

Erskine Theological Seminary

BI 501CO: BIBLE SURVEY

Spring 2008

Columbia Site: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday 2/16, 3/8, 4/5, 5/3

Professor: Max Rogland

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OFFICE HOURS FOR SPRING 2008:

I will typically be available in my office in Columbia between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, though it is always advisable to call or email for an appointment first. Other times/locations may be available.

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.

Students must complete this course or pass the Bible Challenge Exam in their first year of study. Required for M.Div., M.A.E.M., M.A.P.M., and M.C.M. students. 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. Three hours.

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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

The following required textbook may be ordered from the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at www.ecampus.com/erskine from January 4, 2008.

NIV Archaeological Study Bible (Zondervan)

James A. Meek. *One Great Story: A Study Guide to the Bible*. (Reproduced with permission from the author.)

Information about access to the Meek study guide will be provided by the professor. (rogland@erskine.edu) Copies will be available at the Columbia Campus and from the seminary office in Due West. Students will be expected to pay a modest fee for copying. Note that there is a reading assignment in the study guide for the first class meeting.

RECOMMENDED:

The English Standard Version of the Bible, available online at: www.gnpcb.org/esv/

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Your final grade will be based upon the following factors:

- A. Exams 90% total
 1. Mid Terms: 20% each. The three Mid Term exams will cover material presented in class or assigned to be read up to the previous Mid Term date. They are not cumulative.
 2. Final Exam 30% The Final Exam is cumulative and will cover all material for which the student is responsible. To pass the course, you are required to pass the final Exam.

- B. Class Attendance and Participation 10%
 1. You will be held responsible for all material presented in class.
 2. You are expected to attend every class meeting. Absences must be approved by the instructor. 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.

- C. You are required to read the Bible in its entirety. No grade for this component is given, but failure to complete it and to submit a signed statement indicating this will result in an "Incomplete" for the course. It is recommended that you begin your Bible reading as soon as possible.

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. 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: 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.

Late 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. A grade of “Incomplete” is not a privilege of the student. It is the prerogative of the professor. It can be given as a final grade only when the student (1) has completed most of his/her course work and (2) has been providentially hindered from doing the rest of the course work. Note that there is a processing fee associated with “Incompletes,” and that “Incompletes” must be completed by the stated deadline or they automatically become an “F.” Only the Dean may approve extensions of deadlines for “Incompletes.”

Taping Class Lectures: To tape a lecture the student 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, READING & EXAM SCHEDULE:

February 16

Topics covered: Introduction to course; Torah; Old Testament History I

Reading assignments: Genesis-Ruth; Meek pp. iii-11

March 8

Mid Term #1

Topics Covered: Old Testament History II; Old Testament Poetry & Wisdom

Reading assignments: 1 Samuel-Esther; Meek pp. 12-19

April 5

Mid Term #2

Topics Covered: Old Testament Prophets; Gospels

Reading assignments: Isaiah-Malachi, Matthew-John; Meek pp. 20-34

May 3

Mid Term #3

Topics Covered: Acts, Pauline Letters, General Letters, Revelation

Reading assignments: Acts-Revelation; Meek pp. 35-48 + appendix

Final Exam: TBA

