



BIBS 215

The Bible in Religious Education

Campus Course Outline 2017

SEMESTER 1 2017

Lecturer:

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Tutor:

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This course is designed to familiarise students with the content and worlds of the Old and New Testaments which together comprise the Bible. The Old Testament is known as the Hebrew Scriptures, being the sacred texts. The New Testament describes the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and the beginnings of the Christian Church. It was written (in the light of faith in the Resurrection) by a number of people using a variety of literary forms.

The intention of this course is to develop an understanding of the key themes, people, events, dates, and places in the Bible and also to be able to recognise various types of literature in the Bible. With this background students are then able to relate and use this material and understanding in order to deliver the National Religious Education Programme in schools.

LECTURER'S INTRODUCTION

Your lecturer for this paper is Dr Gillian Townsley

Welcome! I'm looking forward to getting to know you as we discuss many interesting issues related to the use of the Bible in Religious Education.

I know you will each bring your own experiences to this course and I welcome the depth and richness your contributions will bring.

From time to time, you may feel anxious about your study progress, and it is important that these anxieties be resolved promptly. If you have any queries about this paper, please get in touch with me at: gtownsley@shcs.school.nz

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete the paper will be able to:

1. Explain some of the key events, figures and motifs of the Old Testament.
2. Recognize and explain some of the various kinds of literature in the Old Testament.
3. Understand and apply accepted methods of interpretation of some scripture texts.
4. Describe the role of a prophet
5. Outline the contents, formation, themes and world of the New Testament.
6. Analyse the different ways in which the Gospels portray Jesus.
7. Apply aspects of the New Testament message to the classroom Religious Education programme by various technological methods

TEACHING

- A series of weekly lectures
- Tutorials to reinforce material covered in class and help students apply this to the classroom environment. Dates and venues of tutorials will be provided on your eVision calendar.

RESOURCES

- Blackboard, the University's online learning tool
- A Course Book containing Study Guide and Readings
- This Course Outline which explains how the course is taught
- eReserve, a resource for extra readings, which you can access via Blackboard;
- The Department's "Study and Style Guide" which recommends students use the 16th edition of the Chicago Style Guide when writing essays. It is available online at <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>
- An essential textbook: *Jerry L. Sumney, The Bible – An Introduction, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2014 (second edition)*. This can be purchased through the University Bookshop: www.unibooks.co.nz

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Please Note: You **must have access to Blackboard and your University email address** in order to complete this paper. You will receive access once your enrolment is complete. Communications from your lecturer regarding teaching matters will be provided **only** through Blackboard and your University email address, as outlined in the University's Student Communications Policy, and you must check these emails regularly, or arrange for them to be sent to your usual address. eVision will also send important messages through your University email. If you have any concerns about your access to Blackboard or to other course resources, please contact the lecturer or administrative staff immediately so that these can be resolved.

You will find there is a lot of helpful information and resources on the Department's website. In particular, we require you to read the section called "Essential Student Information." You will find it here:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

This page provides a number of useful resources such as the *Study and Style Guide* and the Plagiarism Declaration Form you must attach to your assignments. It supplies detailed information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. This also is where you will find instructions for making online discussion posts and submitting assignments electronically. So it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it.

We will make reference to information on the website in the following pages, so do take the time to follow the links and absorb the material. It will save you from making costly mistakes and help to make the practical experience of distance study a straightforward one.

TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE

The translation that is used in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This translation attempts to stay reasonably close to the original Hebrew and Greek text, whilst using contemporary and gender inclusive language. A copy can be obtained from the University Book Shop. **You will be required to bring a copy of your Bible with you into the exam so it MUST be a hard copy version; electronic copies of the Bible will not be permitted in the exam. Please the requirements under 'Examinations' below.**

LECTURE TIMETABLE

27 Feb	<i>Topic 1: What is this thing called "The Bible"?</i>
6 Mar	<i>Topic 2: The World of the New Testament & the Gospels</i>
13 Mar	<i>Topic 3: The Gospel of Matthew</i>
20 Mar	<i>Topic 4: The Gospel of Luke</i>
27 Mar	<i>Topic 5: The Gospel of Mark</i>
3 Apr	<i>Topic 6: The Gospel of John</i>
10 Apr	<i>Topic 7: The Call of Abraham</i>
24 Apr	<i>Topic 8: Moses and the Ten Commandments</i>
1 May	<i>Topic 9: The Creation Story</i>
8 May	<i>Topic 10: Prophecy and the Role of the Prophets</i>
15 May	<i>Topic 11: Poetry and Wisdom Literature</i>
22 May	<i>Topic 12: Paul and His Letters</i>

ASSESSMENT

The assessment for this paper comprises four elements:

Assessment Task	Percentage
Creative Assignment (Part A) and Oral presentation (Part B)	15% and 10%
Essay (2000-2500 words)	25%
Power Point presentation	10%
Two-hour exam	40%

EXAMINATION

Details of your examination will be posted on your eVision calendar as soon as they are set by the Examinations Office. All enquiries regarding exams should be directed to the Examinations Office: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/exams/>. The Theology Department cannot make any arrangements or provide details about exams.

Please note: students are **required** to bring a Bible to the examination. It should be a copy of the NRSV and it may or may not have the Apocrypha. It must have **no annotations or underlinings** and it must not be a study edition (which has extensive footnotes). It must not be an eBook or in electronic format. If you have any doubts about your edition, please check with your lecturer.

The examination supervisor will need to check your Bible before you are allowed to use it. If it does not comply with the above, the examination supervisor will hold your Bible until the examination is over, thus you will not have access to a Bible for the examination.

REFERENCING SYSTEM

For writing essays, the Department requires that you use the 16th edition of the Chicago Style Guide, which is the norm for many academic journals in the Humanities and is often recommended for theses in the humanities. The Department has prepared a *Study and Style Guide*, which outlines the Chicago Style and offers other advice on essay presentation. You may find it via the Department's "Student Resources and Information" page: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>

SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

All Assignments submitted in the Department of Theology and Religion must be prefaced with a student **Plagiarism Declaration Form**. They will not be deemed to have been submitted unless and until the Plagiarism Declaration Form has been submitted.

It can be downloaded from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/>. It is also on the Blackboard site for this course.

All assignments shall be submitted by 5 pm on the due dates notified. Assignments should be submitted in class or dropped off at the Theology Department Office, 4C10, 4th Floor, Arts Building. It is expected that the first assignment will be submitted as a working URL link or file in an email, addressed to Sister Jan Ogilvy (jm.ogilvy@otago.ac.nz), or on a flash drive. Part B, the oral presentation, will be given in class. The third assignment (a Power Point presentation) should be printed out (in black and white, 4 x per page) as well as provided electronically to Sister Jan. Further details will be provided nearer to the due date.

Before you submit your essay, make a backup copy, either in electronic form or on paper, and keep it in a safe place.

After assignments have been marked they will be available to pick up in class or from the Office. The intention is that the first assignment will be marked and returned to you before the second assignment is due; similarly for the second assignment in relation to the third.

You need to make sure that you check your student email and/or your student email forwards to the email address you normally use. If you don't know how to set up forwarding, contact the ITS service desk at (03) 479 8888 or: its.servicedesk@otago.ac.nz

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1

Creative Assignment – New Testament

Value 25% of final mark

Part A (15% of the final mark)

Due date Monday 27 March 2017

Choose one miracle OR parable account from the Gospels of Matthew or Luke. Design a presentation for a class using some form of information technology (eg. Voki.com, blog, wiki space, short video) conveying the **KEY POINTS** about the miracle or parable you have chosen. Supply corroborating notes to the presentation and show one Teaching strategy (how you will present this to your class). Name the class level you have chosen.

The marking of this assignment will take into account:

1. Shows evidence of understanding the Miracle or Parable chosen.
2. Ability to pitch material at level of age group chosen.
3. Clear presentation using your chosen medium.
4. Quality of presentation.
5. Corroborating notes including the teaching strategy you will use.
6. All sources must be referenced.

Part B (10% of the final mark)

Due date TBA

The miracle or parable you have chosen is to be presented orally (eg. learnt off by heart) and presented to the lecturer. Times will be arranged. Your lecturer will provide further details on how to present your assignment before the due date.

Assignment 2**An Essay – New Testament**

Value 25% of final mark
 Due date Monday 10 April 2017
 Length 2000-2500 words

Asking questions and then searching for the answers is a good way of getting to grips with what is going on in a story, or, in academic terms, of analysing a narrative. The questions set below by the literary critic, Mieke Bah can be helpful in this. She sets them out on three levels, the first concerned with speaking, the second with seeing, and the third with acting.

For this assignment choose one of the stories from the New Testament as listed, and analyse it on these three levels, asking the relevant questions as set out below. You might like to use each of the levels as a sub-heading in your assignment, but aim to write an essay using paragraphs rather than bullet-points.

A note regarding the narrator: be careful to distinguish between the writer and the narrator. The writer is the person who has written the story, just as you are writing this assignment; the narrator is the third person voice, created and written by the writer to tell some of the story INSIDE the story world. In other words, the storyteller uses the narrator to fill in some of the facts he/she wants the reader to know.

New Testament Stories:

Jesus and the Crowds, the Twelve, and His Family (Mark 3.7-21)
 The Blindness of the Disciples and the Blind Man at Bethsaida (Mark 8.6-25)
 Jesus Anointed at Bethany (Mark 14.1-19)
 The Arrest of Jesus (Mark 14.32-52)
 The Resurrection (Mark 16.1-20)
 Jesus Changes Water into Wine and Clears the Temple (John 2.1-22)
 Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet (John 13.1-20)
 Peter Denies Jesus Three Times (John 18.10-27)
 Jesus Appears to Thomas and the Miraculous Catch of Fish (John 20.24-21.14)
 The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost (Acts 2.1-21)
 The Death of Annaias and Sapphira (Acts 4.32-5.16)
 Lydia's Conversion and the Slave Girl (Acts 16.13-34)
 A Shipwreck and a Viper (Acts 27.27-28.6)

Questions to be used to analyse the narrative:

NB: Allot approx. 500 words for each of these sections (i.e. the three levels and the conclusion; in addition, you will need to write an introduction).

Level one:

- Who speaks? Who speaks more than the others?
- Who does not speak? Is this significant?
- How much space in the story is given to the narrator, compared with that given to the characters as they are speaking?
- What is the effect of the changes from speaking character to narrator?
- How important is the narrator?

Level two:

- Through whose eyes do we read the story? i.e. from whose point of view are we seeing and understanding what is happening?
- Whose point of view is never given?
- Does the point of view change, so that now we see through one character's eyes, and then with another's?
- If so, what difference does this make?
- Which characters are approved of (or disapproved of) by the narrator?
- How does the narrator indicate this?

Level three:

- Who acts? Who does not act?
- Whose actions are crucial for the plot?
- How do the characters act towards and relate to each other?

Conclusion

- What has the story been about?
- Which questions have been the most helpful?
- What have you seen in this story that you might have missed if you had not been asking these questions, on these three levels?

The marking of this assignment will take into account:

1. Your understanding and use of the method outlined above to analyse the text you have chosen.
2. The use you have made of the answers to the questions on each level in constructing your conclusions about the story you have chosen.
3. The extent to which you have reflected on the questions and their usefulness as you have developed your conclusions.
4. The clarity of your written work.
5. **All sources must be referenced.**

Assignment 3**Creative Assignment – Old Testament**

Value 10% of final mark
Due date Monday 8 May 2017

The stories of Abraham and Moses are taught in the Religious Education Programme. Using your background knowledge, design a Power Point presentation depicting the life of Abraham OR Moses. This must include their **CALL AND Mission and your understanding of covenant**. You will need to supply corroborating notes to the

presentation and pitch the material to suit the age and class level of your choice: this needs to be stated.

The marking of this assignment will take into account:

1. Shows evidence and understanding of reading and understanding the Abraham OR Moses story, including their **Call and Mission AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF Covenant.**
2. Clear and succinct expression of ideas on Power Point.
3. Ability to pitch material to age group chosen.
4. Quality of creative presentation.
5. Corroborating notes explaining the Power Point slides.
6. **All sources must be referenced.**

Examination

There will be a **two-hour exam worth 40%** of the final mark. Please see 'Examination' information in this Course Outline.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity means being honest in your studying and assessments. It is the basis for ethical decision-making and behaviour in an academic context. Academic integrity is informed by the values of honesty, trust, responsibility, fairness, respect and courage. Students are expected to be aware of, and act in accordance with, the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic Misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a breach of Academic Integrity and is taken very seriously by the University. Types of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, unauthorised collaboration, taking unauthorised material into a test or exam, impersonation, and assisting someone else's misconduct. A more extensive list of the types of academic misconduct and associated processes and penalties is available in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.

It is your responsibility to be aware of and use acceptable academic practices when completing your assessments. To access the information in the Academic Integrity Policy and learn more, please visit the University's Academic Integrity website at www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity or ask at the Student Learning Centre or Library. If you have any questions, ask your lecturer.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116838.html>

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago116850.html>

STUDENT SUPPORT

The "**Essential Information**" web page provides helpful information on how to access the University Library's resources, as well as a guide to the support services available to students at the University of Otago, including the Student Learning Centre and Disability Support.

For all **administrative enquiries**, please contact:

The Administrative Assistant for Theology and Religion.

Email: theology@otago.ac.nz Phone: 03 479 8516

We recommend that you contact the Department as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcements.

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION
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