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BS 400X Bible Survey

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. ET; Other Times by Arrangement

This syllabus may be amended prior to the beginning of class.

Preliminary Statement:

“The development of this extended learning syllabus and all course materials is intended for distribution to members of the course and others by my permission. It is not intended for general distribution on the internet. Permission to copy, in whole or in part, must be requested from the professor.” Thanks for honoring these instructions.

Welcome to BS 400X

Have you ever wished that you had time to read your way all the way through the Bible? You now have your opportunity! I remember the first time I read my way through the Bible. I was 17 years old and a brand new Christian. I started reading the Gospel of Matthew in the King James Version. I had not been raised in the church and knew almost none of the church language, let alone 17th century English. Yet, as I read the narratives of what Jesus did and the words he taught I was caught up in a world that was alive and spoke to my heart. I heard not only the words of the Bible, but also the voice of God speaking to my concerns and needs.

We will be working through the Bible together, becoming acquainted with its narratives, instructions, prophecies and poetic expressions of the heart. Our specific concern is to build a working knowledge of the people, places, events, instructions, etc. of the Bible. As we pursue this concern let's keep in mind that the data points beyond itself. It points to relationships between God, people, and the world through which God reveals important truth about who we are, who God is, and life itself. We want to learn the data in such a way that it reminds us of the narratives, instructions, prophecies, worship expressions, etc. that communicate these relationships to us and through which God speaks to us.

Support for the Journey

I will be your guide through our journey through the Bible. As a guide I will help us to organize for the trip, chart the path we will take, set our pace, draw attention to landmarks, and record our findings. Please do not hesitate to dialog with me about any discoveries, questions, obstacles, etc. that you encounter. Prior to the beginning of the course you may reach me by Email at mark_hatcher@asburyseminary.edu. Once the course begins you may utilize the "to Office" icon to send messages to me that are intended for my eyes only.

In addition, the following people are available to assist you with any concerns you have about technical or administrative issues concerning the ExL program:

For General Information about ExL, contact:

Amy Jo Adams at exl_coach@asburyseminary.edu

Kevin Osborn at exl_director@asburyseminary.edu

For Technical Support with ExL, contact:

Andy Adams at exl_support@asburyseminary.edu

For Library Assistance regarding Book and/or Article Requests, contact:

Hannah Kirsch at hannah_kirsch@asburyseminary.edu

For Interlibrary Loan Information, contact:

Dot James at dorothy_james@asburyseminary.edu

Catalog Course Description

This course is designed to rapidly survey the Bible in order to acquaint the student with the geography, historical framework, persons, and contents of the Bible.

Course Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify the major characters, events, places, time periods, and general content of the books of the Old Testament and New Testament.

2. Students will be able to present a synopsis of the content and sequence of the biblical canon.
3. Students will gain experience with reflecting upon biblical content, the way it relates to the whole canon, and listening to God as they reflect upon the content.
4. Students will gain experience in collaborating with others to compose a survey of the content of the Bible.

Course Texts - Required

1. A recent version of the Bible, such as the NRSV or NIV.
2. HarperCollins Concise Atlas of the Bible, edited by James B. Pritchard, 1997.

Course Texts - Suggested

1. Bible Map Insert. Fort Smith: Son Light, 1995.

Basic Orientation:

1. Beginnings

Our course will begin on Tuesday, September 3, 2002. Sometime during the day, our course icon will appear on your FirstClass desktop.

2. Modules

Each module will be available by the first Monday, 12 noon ET of the period for which it is scheduled. Upon opening each module, you will find detailed instructions for that module. These modules will consistently be found within the Course Center. In addition to posting each module on Monday of each week, I will be on-line throughout each week to answer any of your questions, respond to your comments, and participate in discussions.

3. Windows and Icons

While I am sure that each of you are aware of the intended use of each of the items which appear in the BS400X folder, let me summarize the manner in which I intend to use them this semester:

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules.

The Discussion Center will be used for all public communications. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else which would be of interest to your classmates and me, you should post to the Discussion Center. Also, this is where our conversations for each module will take place.

The Teams folder will be used for team discussions and collaboration.

The To Office icon is for private correspondence between you and me. This is where you will submit individual assignments and send private correspondence to me.

The Archives Center will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. None of the conversations carried on in this location is ever saved.

The Resource Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, the Services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer, and a Real Audio player. I encourage you to take advantage of all these resources, and particularly to utilize the chapel access in order to connect with the seminary's on-campus opportunities for spiritual growth.

Endings

Our course will officially end (communication will come to a close) on December 13, 2002 You will receive an exit correspondence from me on that day. You will not be able to submit anything to me after 12 noon (ET) on December 13.

Course Requirements

1. Students will write and submit to their Team folder **an Interaction Paper for each module** that engages with the assigned portion of the Bible. The interaction paper will have four parts:
 - a. In part one, students will provide a **synopsis** of that portion of the Bible (from a few sentences to several small paragraphs per book).

b. In part two, students will **list** the major characters, events, places, time periods and other significant data found in that portion of the Bible.

c. In part three, students will raise several **questions** about or offer some initial **reflections** upon the content of the Bible portion and the responses they think the content is calling for from their contemporary Christian community. (a few sentences to a small paragraph per interaction paper)

d. In part four, students will write **a brief paragraph** offering some initial reflection on the **relationships** of the assigned portion of the Bible to other parts of the **canon**.

2. Students will all be assigned to a team folder. Each team folder will have four to six students assigned to it. Within their team folder students will **collaborate** to form a synthesis of their individual interaction papers. It will be the responsibility of each team to create a **team consensus paper** for each module that represents a consensus of the thought of the whole team. This collaboration will go through several stages:

a. Students will read their team members individual interaction papers and **discuss** with each other what should be included in the synopsis, the list of data, the questions and reflections, and canonical significance sections.

b. The team will strive to reach a **consensus** regarding what should be included in the paper. (The paper should not simply add parts of individual team members' papers to each other. Instead, work as an editorial team).

c. One student from the team will be responsible to **submit to the "Discussion Center"** their team's interaction paper. When we move to a different module, responsibility for submitting the team interaction paper will rotate to a different team member.

d. Students will prepare for the midterm and final exams by **studying** the material indicated by the team interaction papers. All questions on these exams will relate to the synopses, data, reflections, and thoughts on canonical significance found in these team interaction papers.

3. For each module, one member from each team will present to the "Discussion Center" a **devotional thought** based on some of the Bible verses they are studying during that module. This responsibility will rotate to another team member when we enter another module. The devotional thought should be no more than 250 words.

4. Students will take a **Midterm Exam** covering content from Genesis to Song of Songs. The exam will be in a multiple choice and short answer format. The data in the exam will be taken from the team interaction papers.

5. Students will take a **Final Exam** covering content from Isaiah to Revelation. The exam will be in a multiple choice and short answer format. The data in the exam will be taken from the team interaction papers.

Course Grading Method

This course is a pass/fail course. A score of 70% is necessary to pass the course. The score will be calculated as follows:

1. Interaction Papers – 15%
2. Participation in Team Discussions – 10%
3. Team Interaction Papers – 10%
4. Devotional Presentation – 5%
4. Midterm Exam – 30%
5. Final Exam – 30%

The grading scale for exams will be:

90 and above = A, 80 and above = B, 70 and above = C, 60 and above = D, below 60 = F.

Course Outline

Module One (September 3-9): Genesis

1. Devotional thought, Introductory comments, Team assignments
2. Read Genesis
3. Sample interaction paper (Genesis)
4. Team discussion of sample interaction paper (complete by Monday, **September 9**, 12 midnight PT)
5. Instructor's posting of team consensus paper for Genesis

Module Two (September 9-24): Exodus through Numbers

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Exodus through Numbers
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **September 16**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Exodus through Numbers
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and the devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **September 24**, 12 midnight PT

Module Three (September 16-October 1): Deuteronomy through Ruth

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Deuteronomy through Ruth
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **September 23**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Deuteronomy through Ruth
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **October 1**, 12 midnight PT

Module Four (September 23-October 8): 1 Samuel through 2 Kings

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read 1 Samuel through 2 Kings
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **September 30**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of 1 Samuel through 2 Kings
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **October 8**, 12 midnight PT

Module Five (September 30-October 15): 1 Chronicles through Esther

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read 1 Chronicles through Esther
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **October 7**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of 1 Chronicles through Esther
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **October 15**, 12 midnight PT

Module Six (October 7-October 22): Job through Song of Songs

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Job through Song of Songs
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **October 14**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Job through Song of Songs
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Monday, **October 22**, 12 midnight PT

Module Seven (October 14-October 29): Review and Midterm Exam

1. Review team interaction papers
2. Instructor's posting of exam by Wednesday, October 23, 12 noon ET
3. **Midterm Exam due by Tuesday, October 29, 12 midnight PT**

Module Eight (October 21-November 5): Isaiah through Lamentations

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Isaiah through Lamentations
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **October 28**, 12 midnight ET
4. Team discussion of Isaiah through Lamentations
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **November 5**, 12 midnight PT

Module Nine (October 28-November 12): Ezekiel through Malachi

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Ezekiel through Malachi
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **November 4**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Ezekiel through Malachi
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **November 12**, 12 midnight PT

Module Ten (November 4-November 19): Matthew through Mark

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Matthew through Mark
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **November 11**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Matthew through Mark

5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **November 19**, 12 midnight PT

Module Eleven (November 11-November 26): Luke through John

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Luke through John
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **November 18**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Luke through John
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **November 26**, 12 midnight PT

Module Twelve (November 18-December 3): Acts through Philemon

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Acts through Philemon
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, November 25, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Acts through Philemon
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **December 3**, 12 midnight PT

Module Thirteen (November 25-December 10): Hebrews through Revelation

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Hebrews through Revelation
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **December 2**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Hebrews through Revelation
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **December 10**, 12 midnight PT

Module Fourteen (December 2-December 13): Review and Final Exam

1. Review team interaction papers
2. Instructor's posting of exam by Wednesday, December 11, 12 noon ET
3. **Final Exam due by Friday, December 13, 12 midnight PT**

