

Intro. to Bible and Research I (Fall 2021)



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Course Description

This foundational course introduces students to the Bible, its structure, its relevance, and tools for studying it. In addition, the class introduces basic research and study skills that will serve the student well at GLBC and beyond.

Course Objectives

- 1) To better understand the Bible, particularly its coherence as an unfolding communication from God.
- 2) To develop study skills and habits that make one a more fruitful interpreter of God's Word.
- 3) To build the disciplines of solid biblical study.

Course Evaluation

HOMEWORK (10%)

BOOK REVIEW (20%)

TERM PAPER (30%)

QUIZZES (40%)

Required Readings

- Bible: You are expected to read through the Bible over the course of this semester and next.
- Lightfoot, Neil R. *How We Got the Bible*. 3rd edition, revised and expanded. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.
- Society of Biblical Literature. *The SBL Handbook of Style for Biblical Studies: For Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines*. 2nd edition. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2014.

Course Schedule

Week 1	9/9	Syllabus/Expectations, Being a Life-Long Student	Other info
Week 2	9/16	Introduction to Research and SBL Style	
Week 3	9/23	Research Assignments	
Week 4	9/30	Bible Study Methods	
Week 5	10/7	Bible Study Tools/History of the English Bible	Quiz 1 (Biblical Research)

Week 6	10/14	Why Does the Bible Matter?	<i>Book Review</i>
Week 7	10/21	What Belongs in the Bible?	
Week 8	10/28	Biblical Orienteering: Structures and Genres	Quiz 2 (General Intro.)
Week 9	11/4	Genesis, Exodus	
Week 10	11/11	Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	<i>Term Paper Draft</i>
Week 11	11/18	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	
Week 12	11/25	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	Quiz 3 (Creation-Exile)
Week 13	12/2	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	<i>Final Term Paper</i>
Week 14	12/9	Job, Psalms, Proverbs	
Week 15	12/16	Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs	Quiz 4 (Post-Exile/Devo.)

Assignments Description

1. Reading: You are expected to read through the Bible (in the translation of your choice) by the end of next semester.
2. Book Review: The book review of Neil Lightfoot's *How We Got the Bible* should be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font and be roughly 1,000 words in length. No references to other sources are required. If you choose to include any, cite them in SBL style. The review should contain each of the following: (1) A complete bibliographical entry for the book in SBL style, (2) a summary of the book (no more than 300 words), (3) a discussion of the book's strengths, (4) a discussion of the book's weaknesses, and (5) a final evaluation of the book, including whether you would recommend it and, if so, to whom.
3. Term Paper: Students must submit a term paper of roughly 2,000 words on the topic of their choosing. The paper should follow the normal formatting guidelines we will discuss in this course. The primary purpose of this assignment is to evaluate the student's grasp of SBL style, so **(with the permission of the other professor)** a submission written for another class is acceptable. At a minimum, the paper should cite one source from each of the following categories: (1) book with one author, (2) book with two or three authors, (3) book with more than three authors, (4) book section, (5) journal article, (6) dictionary/encyclopedia article, (7) website. Additionally, make sure at least one of the sources is referenced multiple times to illustrate the subsequent reference format.
4. Quizzes: There will be four quizzes over the course of the semester. Quiz 1 covers the material from Weeks 1–4 and the first half of Week 5. The second quiz covers the material from the second half of Week 5 through the end of Week 8. The third quiz covers the Genesis-Chronicles portion of the OT survey. The fourth quiz covers the Ezra-Song of Songs portion of the OT survey. The quizzes will cover the lecture material and a set of memory verses associated with the unit in question. The Populi lesson for the first week of each unit contains a Word document listing that unit's memory verses. The quizzes will be available in Populi until 11:59 PM on the Saturday of the week noted in the table above.
5. Homework: With the exception of Week 1, each Populi lesson includes a homework assignment related to the content for that week. This assignment should be submitted to the appropriate

dropbox in Populi before class meets for the week in question. I will grade it on a pass/fail basis: if you submit it on time and clearly made an honest effort, you will receive full credit; otherwise, you receive no credit.

Policies and other information

Attendance (From the GLBC Catalogue)

Students are required to attend classes regularly. One unexcused absence for every credit hour in a given course may be permitted, i.e. per one-hour class. Two percent (2%) of the course grade per academic hour for each hour of classroom instruction missed may be deducted for each unexcused absence beyond the above.

Late Work (From the GLBC Catalogue)

Assignments for the term are listed in the syllabus supplied for each course. Every assignment so listed must be completed to pass the course. Late submission of assignments need not be accepted by the instructor. Extenuating circumstances and emergencies will be taken into consideration. If a late assignment is accepted, a grade reduction of 5% per instructional day may be assessed.

Bibliography

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Danker, Frederick W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. Revised and expanded edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2003.

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Harrison, R.K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1969.

- Hays, John H., and Carl R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. Revised edition. Atlanta: John Knox, 1987.
- Henry, Carl F.H., ed. *Revelation and the Bible: Contemporary Evangelical Thought*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1958.
- Howard, David M., Jr. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books*. Chicago, IL: Moody, 1993.
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- Matzen, Robert D. *Research Made Easy: A Guide for Students and Writers*. *Research Made Easy: A Guide for Students & Writers*. Toronto: Bantam, 1987.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised and expanded edition. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.
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- Sailhamer, John H. *The Pentateuch as Narrative: A Biblico-Theological Commentary*. Library of Biblical Interpretation. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
- Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Young, E.J. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949.