

DR. M. PASCUZZI OFFICE: Maher 256; PHONE: 260-4751; E-MAIL: Pascuzzi@sandiego.edu
OFFICE HOURS: T 10:45 -11:45a.m. + 3 - 4p.m. Th 10:45 -11:45a.m.+ 2-3 p.m.; or by app't.

The Bible is a collection of books which bridges the millennia. It has been translated into every language and enjoys the widest readership of any book ever written. Both the spirit and the law of the bible have molded Western Civilization influencing its institutions, culture, art, philosophy and anthropology. These books are foundational to the major faith traditions of Judaism and Christianity for whom the bible is Sacred Scripture.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the contents of the Bible, to the social-historical world that shaped the contents and to aid students in developing the skills needed to become **critical readers** of the bible.

Course Procedure

In order to achieve this purpose: a) the methods and concerns of contemporary biblical studies will be introduced; b) the origin and development of the books of the bible will be examined; c) key texts will be examined and interpreted in view of their literary form and historical context; d) relevant media will be viewed.

2. REQUIRED TEXTS

▼Kee, H. W. - Burke, D. G. (eds.) *The Learning Bible*. (New International Version). NY: American Bible Society, 2002. Everyone **must** have **this** book and bring it to class.

3. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- ❖Attend Class (see attendance policy below sect.8)
- ❖Complete all required readings (see below sect. 5) **including course notes on e-reserve**
- ❖Complete all written assignments (see below sect. 6A, 6B & 6C)
- ❖Active Participation (see below sect. 9)
- ❖Complete **4** Exams (details below sect. 7)

4. GRADING - Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

✓ 2 Written Assignments *	150 points
✓ 4 Exams *	600 points
✓ 1 Synthesis Essay	150 points
✓ 1 Annotated Bibliography	<u>100 points</u>
Total	1000 points

*The value of each written assignment and exam is noted in the syllabus.

Grade Equivalents

A	1000 - 950	C+	799 - 770	D-	662-600
A-	949 - 900	C	769 - 730	F	all grades below 600
B+	899 - 870	C-	729 - 700		
B	869 - 830	D+	699 - 667		
B-	829 - 800	D	666 - 663		

5. CLASS CALENDAR WITH TOPICS, REQUIRED READINGS, ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES, EXAM DATES

NB: Introductions to each biblical book are part of your required reading

Abbreviations: *LB* = Learning Bible; **RR**= required reading; MA = Mini Article

- Th Sept 4 **Getting Started:** Review of Syllabus & Requirements
What is the *Learning Bible*? Why are we using it How to navigate this book?
1. What's IN the bible?
 ❖The Jewish Bible/ *TaNak*
 ❖The Christian Bible: Protestant and Roman Catholic
 ❖ Different Kinds of Literature in the Bible
RR: *LB* pps. 1-22;
- T Sept 9 **2. How the Bible Came to Us?**
 ❖*Tooling Up:* Time Designations
 ❖From Oral Tradition to Composition
 ❖Who decided which books belong to the Canon? On what criteria? When?
 ❖From scrolls to #1 bestseller of all time!: Textual History of the Bible
 ❖Versions/Translations of the Bible
RR: *LB* pps. 1-26; MA p. 1849
- Th Sept 11 **3. What IS the bible?**
 ❖Revelation
 ❖Biblical Truth and Inerrancy

RR: MA p. 12.
- T Sept 16 **4. Reading and Interpreting the Bible**
 ❖Early Biblical Interpretation
 ❖The Rise of Historical Criticism
 ❖Beyond Historical Criticism
RR: *LB* pps. 27-32.
- Th Sept 18 **5. The Lands and People of the Bible**
 ❖Overview of the History of Israel: from Abraham to Jesus Christ
 ❖Geography of the Ancient Near East
 ❖Israel's Ancient Near Eastern Neighbors: The Mesopotamians and Egyptians
RR: *LB* pps. 919-43; + history chart 2458- 61+ study maps 2458-73.
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| T Sept 23 | >Exam 1: <u>Material:</u> all reading and class material from 9/6 through 9/18
Value: 100 pts <u>Exam Type:</u> Objective (T/F and multiple choice) Time: 30 minutes |
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- After Exam** **6. Introduction to The Pentateuch/ Torah - *Tanak***
 ❖Overview of Contents
 ❖Moses and the composition of the Pentateuch
RR: *LB* pp. 35-36
- Th Sept 25 **7. The Primeval History: *Gen* 1-11**
 ❖“In the beginning...”: Structure, content and purpose of *Gen* 1-11
RR: *Gen* 1-11.

T Sept. 30 8. The Family Album

- ❖ Israel's ancestors in faith
- ❖ The Three-fold Promise: obstacles and fulfillment

RR: Gen 12-50.

Th Oct 2 9. The Exodus

- ❖ Pharaoh's Plot - Israel's Plight
- ❖ Moses to the rescue!
- ❖ The Great Escape: the Exodus from Egypt; where? when?
- ❖ The Exodus in the Religious Consciousness of Israel

RR: Ex 1-18; MA pp. 110-111, MA pp. 135-36; MA p.140; MA p. 2335; MA p. 2081; Map p. 2463.

T Oct 7 9. B) Law and Covenant at Mt. Sinai

- ❖ Covenanting with God at Sinai
- ❖ Characteristics of the Mosaic covenant

RR: Ex 19-24 + MA p. 386.

10. Deuteronomy

RR: Deut. 5 - 26; 31; 32:48-52; 34.

Th Oct 9 > Exam 2 <u>Material:</u> all reading and class material from 9/23 through 10/7 <u>VALUE:</u> 100pts <u>Exam type:</u> short answer <u>Time:</u> 55 minutes

after exam: Introducing the Deuteronomist History

T Oct 14 11. Entry into the Land and Life Under the Judges

- ❖ The Conquest?
- ❖ The "Judges" hall of fame.
- ❖ Give us a *King*

RR: Joshua 1-12, Judges 1-11; 1 Sam 1-8 + *LB* pp. 1832-33 (Israelite/Canaanite Religion).

Th Oct 16 12. From Empire to Exile

- ❖ Saul, David, Solomon and their contributions
- ❖ The Davidic dynasty/house will last forever!
- ❖ Factors leading to the division of Israel
- ❖ The Fall of Northern Kingdom; The Fall of the Southern Kingdom
- ❖ The Babylonian Exile

RR: 1 Sam 13; 15; 21; 2 Sam 5 - 20; 1 Kings 1-12; MA p. 574; MA p. 776; MA p. 1363; MA p. 1541.

T Oct 21 13. The Prophets and Their Message

- ❖ Former, Major and Minor Prophets
- ❖ The role of the prophet In Israel.
- ❖ Amos and Hosea to the kingdom of Israel

RR: Amos 1-6; 9; Hosea 1-5; 9-14; *LB* 1287-88.

Th Oct 23 **The Message of the Prophets**
 ❖Isaiah and Jeremiah to the kingdom of Judah
 ❖2nd Isaiah and Ezekiel: voices in Exile
RR: Isa 1-2; Jer 5-7; 30-31; Isa 43-45; Ezek 33-34 and 37. MA p. 1496; MA p. 1727.

T Oct 28 **14. Introducing the Writings/ Tana K̄**
 ❖Books included in the 3rd section of the Hebrew Bible
 ❖What the “wise guys” had to say! The Wisdom Books
 ❖Proverbs: The blessings of Wisdom
 ❖Introducing Job
RR: Proverbs 1-15; *LB* pps. 959-60.

Th Oct 30 **Wisdom in Revolt**
 ❖Job’s story and Message
RR: Job 1-14

Annotated Bibliography due today 10/30

T Nov 4 **15. We’re Coming Home We’ve Done Our Time!**
 ❖The Return under the Persians
 ❖The work of Ezra and Nehemiah
 ❖The Birth of Judaism
RR: Ez and Neh; MA p. 859.

Th Nov 6 **16. Here come the Greeks! Or, Bad news for the Jews!**
 ❖The Hellenization of the ANE: Alexander, the Ptolemies & the Seleucids
 ❖To be Greek or not to be Greek? That’s the question! Three responses.
 ❖The birth of Apocalyptic
RR: Daniel 1-12; MA p. 1656.

T Nov 11 **17. The Romans on the Roll! Or, more bad news for the Jews!**
 ❖The Roman occupation of Palestine
 ❖The *many faces* of Judaism at the time of Jesus
RR: *LB* pp. 1821-25

Th Nov 13 ➤**Exam 3** Material: all reading and class material from 10/9 through 11/11
VALUE: 300pts Exam type: objectives/short answer/essay Time: full class

T Nov 18 **18. Jesus of Nazareth: Meeting Jesus for the first time.**
 ❖Jesus outside the gospels
 ❖Jesus in the eyes of his contemporaries
 ❖Video Viewing - *From Jesus to Christ*, Part I
RR: MA p. 2106; MA p. 2044; MA p. 1866; MA p. 2091.

Th Nov 20 **19. Jesus is the Christ: Announcing and Spreading the “Good News”**
 ❖Paul, his missionary work and his letters
 ❖The Acts of the Apostles
RR: Galatians 1-2; Rom 9-11 Acts of the Apostles; *LB* pp.1833-37 “Christian Church - Greek World”; *LB* 2171-72; MA p. 2127 and MA pp. 2135-6.




✓Written Assignment 1 due (**VALUE:** 50 pts.)

T Nov 25 No Class / SBL Meeting

Th Nov 27 **THANKSGIVING DAY - NO CLASS**

T Dec 2 20. **Jesus is the Christ: Writing Down the "Good News"**

- ❖ What is a gospel?
- ❖ The Synoptic Puzzle

 **RR:** *LB* pp.1843-46;
✓Written Assignment 2 Due (**VALUE:** 100 pts.)

Th Dec 4 21. **Gospel Portraits of Jesus**

- ❖ Why are there four gospels?
- ❖ *The suffering son of God* - Mark
- ❖ *The True King and Teacher of Israel* - Matthew

RR: Mark 1through 8; Matt 1-3

Mon Dec 8  **Synthesis Essay Due** (see details below sect. 6b)
Value: 150 points

T Dec 9 21. **Gospel Portraits of Jesus** continued

- ❖ *The Universal Savior* - Luke
- ❖ *The Eternal Word on a Mission* - John

RR: Mark 1through 8; Matt 1-3; Luke 1-3; Gospel of John.

22. **Life After 70 C.E. and The Destruction of the 2nd Temple**

- ❖ The re-organizing of Judaism & the beginning of the "parting of the ways"

Th Dec 11 22. **Life After 70 C.E. continued**

- ❖ The Christian *ekklesia*: structure and belief
- ❖ Christianity and the Roman Empire
- ❖ New wave of persecution and a new apocalypse: The Book of Revelation

RR: 1-2 Timothy; Hebrews 8-10; Revelation 1-3 and 19-22.

Thursday Dec 18 ➤ **Final Exam (#4)** Material: All reading and class material, including videos from Nov 18 through Dec. 11.

Exam type: objective Time: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.. VALUE: 100 pts.

6. A) GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- ✓Proof-read your work before submitting it. **Five points** will automatically be **deducted** from your grade if your work contains **5 or more** errors in grammar and/or spelling.
- ✓Please keep a copy of your assignments in case you are asked to re-submit an assignment.
- ✓**Due Dates** for each assignment are listed on the class calendar. **Five (5)** points will be deducted for each day that the assignment is late. Except for the final synthesis essay, other assignments *must be submitted as hard-copies*.

6. B) SYNTHESIS ESSAY

This essay is intended as a *critical* exercise in which you are expected to integrate the concepts, content and skills acquired in this course. Your essay must address the following:

A)What *skills* have I acquired in this course that have helped me to become a more critical reader of the biblical text?

B) How has my understanding of the *content* and *purpose* of the bible changed as a result of this course?

C) How has this general education course increased my overall knowledge base?

D) What two other areas of *academic* study could be illumined, or have already been illumined, by the knowledge I have acquired in this course? Explain.

Essay Length: 3 pages, **single-spaced**, 12 point font, one inch margins all around

Due Date: **on OR before Monday Dec 8th by 12 noon**

Please Note Well: No late submission of this essay will be accepted.

Submission Format: You may either submit your essay as a hard copy by bringing it to me in my office on Monday Dec 8th between 9a.m. and noon **OR**, you may email your essay to me as a **Microsoft WORD document** by noon on Dec. 8. Email submissions will be returned by email ASAP. Hard-copy submissions will be returned by the last day of class or at the final exam.

E-mail Submissions: if you submit by e-mail, **also send yourself an e-mail copy of your file to make sure the e-mail was sent.** You will also receive an e-mail receipt from me. No receipt means your e-mailed essay did not arrive. It is up to you to ensure that it does arrive by noon on Dec.8..

Suggestion: Keep the questions for your essay in mind as you go through this course. Note the concepts and skills you are learning that you will want to incorporate in your essay.

6. C) ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to:

- 1) familiarize yourself with Copley library, and its staff and resources
- 2) familiarize yourself with specific resources for biblical studies
- 3) develop your ability to synthesize and write concisely

Task: (see description on separate handout)

Due Date: Submit hard copies of your Annotated bibliographies in class on **Th Oct. 30.**

7. EXAMS

You must complete each exam on the established date. **No make-ups** will be given, with **two** exceptions: you, or a family member, are seriously ill OR, the death of a next of kin occurs. In either case, see the instructor and provide documentation. Documentation will be assessed and the student will be informed whether the exam can be made-up.

Requests to anticipate or postpone the date of an exam, during the semester, in order to extend vacation or accommodate airline/travel reservations will be uniformly denied. Before booking airline tickets or making other travel arrangements, take into account your class calendar. If your parents make your travel arrangements, please inform them that your travel arrangements must be made in view of the class calendar and your academic responsibilities. This will save you a great deal of grief and your parents a great deal of money!

The **Final Exam date** (exam #4) is set by the University. Requests to move-up or postpone a **final exam** *must be* authorized by the Dean (cf. <http://www.sandiego.edu/bulletin/regulations.php> or Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 57).

8. ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance **is taken** in every class.

You are expected to attend class regularly.

- ✓ Only **2** absences for illness or other serious reasons will be allowed in this class. With your 3rd absence, and for **every** other absence, **5** points will be deducted from your course grade.
- ✓ A student who arrives after the class has begun is marked late. **5 late arrivals = 1 absence.**
- ✓ Arriving **more than** 10 minutes late for class or leaving 10 minutes before class ends will count as an absence unless you speak with the instructor beforehand.

9. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Participation signifies that: you are **attentive** in class; you **bring your bible** and come **prepared to participate intelligently** by ASKING, as well as answering, questions. **NB:** In class, you will sometimes be called on to read from the bible, or summarize the content of sections you were required to read, or to provide answers to questions you were asked to consider in preparation for class. Preparedness and participation, *or lack of*, will be taken into consideration in the calculation of your final course grade.

10. PASS/FAIL STUDENTS

According to the USD "Pass/Fail Policy" to attain a **Pass** you need a **C-** (700 pts. or above). Any grade below 700 pts. is an F.

ONLY STUDENTS ENROLLED AT USD BEFORE FALL 2006 MAY TAKE THIS COURSE TO MEET THE GE REQUIREMENT IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES, ON A PASS/FAIL BASIS

11. OFFICE HOURS

All students are encouraged to see me for help or clarification. If you are having difficulty or doing poorly **do not wait** until the end of semester to seek help. Anyone who receives a failing grade on an exam or written assignment **is expected** to make an appointment with me to discuss the situation. If you do not avail yourself of my help during the semester do not expect special help at the end.

12. HONOR-CODE VIOLATIONS

Plagiarism, or any other form of cheating, is in violation of the USD code of conduct. See Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 56. Please bear in mind that teachers, as well as students, are bound by the honor code. Therefore, if you cheat: 1) you **automatically fail the exam or assignment with a grade of zero (0)** and 2) I **will** report you for disciplinary action which may include stiffer sanctions, i.e., you are given an F for the entire course. Please refer to the information on plagiarism you received during your orientation.

13. CLASSROOM PROTOCOL AND SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please turn off cell-phones, I-pods and pagers before class begins.

Use rest-rooms *prior* to coming to class.

Repeated interruptions to the class by any individual due to rest-room visits will not be tolerated. Participation points will be deducted from your grade. If you too frequently leave the room, you will also be asked not to return to the classroom and you will be considered absent for that class.

If you have any disability for which special accommodations are in order, please present appropriate documentation to ensure that your needs are met.

14. NO EXTRA-CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS

Numerous opportunities are already built-into this course to allow you to attain a passing grade. Hence, no extra-credit assignments will be given.

15. E-MAIL

I frequently contact the class *via* e-mail. My e-mails are addressed to you at your USD e-mail address only. If you do not have a USD e-mail account, please open one.

16. LAP-TOP COMPUTERS

You are welcome to use a lap-top computer in class for recording notes. If you are found to be using your lap-top for purposes other than note-taking during class time, you will be asked to shut down your computer in this class for the duration of the semester.

17. Accessing E-Reserves

Go to Copley Library home page. Under Library Services, click E-reserves; on the next page click e-reserves again; in the 'Search Any Field', click and choose Instructor then type in Pascuzzi or click and choose course and type in Course number. You will then be asked for the course password, after which you will have access to all readings, assignments and announcements posted on E-res.

This syllabus is your road-map through this course. Please have it with you in class since frequent reference is made to it. On-line access to this syllabus is available at:

- <http://www.sandiego.edu/theo/facultystaff/pascuzzi.php>