

Syllabus

BIBL-103 Introduction to Biblical Knowledge

Spring Semester 2012

Tuesday & Thursday 4:10 - 5:25 p.m. EHS 325

Instructor: Dr. Loren E. Van Tassel

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Course Description

This course is designed for international students, or others, who have little biblical background and thus need basic biblical knowledge. Students will do inductive study of selected Old Testament and New Testament texts which are foundational to an understanding of Christian thought and practice. They will learn the names of the Books of the Bible, and an overview of biblical history and geography. Cultural aspects will be noted. Students will practice and improve their English language skills: listening, note-taking, reading biblical and supplemental texts, writing responses to assignments, and speaking during classroom interaction.

Course Objectives

When you finish this course, you should be able to—

- Summarize the main biblical message, including basic theology, geography, and history; and the pivotal place of Jesus Christ in this message
- Inductively study key biblical texts
- Write important Christian terminology in both English and your native language.

Methodology

1. Daily Assignments: Write (in English) responses to the questions about the biblical text assigned. Students must bring responses to class. Some in-class writing will be expected.

2. Group work: Students will sometimes work together in pairs or groups of 3 or 4 students to discuss the biblical text assigned.

3. Class discussion: Students will report their preparation about the text assigned; this will involve class discussion.

4. Lectures: The professor will give lectures of important aspects of biblical texts, and occasionally distribute written summaries of important issues.

5. Students will randomly be selected to report their assigned work to the class.

6. Project: Students may write a paper regarding a selected topic.

7. Language: Students will use English as the language of communication in class.

8. Survey: At the beginning of the semester students will respond to a survey about biblical facts and concepts. The same survey will be repeated at the end of the semester. Comparison between the two surveys will indicate progress in comprehending biblical information, but will not be calculated for the grade in the course.

9. Values. Christian values will be presented in this course, but students may express their own values. Students will not be required to convert to Christianity, nor will their grades depend on their views or values.
10. Videos: A few videos will be used, for example about the life of Jesus; or to illustrate the biblical message; or about the impact of Christianity today.
11. Hymns: Students may read/listen to some important Christian hymns with biblical/theological content.
12. Quizzes and Exams: Periodic quizzes will prompt students to prepare assignments. A mid-term exam and a final exam will also measure comprehension.

Materials

Students should have access to a bilingual English NIV-native language Bible. The TNIV English Bible is helpful as a resource. Students should have a 3-ring notebook with topic dividers. Students need to purchase the packet of assignments and related material.

Basic Policies

1. This course is NOT exam-driven. Students will take quizzes, and exams, but these are only part of the components of this course. Do not plan to take any quiz or exam late.
2. If students do not understand any assignment or any statement in the daily lesson, they should ASK FOR CLARIFICATION BEFORE THEY LEAVE CLASS THAT DAY. It is NOT a loss of face to say, "I don't understand (something)."
It IS a loss of face to turn in poorly-prepared assignments because you did not understand what was expected!
3. Cheating is not accepted. Interactive discussion is important, and collaborative preparation may be helpful, but students must write their own responses. Do not copy from another student. Plagiarism is subject to severe disciplinary action by the university.
4. NO electronic devices shall be turned on during class (unless professor requires them)
NO computers, NO cell phones; NO other devices.
5. Chinese-English Dictionaries are acceptable. But if these are electronic, they should be hand-held (not in a computer).

Expectations

1. Class attendance

- Must arrive on time each of the class sessions.
(Arriving late 3 times = 1 unexcused absence
3 unexcused absences = lower the semester grade [for example from B- to C+])
- You will not receive attendance credit if you miss class
(Excused absence due to illness must be supported by evidence; and you should phone or email BEFORE class to get approval)

2. Written notes during class

In your notebook, write information given during the class lectures and discussions.

3. Read assigned material

4. Preparation of assignments prior to class sessions

Write responses as assigned. These must be turned in at the beginning of the next class session, or when stated. Homework must be turned in on time, even if you have an excused absence. Get the assignment from another student.

Late papers will receive absolutely NO credit.

If you are absent, you must get the assignment from another student, or email the professor at lorenvantassel@gmail.com to get the assignment. In order to get credit, it must be turned on time. The professor will not remind you. It is your responsibility. There will usually be an assignment due EVERY class session!

5. Participation in class interaction

Be brave. Set an example for others. Even if you are afraid to express your insights in English, try your best.

Actively listen. Listen carefully to the professor and to other students when they are speaking. The professor may ask you, "What did (someone) just now say?" You are expected to listen, and to know what that person said. In Western culture it is considered rude to talk while another person is speaking. The professor might ask you to stop talking if you talk while another person is speaking.

On the other hand, it is acceptable to disagree with a point of view. Do it politely without belittling the other person. For example, you might say, "Excuse me, maybe there's another way of looking at that point."

6. Speak English only. Do not use your native language in class (unless the professor requests it).

7. Out-of-class study

At GFU students are expected to study 2 hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. So that is 6 hours out of class every week.

8. Time with each Student The professor will try to be available for some time with each student. He will listen to suggestions, complaints, and questions.

Evaluation and Grading

Note: This is subject to some changes.

Activity	Points each time	Frequency	Total
Daily assignments	100	28	2800
Attendance	10	28	280
Quiz	100	7	700
Mid-Term Exam	300	1	300
Final Exam	500	1	500
Semester total			4580

A	100% - 95%
A-	94% - 90%
B+	89% - 88%
B	87% - 83%
B-	82% - 80%
C+	79% - 78%
C	77% - 73%
C-	72% - 70%
D+	69% - 68%
D	67% - 63%
D-	62% - 60%
Fail	Below 60%

The **Academic Resource Center (ARC)** on the Newberg campus provides all students with free writing consultation, academic coaching, and learning strategies (e.g., techniques to improve reading, note-taking, study, time management). The ARC, housed on the second floor of the Murdock Learning Resources Center (library), is open from 1:00-10:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Friday. Call [503-554-2327](tel:503-554-2327) or email the_arc@georgefox.edu to schedule an appointment. Visit arc.georgefox.edu for information about ARC Consultants' areas of study, instructions for scheduling an appointment, and helpful learning tools.

Disability Services Syllabus Information

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide current documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, go to ds.georgefox.edu or contact Rick Muthiah, Dean of Learning Support Services ([503-554-2314](tel:503-554-2314) or rmuthiah@georgefox.edu).