



ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (SATC)

COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

COURSE CODE: BS100

COURSE CREDIT: 1

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a basic course which sets the Bible in a proper historical and social perspective. Each section of the course contributes basic information about the New and Old Testament as well as the overall goal of learning how to interpret and understand the Bible historically and theologically. It has been laid out sequentially so that the student will acquire Biblical skills in a cumulative and manageable way.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to one of the most influential books - the Bible. Students will see that, throughout their history, the people of Israel are faced with various crisis points that cause them to talk about God in different ways. The course will examine how and why this book is held to be "sacred" by numerous faith traditions. There are no prerequisites for this course.

AIM:

- To introduce the Bible to students and help them to become proficient students of the Bible and theology.
- To challenge students to become real interpreters of the Word of God
- To provide the aspiring students with many of the Biblical and Theological tools necessary for the task.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

Demonstrate Biblical literacy

- Identify structural features of the Bible (e.g., Old Testament, New Testament, Apocrypha, Pentateuch, Prophets, Writings, Gospels, Letters, etc.).
- Recount in chronological order the biblical narrative, identifying major historical figures, and events.

Identify factors that influence Biblical interpretation

- Identify the impact of historical events on the writing and theology of the different books in the Bible.
- Identify the various authors of the books of the Bible, their concerns and strategies (including genre), dates, and social position.
- Describe the various Biblical genres, providing examples.
- Describe how and why the Bible became an influential book (canonization).
- Explore presuppositions of our culture.
- Identify factors that influence reading strategies of the Bible.
- Find resources that will help students to extend their study of the Bible.

COURSE CONTENT:

➤ **The Canonization of the Bible**

This section offers the student important background knowledge relative to the composition, structure, the nature and purpose of the Bible.



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➤ **A Brief Overview of the Old Testament –**

This section offers a brief interpretative survey of the Old Testament.

1. Brief history of the Old Testament
2. Events and Themes of the Old Testament.
3. Key passages etc.

➤ **A Brief Overview of the New Testament –**

This section offers a brief interpretative survey of the New Testament.

1. Brief history of the New Testament.
2. The Life, Teachings & Ministry of Christ.
3. A brief look at the Gospels.
4. Events and Themes of the New Testament.
5. The Early Church.
 - Acts of the Apostles
 - The Apostle Paul, His writings &
 - The Developing Institutional Church
6. Brief Look at Apocalyptic Literature.
7. Key Passages etc.

COURSE TEXTS:

Achtemeir, P. J. (Ed.). (1996). *HarperCollins Bible dictionary*. New York: HarperOne.

Achtemeir, P. J. (Ed.). (2006). *Harper Collins study Bible - New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha*. New York: HarperOne.

Barclay, W. (1997). *Introducing the Bible* Nashville, TN. Abingdon Press.

Hayes, J. H. (1971). *Introduction to the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press.

The Bible (a modern critical edition, preferably the New Oxford Annotated, College Edition or the HarperCollins Study Bible; any respectable scholarly translation, e.g. RSV, NRSV,)

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

The Interpreter's Bible (1950). Abingdon, Cokesbury: United Methodist Publishing

The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible. (2006). Nashville TN. Abingdon Press.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Lectures

Discussion

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Class Attendance and participation	10%
Class Presentation	15% (Individual Student Presentation – Written and/or Oral)
Mid Term	25%
Final Exam (written)	50%
TOTAL	100%

The examination will cover the entire material, including the reading material, and will test the student's competence to integrate it into his/her overall theological skills. You may expect the



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examination to be lengthy, requiring detailed knowledge. **NB: A question will be asked on the final exam asking for the percentage of reading you accomplished throughout the course of the semester.**



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