

Bible Survey Online BI 501Z

Please be sure to read and familiarize yourself with ALL sections in this syllabus.

Welcome to the course, **Bible Survey**. Although I cannot welcome you personally as in a face-to-face class, I am available to discuss any aspect of this course through whatever communication medium is most convenient for you. I wish you the best as you begin this journey through the Minor Prophets.

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Meeting Location: Online

Elective. Two credit hours

Course Description

This course lays a foundation for other seminary courses by reading through the entire Bible, Old and New Testaments. The major events, persons, places, and chronologies of the Biblical materials are introduced, as well as the major themes of each individual book. Finally, the redemptive-historical thread of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is expounded. (Students may exempt themselves from this course by passing a Bible knowledge examination administered through the Bible department.)

Course Goals

A. General Mission of Erskine Seminary

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for service in the Christian Church.” To achieve this mission, the knowledge of the basics of the Bible must be taught.

B. Goals of this Course

By the end of the course, the student should be able to pass the Final Exam. This exam will test the student’s basic understanding of the Bible.

Course Resources

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Students continue to be responsible for securing their own required textbooks. As a convenience, there is a bookstore on the seminary's home page. To access this site and its information, locate textbooks, and compare prices, go to <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>

The online bookstore will be a portal with links to Amazon, CBD, Barnes & Noble, the Erskine Campus Bookstore, and perhaps others. A limited number of copies of each textbook may be available from the Erskine Campus Bookstore, and copies may be ordered through that Bookstore.

- James A. Meek. *One Great Story: Study Guide to the Bible*. (Reproduced with permission from the author.) **Available in the online classroom.**
- *The NIV Study Bible*.

Course Materials

All course materials (except NIV Study Bible) are available to the student in the online classroom.

Course Components

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through four learning components.

The first is the **Lecture Component**. The student will view the e-lectures, make detailed notes, and prepare from these notes to be examined.

The second is the **Reading Component**. The student will read the assigned materials, make detailed notes, and prepare from these notes to be examined.

The third is the **Collaborative Component (worth 10%)**. The student will maintain a weekly online journal outlining ideas, thoughts, or reflections from the course. Students will also interact weekly with others' journals.

The fourth is the **Exam Component (worth 90%)**. To ensure completion of Lecture and Reading components, the student will prepare for three exams.

First Exam 25%. The First Exam will cover material presented in e-lectures or assigned to be read.

Second Exam 25%. The Second Exam is not cumulative and will cover all material after the First Exam.

Comprehensive Exam 40%. The Comprehensive exam is cumulative and will cover the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Please note: Successful completion of this distance learning course will require that you set your own schedule and discipline yourself to stay on the schedule. I recommend that you begin the course by watching the e-lectures. The time constraints of this course are self-imposed to a large degree. However, if you are working toward degree completion, please keep in mind the Seminary's expected time frame for degree completion. Consult the most recent Seminary *Catalog* for specific time frames in your degree program. Each course assignment identifies the time required for completion, all things being equal. Some variation in time required to complete an assignment is to be expected due to a variety of factors.

Course Grading Criteria and Scale

- A Level Work = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.
- B Level Work = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.
- C Level Work = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.
- D Level Work = Inadequate mastery of basic facts and information presented in the course; insufficient or inappropriate use of common terms and language indicating an inadequate grasp of the material; and an inferior ability to analyze and judge proposals, ideas or concepts.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Grade	Value	GPA	Grade	Value	GPA
A	95-100	4.0	C-	78-79	1.7
A-	93-94	3.7	D+	76-77	1.3
B+	91-92	3.3	D	72-75	1.0
B	88-90	3.0	D-	70-71	0.7
B-	86-87	2.7	F	0-69	0.0
C+	84-85	2.3			
C	80-83	2.0			

The actual assignment of a letter grade will take into consideration the performance of the class as a whole (i.e. you will be graded on a curve).

When a student fulfills the *minimum stated requirement*, the assigned letter grade will be a B. To achieve a higher grade, the student must perform at a higher level than the minimum stated requirement.

Course FAQs

1. All assignments should be submitted electronically unless otherwise notified.
2. Please use Microsoft Word.
3. All assignments should be clearly marked with name, assignment number and date. Failure to include this information will result in a returned assignment.

Course Platform

Erskine Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). According to the ATS Standard 10.3.4.3, “Institutions shall ensure that distance education programs provide appropriate opportunity for collaboration, personal development, interaction among peers within a community of learning, and supervised field or internship opportunities when appropriate to the degree program.” It is with this stipulation that EDEN has implemented a web-based learning platform which will serve to provide a number of collaborative learning experiences. The learning platform is Moodle and according to their website, “Moodle is a course management system designed to help educators who want to create quality online courses . . . and create effective online learning communities.” You will be provided with additional information concerning site information.

Course Assignments

ASSIGNMENT ONE: E-Lectures

Begin working your way through the e-lectures for the course. Begin with the first lecture. Take notes as you follow the video.

ASSIGNMENT TWO: Readings

Using the schedule, begin working through the various readings assigned to this course.

ASSIGNMENT THREE: Exams

1. First Exam—see schedule
2. Second Exam—see schedule
3. Comprehensive Exam—see schedule

The exams are to be proctored by a seminary staff or faculty member. Arrangements must be made with the EDEN office (864.379.6669) or the course professor.

ASSIGNMENT FOUR: Online journal

Overview:

There is evidence to suggest that students who actively engage with others in an online environment earn higher scores than other students. Online discussions and interaction provide a rich and stimulating environment of collaboration, interaction, and community building. Students participating in online discussions tend to provide more thought-provoking comments, richly detailed responses, and insightful observations.

Each student will post an entry to the online journal each **week**. As the student completes the required reading for this course, listens to the e-lectures, or thinks through course-related issues, he or she will post an entry relating significant insights, questions, or challenges for others.

In order to facilitate community building, fellow students will respond **each week** to the journal entries as a way of encouraging each other and adding to the observations posted by their classmates. Additionally, peer mentors and/or the course professor will respond **to selected entries**. Retroactive posting will not be accepted. The following rubric may serve as a guide to assisting you in online postings.

Please note:

- 10% of your grade depends on weekly collaborative journaling

Course Schedule

The course is divided into three modules. Each module has work due at the end of each month. Lateness will carry a penalty of 1% for every day late.

MODULE #1

All work for the first module is due four weeks from the start of the semester. The exam will be offered that week.

Week	Lectures to View	Assignments
1	1 – 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes • Online journal (2%) • <i>Read Genesis – Deuteronomy</i> • Meek 1 – 9

2	5 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes • Online journal (1%) • <i>Read Joshua – 1 Samuel</i> • Meek 10 – 12
3	10 – 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes • Online journal (1%) • <i>Read 2 Samuel – Esther</i> • Meek 13 – 16
4	Use this week to study for the closed-book 1 hour exam	First Exam worth 25% The exam covers Genesis – Esther

MODULE #2

All work for the second module is due eight weeks from the start of the semester.

Week	Lectures to view	Assignments Due
5	15 – 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes • Online journal (1%) • <i>Read Psalms – Job</i> • Meek 17 – 18
6	19 – 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes • Online journal (1%) • <i>Read Proverbs – Isaiah</i> • Meek 19 – 21
7	23 – 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes • Online journal (1%) • <i>Read Jeremiah – Malachi</i> • Meek 22 – 27
8	Use this week to study for the closed-book 1 hour exam	Second Exam worth 25%. Exam covers Esther – Malachi.

MODULE #3

All work for the third module is due twelve weeks from the start of the semester.

Week	Lectures to view	Assignments Due
9	27 – 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes • Online journal (1%) • <i>Read Matthew – John</i> • Meek 28 – 34
10	31 – 33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online journal (1%) • <i>Read Acts – Romans</i> • Meek 35 – 37
11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to lectures, taking detailed notes • Online journal (1%) • <i>Read 1 Corinthians – Revelation</i> • Meek 38 – 48
12	Use this week to study for the closed-book comprehensive exam	The Final Exam is worth 40%.

Relevant Institutional and Class Policies

Conduct in Theological Discussions: Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Language about God and Humanity: Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church’s historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Late or Incomplete Work: The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January

Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become "F."

Drop/Add/Withdrawal: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a "drop/add" form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course, and full tuition charges will apply. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered 'documented' when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student's own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated 'documented theft of another student's work.'

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.