

Erskine Theological Seminary

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

BI 501

Bible Survey

Modular Summer Term, 2010

June 14-18 2010

9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Due West Campus

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Course Description: In this one-semester course, students lay 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 the Bible Challenge Examination administered by the Bible Department, and in that case they are to use the hours for another Bible course.

All master's-level students must complete this course or pass the Bible Challenge Exam in their first year of study. M.A.C.M. and M.A.T.S. students must place out of this course by passing the Bible Challenge Exam or must take it as a non-credit course. M.Div., M.A.E.M., M.A.P.M., and M.C.M. students may pass the Bible Challenge Exam or take this course as an elective. Two hours. Available as an EDEN course.

- I. Course Objectives:** The mission statement of Erskine Seminary indicates that its purpose is to educate its students “for service in the Christian Church”, in particular, the study of the Bible “in its own literary, historical and theological settings”, so that the student may “interpret it with relevance and meaning applicable for today.” Central to service in the church is an adequate competency in Bible content. The objective of this course, then, is that the student be able to demonstrate a mastery of the contents of the English Bible.
- II. Required Textbooks:** The following Bible text, notable for its affordable price, popular translation and excellent notes and maps, will be used in this course, and is required reading of each student:

Barker, Kenneth, general editor, *The NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore. The seminary also has a bookstore portal on its website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. Here you will find links to familiar vendors and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. While students may order their books from any source, orders placed with the vendors listed, **through the seminary's web site**, earn a small rebate, a percentage of which goes to benefit the Seminary's Student Body Association.

In addition, there will be small reading assignments and/or handouts throughout the course to help the student organize and understand the relatively large amount of material to be learned.

- III. Course Requirements:** Students are expected to attend every class meeting. If a student must be absent due to an emergency or illness for all or part of a session, the student is responsible for all work done and due for that session. Due to the nature of the course, missing classroom discussion will almost certainly adversely affect the student's performance on the scheduled exams. Any student who misses more than one class session will not pass the course.

Students are expected to be adequately prepared for each class session, particularly the Biblical reading assignments due. Classroom discussion will constitute an important element of our learning together, and will be adversely affected by poor preparation. It is necessary, due to the large amount of material to be covered in the modular format, that the student read through the Bible *before* arriving for the first class.

Four objective one-hour tests will be administered, and will be related to the Biblical material covered in the previous session. The tests must be taken on the assigned dates. See course outline for test dates.

- IV. Evaluation:** The Seminary grade scale (p. 46, *Catalog*) will be used in determining a letter grade. The student's final grade will be calculated as follows:

Four one-hour tests (4 x 25%) = 100%

- V. Class Meeting Dates:** This course will meet for five days, June 14-18, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The final meeting date (Friday) is scheduled for the fourth examination. See course outline below for details.

- VI. Seminary Policies:** Once the student has completed, signed, and submitted the registration to the Registrar for this class, it is considered a binding contract. The

student is encouraged to read the Erskine Seminary 2009-2010 *Catalog* for important information regarding drop/add procedures and deadlines (p. 4, “Academic Calendar”), class withdrawal (pp. 35, 37), as well as the correct manner of dealing with the grade status of “incomplete” (p.44). Please consult the Student Handbook for policies re. writing style and ethics, e.g., inclusive language and plagiarism, as well as the Seminary *Catalog*, p. 43f. A brief summary of these policies is as follows:

A grade of “**incomplete**” is not a privilege if the student. It is the prerogative of the professor. It can be given as a final grade only when (1) the student has completed most of the assigned coursework and (2) when the student has been providentially hindered from completing the rest. The student and professor must complete the appropriate form before an “incomplete” can be given. The final date that an “incomplete” can be changed to a grade for the Summer term is November 1, 2010. After this date, the grade of “incomplete” will automatically become an “F”, and cannot be altered. Note that there is a fee associated with “incompletes.”

If the student needs to **withdraw from a course**, a withdrawal form may be procured from the Registrar’s office. A professor cannot withdraw a student from a class. A student who fails to go through the proper withdrawal procedure will be charged full tuition for the course, regardless of attendance.

The Seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is **inclusive** rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalog stands as an example of recommended usage.

The student must be especially careful regarding citation of sources in all Seminary course work. Failing to cite a reference, or claiming other’s material as one’s own constitutes a type of fraud known as **plagiarism**. A charge of plagiarism is serious, and can result in the student’s expulsion from the Seminary.

Course Outline

General Preparation for the Modular Sessions

Please make every effort to read through the Bible before you come to class! Due to the rigors of the modular schedule, there will not be time to accomplish this basic reading during the week, as evenings will be the only available study time for the tests. Each test will typically include: 1) a map quiz including significant sites of the period; 2) identification of significant persons and places; 3) identification of book citations; 4) identification of books by major themes; and 5) particular lists (as an aid to preparation for the tests, all lists which will be expected of the student are included below under “Competencies”).

Session 1: Monday, June 14 (9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.)

Introduction to the Bible, its growth, historical settings and makeup. Survey of the Pentateuch and Historical books. Please read Genesis through Esther in preparation for class. Competencies for Test 1: *List the seven days of creation; list the twelve tribes of Israel; list the Ten Commandments; list the ten plagues wrought upon Egypt.*

Session 2: Tuesday, June 15 (9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.)

Test #1, covering Genesis-Esther, will be administered at 11:30 A.M.

In session two, we will cover the next portion of OT literature, including the books of Hebrew poetry and wisdom and the OT prophets, both “major” and “minor”. In preparation for this session, please read Job through Malachi. Competencies for Test 2: *List the 39 books of the Old Testament in their canonical order.*

Session 3: Wednesday, June 16 (9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.)

Test #2, covering Psalms-Malachi, will be administered at 11:30 A.M.

In session three, we will begin our sessions introducing the New Testament, covering material contained in the Gospels and Acts. In preparation for this session, please read Matthew-Acts. Competencies for Test 3: *List the twelve disciples of Christ; list ten miracles of Jesus; list ten parables of Jesus.*

Session 4: Thursday, June 17 (9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.)

Test #3, treating the New Testament material from Matthew through Acts, will be administered at 11:00 A.M. In our final lecture session, we will discuss the letters of Paul, his ministry and his theology. In addition, we will have an overview of the Catholic Epistles and Revelation. In preparation for this session, please read Romans through Revelation. Competencies for Test 4: *List the 27 books of the New Testament in canonical order.*

Session 5: Friday, June 18 (9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.)

Test #4, covering the Pauline and non-Pauline epistles and Revelation, will be administered at 10:00 A.M.