.

Fuller, Reginald H. A Critical Introduction to the New Testament. London: Gerald Duckworth, 1966. This book provides a critical evaluation of the opinions of NT scholars.

Geisler, Norman, L. A Popular Survey of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977. Conservative and evangelical; contains summary paragraphs covering content of each book; strongly Christocentric; argues for traditional authorship.

Gottwald, Norman K. The Hebrew Bible: A Socio-Literary Introduction. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985. A liberal, sociological approach to the Old Testament. Its strengths include numerous maps, tables and charts, and extensive sixty-three page bibliography, and thorough geographical/archaeological background material.

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.

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Guthrie, Donald. New Testament Introduction. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1981. Reflects the latest developments in the study of the NT. Also deals with historical problems in a thorough manner and reflects a conservative view.

Hamilton, Victor P. Handbook on the Pentateuch, second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Harrison, Everett G. Introduction to the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971. A very good text on NT introduction. Reflects a basic evangelical viewpoint.

Harrison, R. K. Introduction to the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 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.

Harrison, R. K.. Old Testament Times. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970. Deals with the broad social and cultural context in the events in the OT occurred; conservative.

Jeremias, Joachim. Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1969. A very useful investigation into the economic and social conditions during the NT period.

Johnson, Luke T. The Writings of the New Testament. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986. Stresses the literary qualities and social dynamics of the NT. A very good treatment of the NT text.

Kitchen, Kenneth A. Ancient Orient and Old Testament. Chicago: InterVarsity Press, 1966. A full documented book by a British Egyptologist. The book serves as a corrective to critical theories concerning the Old Testament.

Kummel, George W. Introduction to the New Testament. Rev ed. Translated by Howard Clark Kee. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1975. A moderate approach to the background information of each NT book. Excellent surveys of the origin and development of the NT canon and history of the NT text.

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 documentary theory; numerous charts, tables, maps, photographs, extensive bibliography.

LaSor, William Sanford. The Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972. A conservative assessment of the bearing of the DSS on the NT and the origins of Christianity.

Martin, Ralph P. New Testament Foundations: A Guide for Christian Students: Vol. 1: The Four Gospels.

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975. More in-depth than a survey. Deals with background, gospel criticism, and the NT text from a conservative viewpoint.

Martin, Ralph P. New Testament Foundations: A Guide for Christian Students: Vol. 2: The Acts, The Letters, The Apocalypse. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. Places the NT text in a historical and pastoral context. Special emphasis on Paul's letters.

Metzger, Bruce M. The New Testament: Its Background, Growth and Content. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1965. A conservative emphasis of the historical background of the NT. 276 pages.

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Osborne, Grant and Stephen Woodward. Handbook for Bible Study. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979. Discusses Bible study methods and tools. Contains lists of book dealers, an annotated bibliography and information on building a theological library.

Puskas, Charles B. An Introduction to the New Testament. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1989. A detailed treatment of the background of the NT.

Russell, D. S. Between the Testaments. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1965. A concise, treatment of the Intertestamental period.

Russell, D.S. The Method and Message of Jewish Apocalyptic. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1964. An overview of Jewish apocalyptic literature from 200 B.C. to A.D. 200.

Schultz, Samuel. The Old Testament Speaks. 3rd ed. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1980. A balanced evangelical approach to the Old Testament.

Stein, Robert H. The Synoptic Problem. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1987. An introduction to the subject, demonstrating the problem from the text of the gospels.

Tenney, Merrill C. New Testament Times. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965. A companion volume to New Testament Survey. Surveys the historical and cultural background of the NT from an evangelical perspective.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PROFESSOR

Michael L. Dusing is returning "home" to Southeastern this semester as an Adjunct Professor for the CCMR. For the past 11 years (2000-2011), he served at Trinity Bible College (Ellendale, ND), first as the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and for the past 4.5 years as the Senior VP and Dean of the College. During those years he also served as Professor in the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies. Prior to this, Dr. Dusing taught at Southeastern College (now University) from 1979-2000 holding the rank of Professor of Theology, and serving for 10 years as Chairperson of what was then the Department of Theology and Philosophy. Dr. Dusing is a native of Maryland, and is an ordained minister with the Potomac District of the Assemblies of God. His education includes a B.A. from Southeastern University (Lakeland, FL), an M.Div. from Emory University (Atlanta, GA), a Th.M. in Historical Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA) and a D.Min. in Theological Reflection from Bethel University (St. Paul, MN). He is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Systematic and Historical Theology at the University of Wales, Bangor, UK. Prior to his teaching career, Dr. Dusing ministered as an assistant pastor and as a hospital chaplain. His wife Ruth is originally from Virginia, and has taught for the past 30 years in both private and public schools as well as in college. She presently teaches 5th grade at Ridgeview Global Studies Academy, a public Charter School in Polk County, FL. The Dusings

adopted the world's most beautiful infant girl in Belize, Central America, 3 years before leaving SEU 11 years ago. Victoria ("Tori") is now a 14-year-old freshman at Lakeland Christian School.