

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2020
BT-501	Introduction to the Bible	Prerequisite:
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Tuesday	Instructor:	Dr. Greg Herrick	First day of classes:	Wed, Sept 9
Time:	6:45pm – 9:45pm	Email:	gregjherrick@gmail.com	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Sept 20
Room:	A2212	Phone:	403 700 6396	Last day to request revised final exam:	Mon, Nov 2
Lab/ Tutorial:	n/a	Office:	n/a	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Nov 20
	n/a	Office Hours:	n/a	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Nov 23
Final Exam:	No Final Exam			Last day of classes:	Mon, Dec 14

Course Description

An introduction to the events of the Old and New Testaments in their historical and canonical perspective. The general historical framework of the events presupposed by the Old and New Testaments will be studied in order to locate the biblical materials in a narrative. The development of canon with its implications for interpretation will be considered.

Expected Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, the student will:

1. Know the basic chronological framework in which Scripture is situated, especially as it related to major events in the life of Israel (including exodus, conquest, united/divided monarchy, exile & return, Jesus' ministry and the apostolic period), and major cultural and international factors as they pertain to the testaments. The student will also gain an appreciation for Israel's major institutions.
2. Gain an appreciation for the literary and theological character of Scripture and various methods/principles for reading scripture well.

Textbooks

Arnold, Bill T. and Beyer, Bryan E. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. Third Edition. Encountering Biblical Studies. Edited by Eugene Merrill. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015.

Elwell, Walter A. and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Third Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Course Schedule

#	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	Sept 15	Intro to Course and The Old Testament Chs. 1-3 in <i>EOT</i>	None
2	Sept 22	Genesis - Exodus	#1 - Read <i>EOT</i> 4-6; Gen 1-3, 12; 15; 17; 50; Ex 3; 6:1-9; 19-24 Questions
3	Sept 29	Leviticus-Deuteronomy	#2 - Read <i>EOT</i> 7-9; Lev 11:44-45; 16; 26:11-13; Num 6:22-26; Dt 6:4-6; 28-32 Questions
4	Oct 6	Joshua – 1 Samuel	#3 - Read <i>EOT</i> 11-13; Jos 1:1-9; 21:43-45; 23-24; Judges 1:1-3:6; 21:25; 1 Samuel 8-10; 15-16 Questions
5	Oct 13	2 Samuel – 2 Chronicles	#4 - Read <i>EOT</i> 14-16; 2 Sam 7; 11-12; 23; 1 Kings 8; 12; 2 Kings 17; 1 Chron 29; 2 Chron 10 Questions
6	Oct 20	Ezra-Esther & Poetry	#5 - Read <i>EOT</i> 18, 21, 23; Ezra 7:1-10; 9; Nehemiah 1; 6; 8 Ps 1-2; 13; 16; 45; 73; 145 Questions Paper 1: OT History & Genres
7	Oct 27	Major – Minor Prophets ** Must be read **	#6 Read <i>EOT</i> 24-26, 29, 31 Isa 2:12; 52:13-53:12; Jer 31:29-34; Lam 3:22-24; Ezek 36-37; Dan 7; 9; Hos 11:1; Joel 2:1-11, 28-32; Amos 5:18-20; 9:11-15 (Acts 15:16-17); Jonah 2:1-10; Micah 5:2; 6:8; Hab 2:4; Zeph 1:2-18; 3:17; Hag 1:2-11; Zech 3; Mal 2:17-3:6 Questions
8	Nov 3	Jesus & The Gospels I	#7 - Read <i>ENT</i> 2, 5, 7, 8; Luke 1-4; Mt 1-4; Mk 1:1-15; John 1:1-18 Questions
9	Nov 10	READING WEEK	NO CLASS
10	Nov 17	Jesus & The Gospels II	#8 - Read <i>ENT</i> 9, 11, 12; Mt 5-7; 11.1-13:53; Mk 8:22-10:52; Luke 21-24 Questions Paper 2: The Synoptic Problem
11	Nov 24	Acts & Paul's Letters	#9 - Read <i>ENT</i> 13, 14, 16; Acts 2; 4; 13; Romans 1:1-7, 16-17; 3:21-31; 5-8; Galatians 1-6 Questions
12	Dec 1	Paul & His Letters	#10 – Read <i>ENT</i> 17-19; Ephesians, Philippians, 2 Timothy, Titus Questions Paper 3: Covenant Theme
13	Dec 8	General Epistles & Revelation	#11 - Read <i>ENT</i> 22-24; Hebrews 9-10, Rev 1-5 Questions

Requirements:

1. All assignments - readings and papers - are due *before* the appropriate class period;
2. Reading – Best 9/11 Readings & Questions – 45% (2-5 sentence answer for each question); Do only 4 questions for each chapter read. Every student must do readings and questions for #7; it will not count as a skip.
3. 3 Papers – 55% (See SBL format on Moodle). Note: Read a dictionary article first (Anchor BD or IVP).
 - a. OT History & Genres (10%) (5-6 pages)
 - i. Introduction: Questions
 1. Give the nations and the dates of their prominence in the OT, as related to the nation of Israel.
 2. What does the term genre mean / refer to?
 3. What are some examples of various genres in the OT / NT?
 4. How does identifying the genre affect the task of interpretation? How are the two related?
 - ii. Choose 5 Genres: Brief Definition & Cite Three Examples for Each
 1. Historical Narrative
 2. Law
 3. Wisdom
 4. Poetry
 5. Prophetic
 6. Gospel
 7. Letter
 8. Apocalyptic
 - iii. Summary & Conclusion
 - b. The Synoptic Problem (20%) (7-8 pages)
 - i. Introduction: Questions
 1. What is the synoptic problem? What are the key questions involved?
 2. What are the textual aspects that give rise to the key questions?
 3. What are some of the more common solutions?
 - ii. Brief Description of Problem with Examples
 - iii. Proposed Solutions
 - iv. Summary & Conclusion
 - c. The Biblical Theme of Covenant – God & His People (25%) (8-10 pages)
 - i. Introduction: Questions
 1. What does the term covenant mean / refer to?
 2. What are some examples of covenants in the OT?
 3. How does “I will be your God and you will be my people” get worked out throughout scripture?
 4. How does this affect our reading of both testaments?
 - ii. Key Texts & Related Themes
 1. Genesis **12:1-3; 15; 17**; 26:1-6; 28:10-22
 2. Ex **6:6-8; 19**
 3. Lev **26:11-13**
 4. Deut 6:4-6; **7-8**; 17:14-20 (Kings); 18:1-8 (Priests); 18:9-22 (Prophets)
 5. 2 Sam **7:12-16**; **Ps 2; 16**; 45; 73; 89; Acts 2; 13
 6. Matt 1:18-25(**v. 23**)
 7. Luke **1:32-33**, 46-56; 67-80
 8. John 10:1-21
 9. 2 Cor 6:14-18
 10. 1 Peter 2:9-10
 11. **Rev 21:3-4, 7**
 - iii. Summary & Conclusion

Attendance:

The attendance policy is spelled out in the Seminary Handbook.

Grade Summary:

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	Mastery: Comprehensive understanding of subject matter	4.00
A		4.00
A-		3.70
B+	Proficient: Well-developed understanding of subject matter.	3.30
B		3.00
B-		2.70
C+	Basic: Developing understanding of subject matter	2.30
C		2.00
C-		1.70
D+	Minimal Pass: Limited understanding of subject matter	1.30
D		1.00
F	Failure: Failure to meet course requirements	0.00

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and/or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a

laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

On Campus:

- Counselling Services: ambrose.edu/counselling
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at ambrose.edu/wellness.
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See ambrose.edu/crisissupport for a list of staff members.

Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

Sexual Violence Support

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness.

Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.