

Erskine Theological Seminary

BI 501CO: BIBLE SURVEY

Columbia Campus, Summer Term 2010

Class Sessions: May 29, June 19, July 3, July 31, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Final Exam Session: August 21, 9:00 a.m. – noon

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OFFICE HOURS FOR SUMMER TERM 2010:

During Summer Term 2010 my office hours are 1:30-4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, but it is always advisable to call or email for an appointment first, just in case I have to be away for some unexpected reason. Other times may be available by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this 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. students may pass the Bible challenge Exam or take this course as an elective. M.A.E.M., M.C.M., and M.A.P.M. students normally take this course, although they may pass the Bible Challenge exam and take a Bible elective in place of this course. Two hours. Available as an EDEN course.

COURSE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for service in the Christian Church.” This includes 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. By the end of the course, the student should be able to pass Erskine’s Bible Challenge Exam.

ERSKINE DISTANCE EDUCATION NETWORK (EDEN):

This course utilizes Erskine’s EDEN website as a place to make a number of required class resources available to you. Thus, you will need frequent access to a computer with a rela-

ble internet connection. See Appendix A below for directions on setting up an account. After you have set up an account and are officially registered for the course then you will need an enrollment key in order to access the BI 501 CO online classroom (this key is available from the instructor). Students must have their EDEN accounts set up by the first class session. As soon as you have registered for the course you should check the online classroom for important information pertaining to the class. The BI 502 CO course is listed under the “hybrid” classrooms on EDEN: <http://hybrid.erskineseminary.net/>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

W. Grudem (ed.), *The ESV Study Bible*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2008. (ISBN: 978-1-4335-0241-5)

James A. Meek. *Bible Content Overview: Course Syllabus*. This resource will be posted on the course’s EDEN site and can be downloaded; you will need to bring this text with you to every class session.

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students’ and professors’ purchases through this portal. 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Your final grade will be based upon the following factors:

A. Exams: 90% total

1. **Unit exams: 20% each.** There are three Unit Exams covering the material presented in the previous class session. These are not cumulative.
2. **Final Exam 30%.** The Final Exam is cumulative and will cover all material for which the student is responsible. This exam is equivalent to Erskine’s Bible Challenge Exam.

B. Attendance (7%) & Participation (3%): 10%

Attendance is mandatory at all class sessions. If you miss a session of an all-day class it will result in an automatic “0” for the attendance component of your course grade. You cannot afford to miss class. If you are aware of any conflicts that will prevent you from attending one of the class sessions, you should register for a different section or take the course at another time. Students are responsible for all class material, regardless of whether they are present or absent.

OVERALL GRADING SCALE:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND SEMINARY POLICIES:

Registration: 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.

Official Seminary Class Attendance Policy and Policy on Absences: Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students taking a class that meets four times over a semester/term must attend the first meeting of the class. Students who cannot attend the first course meeting should not register for the course or, if already registered, should drop the course and complete the drop/add form. (If the drop/add form is not completed and turned in to the Registrar, the student will still be charged for the course and will receive an “F” grade.) If students have to be absent for part or all of another class meeting day, they are still responsible for all work missed and all work due. A student who misses as much as one full class day or its equivalent in late arrival or early departure should consult with the professor to see whether it is still possible to pass the course. Sleeping in class is counted as an absence. If you are aware of any conflicts that will prevent you from attending one of the class sessions, you should register for a different section or take the course at another time.

Late and/or Incomplete Work: Any work not submitted by the due date will be assessed a late penalty. Students should review the Seminary policy on “Incompletes” in the Seminary catalog. 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.”

Plagiarism: Any student who commits plagiarism is in violation of Seminary policy and is liable for dismissal. See the academic section of the Catalog for complete 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").

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.

Taping Class Lectures: I am hoping to tape the class lectures and post them onto the EDEN classroom. If you wish to tape a lecture using your own recording device, you must complete an "Audio Recording Request" form, which can be downloaded from the Seminary website at:

http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics_Files/PdfDownloads.html

COURSE OUTLINE, READINGS & EXAM SCHEDULE:

Class:	Date:	Biblical Books Covered:	Reading:	Unit Exams:
Session 1	May 29	Genesis-Samuel	Bible: Genesis-Judges Meek, pp.iii-11 + Appendix Study Guide #1	
Session 2	June 19	1 Kings-Daniel	Bible: Ruth-Esther Meek, pp.12-16 + Appendix Study Guide #2	Unit Exam #1 (Gen-Sam)
Session 3	July 3	Hosea-Acts	Bible: Job-Malachi Meek, pp.17-27 + Appendix Study Guide #3	Unit Exam #2 (1 Kgs-Dan)
Session 4	July 31	Romans-Revelation	Bible: Matthew-Acts Meek, pp.28-35 + Appendix Study Guide #4	Unit Exam #3 (Hos-Acts)
FINAL EXAM: August 21				

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Study guides for the unit exams, as well as a comprehensive study guide for the final, will be made available on the course's EDEN classroom.
- Make sure to download and read the document "Study Strategies for Modular Bible Survey", available on the EDEN classroom.

Appendix A: First time EDEN users

If you have never created an EDEN account, please complete the following steps to access to the online classroom.

If you have taken an EDEN course previously, go to the web site listed below and enter your user name and password.

1. Go to the online classroom website: <http://eden.erskineseminary.net/>
2. Select the term for which you are enrolled.
3. Read carefully the text under the heading “*Is this your first time here?*” Click on the “*Start now by creating a new account*” button.
4. An email will be immediately sent to the email address you entered in the new account form. When it arrives read the email and click on the web link it contains. Your account will be confirmed and you will be logged in. This must be done in a timely manner – the confirmation will not stay for long in the system.
5. Find the course for which you are enrolled.
6. Enter the **enrollment key** in order to access the online classroom. You will be provided this key upon confirmation by the Registrar’s office.

** Notes:

- The **enrollment key** and your **user name and password** are different. Do not attempt to use one for the other.
- It is recommended that you write down your user name and password so that it won’t be forgotten. The EDEN office cannot provide you with this information.
- Please do not share the enrollment key with other students.