

Southeastern University
College of Christian Ministries and Religion
INTRO TO THE BIBLE– BIBL 1703 01
Course Syllabus – Fall 2011
Tuesday, Thursday 7:35-8:50 a.m. – LSC/S500
Professor Melissa Archer, ThM – Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies – Bolin 135
mlarcher@seu.edu

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

Bartholomew, Craig G. *The Drama of Scripture: Find Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

The Holy Bible in the version of your choice.

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.

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.

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. Credit Hours: 3.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- A. Understand the overarching themes of Scripture.
- B. Know the socio-cultural backgrounds of the Old and New Testament pertaining to each grouping of books.
- C. Know the general factors involved in determining the formation and transmission of the Old and New Testaments.
- D. Understand the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.
- E. Recognize the different genres of Scripture and the reading expectations of each genre.
- F. Know key people, events, places, and dates in Scripture.
- G. Explain how the Intertestamental Period contributes to the study of the New Testament.
- H. Explain the drama of Scripture and its six acts..
- I. Examine how the themes of the Old and New Testaments contribute to God's act of salvation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

- J. Discover how the biblical story shapes our lives in the present.
- K. Aid the student in developing interpretive skills related to reading Scripture.
- L. Appropriate theological truths of Scripture for the contemporary church context.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- A. Creation
- B. Fall of humanity
- C. Creation of Israel as Covenant People
- D. Intertestamental Period
- E. Life and Ministry of Jesus
- F. Acts and the Early Church
- G. The Return of Jesus

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

- A. Lecture
- B. Powerpoint
- C. Class discussion
- D. Exams

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENTS:

- A. *Class Attendance and Participation.* Attendance is a vital part of the academic experience. Failing to hear the class discussions and experience the context of the lectures will greatly diminish the benefit of this class. The attendance policy of the college will be enforced. Three tardies constitute one absence. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. If you come in after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are counted present.
- B. *Exams.* There will be 3 exams for this course. A study guide will be given out prior to the exam. The exam will come from course textbooks and class lectures.
- C. *Quizzes.* There will be periodic quizzes based on your reading of the textbooks.

EVALUATION:

- A. Exams (3 @ 25% each) 75%
- B. Quizzes 25%

The following grading scale will be utilized for this course:

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

FINAL EXAM POLICY:

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.

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 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.

COURSE EVALUATIONS STATEMENT:

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:

Disclaimer: There may be newer material added to the library holdings which do not yet appear here. It may also be possible that some of the books listed here may be missing from the library holdings owing to deterioration or loss.

Anderson, Bernhard W. *Understanding the Old Testament*. 4th edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1987. Anderson accepts the documentary hypothesis and provides an updated bibliography.

Archer, Gleason. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Rev. edition. Chicago: Moody Press, 1974. A good example of conservative, evangelical scholarship.

Barrett, C.K., ed. *The New Testament Background: Selected Documents*. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1961. A collection of documents that illustrate the background of the NT and the history of the early church.

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3rd edition. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981. A standard work which outlines the international background of the biblical narrative with references to archaeological evidence.

Bruce, F. F. *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.

Carson, Don A., Douglas J. Moo and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992. This is an excellent introduction to the New Testament and is an alternative to your textbook that covers many of the same areas.

Childs, Brevard. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979. Childs emphasizes the canonical shape of the text.

Cousar, Charles B. *The Letters of Paul*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996. A good introduction to the Pauline literature.

Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. *How to Interpret the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982. A good primer on interpreting biblical literature.

Ferguson, Everett. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. Provides a good treatment of the Greco-Roman and Jewish backgrounds of the NT.

Gundry, Robert H. *A Survey of the New Testament*. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981. A well-illustrated work that introduces the background and contents of the NT and encourages the reader to respond to the text of the NT.

Johnson, Luke T. *The Writings of the New Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986. Stresses the literary and social dynamics of the NT.

Kydd, Ronald A.N. *Charismatic Gifts in the Early Church: An Exploration into the Gifts of the Spirit during the First Three Centuries of the Christian Church*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984. An accessible resource to the early Christian literature in regards to the charismata.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The New Testament: Its Background, Growth and Content*. Second edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983. Metzger emphasizes the historical background of the NT.

Schüssler-Fiorenza, Elizabeth. *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*. New York: Crossroads, 1983. Schüssler-Fiorenza teaches at Harvard University and is a leader in feminist interpretations of Scripture and the book of Revelation. This book is a good introduction to feminist interpretation.

Stronstad, Roger. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984. This is a must read for any Pentecostal who wishes to understand the critical interpretations of Luke-Acts in regards to the baptism in the Holy Spirit.