

Teaching the bible

MIN6309tb—Course Syllabus

Summer 2019

July 15–19, Course Ends August 23rd 2019

M. Todd Hall

(512) 787-7933

thall@austingrad.edu

Course Description

The Bible is, without question, the most influential collection of writings in the world. The course is designed to provide a general introduction to the Bible, including its composition, transmission, reception, interpretation, and translation, as well as an orientation to the “biblical metanarrative.” The course is intended to prepare students for rigorous biblical and theological study through familiarization with issues surrounding the interpretation of the biblical texts as well as the content of the texts themselves. It further will orient students, in a preliminary way, to the impact the Bible has had on Western culture, law, and literature.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Understand the history of the composition and reception of the Bible, including languages, textual issues, socio-cultural and historical backgrounds of the Bible, etc.
- 2) Understand the reception and canonization of the Bible
- 3) Have a basic familiarity with the concepts of history of hermeneutical theory
- 4) Recognize and recall the overarching story of the Bible, from creation to redemption
- 5) Discuss the various genres and collections in the Bible
- 6) Recall key texts from the various collections of the Bible

Required Texts

A study Bible of some kind (e.g. Oxford Annotated, Harper Collins) is required in a contemporary translation—ESV, NIV, etc.

Fee, Gordon D., and Hubbard Jr., Robert L., eds. *The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011. ISBN: 9780802838230

Gorman, Michael J., ed. *Scripture: A Global, Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible and Its Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2017. ISBN: 9780801098390

Kugler, Robert, and Hartin, Patrick. *An Introduction to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009. ISBN: 9780802846365.

Wilholt, James C. and Ryken, Leland. *Effective Bible Teaching*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic: 2012. ISBN: 9780801048609

Wright, Christopher J. H. *How to Preach and Teach the Old Testament for All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. ISBN: 9780310524649

Scripture Typer Bible Memory System (or some other Bible memorization program/system).
www.scripturetyper.com.

Recommended:

The Bible Memory App (or some other Bible memorization program/system).
www.biblememory.com.

Course Requirements

Regular attendance and participation is required. Students *must* read the relevant texts and readings from the textbooks and be prepared to discuss them in class. Students should be in class promptly at the start. Consistent tardiness and absences will negatively affect your grade for the course.

The end date for the course is August 23rd

Three exams: 60%

Memorization: 10%

Reading Journal (Due August 23): 15%

Curriculum Outline (Due August 23): 15%

Day 1

7/15: Introduction to the course; Introduction to the Bible as book and library

Introduction to the Bible; Introduction to the Old Testament—Pentateuch & History
Fee & Hubbard, pp. 3–8; 73–76; 78–80; 83–84; 86–87; 88–89
Gorman, Chapter 1 (pp. 3–21)
Kugler & Hartin, chapter 2 (pp. 7–17)

Introduction to the Old Testament—Pentateuch & History

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 165–169

Gorman, chapter 3 pp. 44–69

Kugler & Hartin, chapter 5–6 (pp. 45–57), chapter 12 (113–117)

Introduction to the Old Testament—Pentateuch & History cont'd

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 301–305

Kugler & Hartin, chapter 20, 22 (pp. 187–188, 197–211)

Orientation to tools within your Bibles (bring a Bible to class!)

Day 2

7/16: Wisdom & Prophets

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 375–379; 489–495

Kugler & Hartin, chapters 26–27 (pp. 227–240)

Survey of Intertestamental/Apocryphal literature Introduction to the New Testament—
Backgrounds; Gospels & Acts*Fee & Hubbard, pp. 499–513, 517–521*

Gorman, chapter 4 (pp. 71–90)

Kugler & Hartin, chapter 50 (pp. 366–379)

Introduction to the New Testament— Gospel & Acts; Letters

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 630–641

Kugler & Hartin, chapters 52–53 (pp. 403–414, 417–425)

Introduction to the New Testament: Letters; Apocalypse

Kugler & Hartin, chapter 61 (501–511)

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 719–721 (*pp. 722–737*)

Introduction to the New Testament: Letters; Apocalypse; Test review

Kugler & Hartin, chapter 62 (pp. 512–522)

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 722–737

Day 3

7/17

Exam #1—Survey of Bible***Memorization (on exam): Exodus 20:1–18***

Inspiration and Revelation

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 15–17, pp. 741–745

Development of the Canon

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 18–25

Kugler & Hartin, chapter 44 (pp. 319–325)

Gorman, chapter 5 (pp. 71–90)

Development of the Canon; Textual transmission, OT

Kugler & Hartin, chapter 63 (pp. 523–531)

Gorman, chapter 6 (pp. 103–118)

Textual transmission, OT

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 25–30

Gorman, chapter 7a (pp. 119–124)

Handout, “Text, Hebrew, History of” from *New Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary*

Day 4

7/18: Textual transmission, OT; Test prep

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 31–34

Handout, “Text, Hebrew, History of” from *New Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary*

Handout, “Text Criticism, OT” from *New Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary*

Exam #2—Development of the Canon, After lunch**Memorization (on exam): Matthew 5:17–30**

Textual Transmission: New Testament

Metzger Handout

Handout, “Text, NT” from *New Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary*

Text Criticism: New Testament

Handout, “Text Criticism, NT” from *New Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary*

Day 5

7/19: History of Bible translation in Western Europe

History of the English Bible

Gorman, chapter 7b (pp. 124–130)

Handout, “Versions, English” from *New Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary* (pp. 740–748)

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 39–42

Handout, “Versions, English” *New Interpreter’s Bible Dictionary* (pp. 749–759)

Methods of interpretation

Kugler & Hartin, chapter 4 (pp. 35–41)

Gorman, chapter 9 (pp. 147–162)

Teaching the Bible; Final prep

Fee & Hubbard, pp. 35–38

Gorman, chapter 10 (pp. 163–175)

Exam 3—Textual Transmission, English Bible**Memorization (on Exam): Romans 13:8–14**