



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**TH1023 – Approaching the Bible**  
**Fall 2022**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
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## ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

This course sets out to immerse the student in the biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation. Demonstrating the coherence of Scripture, this course will demonstrate how each book tells the story of God's redemptive acts in history. Additionally, this course will provide an introduction to the unique sections encompassed by the biblical story, creating a greater awareness of the inspiration and trustworthiness of the Bible. The student will engage in exercises that will equip them to engage with, and interpret Scripture in a meaningful way.

## ***COURSE TEXTBOOKS***

The Holy Bible (a translation, not a paraphrase).

Goheen, Michael W., and Craig G. Bartholomew. *The True Story of the Whole World: Finding Your Place in the Biblical Drama*. Brazos Press, 2020. **170 Pages.**

Smethurst, Matt. *Before You Open Your Bible: Nine Heart Postures for Approaching God's Word*. Leyland, ENG: 10 Publishing, 2019. **80 pages.**

## ***COURSE OBJECTIVES***

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Communicate, simply and clearly, the overarching story of the Bible from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation.
2. Formulate the complete order of all the biblical books, their respective sections, and appreciate the importance of divergent biblical genres.
3. Gain a renewed vision of the value of God's Word as a guidebook for life and grow deeper in love with God as a result.
4. Feel more confident in their handling of God's Word, and discerning its meaning.
5. Develop a general understanding for formatting and preparing a college-level paper, including references.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Daily Quiz on Biblical Section/Book Memorization – 10%**

- At the beginning of each class, students will be (sequentially) quizzed on their memorization of the divisions of the biblical canon (the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments). Students, upon receipt of the section (i.e. the Pentateuch) will be required to list all the applicable books contained within the section (i.e. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Please see handout, “Periodic Table of the Bible.”
- The student will be graded on two areas: identifying the right books for each section and having them in their proper order.

***DUE: 8 quizzes total, one at the beginning of each class session***

### **Daily Take-Home Assignment - 4 assignments, each worth 5% (20% total)**

- These assignments are designed to help format papers and other academic work to NBC standards: cover pages, bibliographies, footnotes, and research tools.

***DUE: September 6th, 7th, 8th, & 9th***

### **Text Reading & Book Summary - 25%**

- Read *The True Story of the Whole World* by Bartholomew/Goheen in its entirety.
- Compose a six to seven page book summary paper that provides a chapter summary from “Prologue” to “Act 6: the Return of the King” (note: a summary should be given for each “scene”). Each chapter summary should be at least half a page & at most a full page. The student will identify what percentage of the book was read at the beginning of the paper.
- By way of a conclusion (1 page), demonstrate your understanding of the biblical narrative by providing a personal reflection on how the story interacts with your own life and the implications for your story as you grow deeper in the faith, and indeed, God’s story.
- For further details in writing a good chapter summary hints and a grading rubric please refer to the “chapter summary rubric” document in your “course documents” folder in NEO.

***DUE: Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>***

### **Text Reading & Reflection Paper – 20%**

- Read *Before You Open Your Bible* by Smethurst in its entirety.
- Compose a two-page reflection paper that identifies in the reflection section three-five insights you gained for how you study the Word of God at Bible college.
- Identify what percentage of the book was read at the beginning of the paper.
- For further details on reflection paper expectations, please refer to the “reflection paper” document in your “course documents” folder in NEO.

**DUE: Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

### **Course Final Exam - 25%**

**Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am.**

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance to the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due at **8:30 a.m.** on the day that they are assigned.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

- The classroom will be a technology-free zone. Laptops, tablets, and cell phones will not be permitted. Notes are to be taken by hand, and full engagement is expected.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022/2023

### **LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2022/2023

**Reading: 250 pages**

**Writing: 8-9 pages + 4 take-home assignments**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Class Date	Class Material	Quiz Topic	Assignment Due
Monday, Sept. 5	Class introduction, syllabus, and understanding narrative: God's story and ours.		
Tuesday, Sept. 6	Exploring the narrative of Scripture through the lens of "The True Story of the Whole World."	The Pentateuch	<b>Take-home #1: cover page assignment</b>
Wednesday, Sept. 7	Exploring the narrative of Scripture through the lens of "The God Who Is There" - part 1.	Narrative History	<b>Take-home #2: bibliography</b>
Thursday, Sept. 8	Exploring the narrative of Scripture through the lens of "The God Who Is There" - part 2.	Wisdom Writings	<b>Take-home #3: footnotes assignment</b>
Friday, Sept. 9	Exploring the narrative of Scripture through the lens of "The Bible Project."	Major Prophets	<b>Take-home #4: research tools and practice</b>
Monday, Sept. 12	Approaching the text: reading the right book for the wrong reasons.	Minor Prophets	
Tuesday, Sept. 13	Approaching the text: undertaking the interpretive journey, and historical-cultural context.	The Gospels and Accompanying Historical Narrative	<b>"The True Story of the Whole World" chapter summaries and declaration.</b>
Wednesday, Sept. 14	Approaching the text: literary context.	Paul's Letters to Churches/Paul's Letters to Individuals	
Thursday, Sept. 15	Approaching the text: discerning meaning, and application.	The General Letters and Prophetic/ Apocalyptic Letter	<b>"Before You Open Your Bible" reflection paper and declaration.</b>
Friday, Sept. 16	Final exam		

## **SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF POPULAR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY BOOKS**

### **Biblical Theology**

Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional. 2008.

Alexander, T. Desmond, and Brian S. Rosner. *The New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Beale, G. K. *The Temple and the Church's Mission*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Dumbrell, William J. *The End of the Beginning: Revelation 21-22 and the Old Testament*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2001

Feinberg, John S. (Ed). *Continuity and Discontinuity: Perspectives on the Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1988.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*. Leicester, UK: Intervarsity Press, 1991.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel and Kingdom* (1981) in *The Goldsworthy Trilogy*. Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster Press, 2000.

Greenslade, Philip. *A Passion for God's Story: Discovering Your Place in God's Strategic Plan*. Carlisle, Cumbria: Paternoster Press, 2002.

Hafemann, Scott, and Paul R. House. *Central Themes in Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007.

Hahn, Scott. *A Father Keeps Who Keeps His Promises: God's Covenant Love in Scripture*. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1998.

Johnston, Philip S. *The IVP Introduction to the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Newbigin, Lesslie. *A Walk Through the Bible*. Vancouver, B.C.: Regent College Publishing, 1999.

Paul, Ian, and Philip Jenson. *What's the Bible All About? Understanding the Story of the Bible*. Cambridge, UK: Grove Books, 2006.

Roberts, Vaughan. *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2002.

- Scobie, Charles. *The Ways of our God: An Approach to Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002.
- Strom, Mark. *The Symphony of Scripture: Making Sense of the Bible's Many Themes*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1990, 2001.
- Vang, Preben, and Terry Carter. *Telling God's Story: The Biblical Narrative from Beginning to End*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2006.
- Williams, Michael D. *Far as the Curse is Found: The Covenant Story of Redemption*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2005.

### **Biblical Interpretation and Teaching**

- Gangel, Kenneth O. *24 Ways to Improve Your Teaching*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1974.
- Downs, Perry G. *Teaching for Spiritual Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.
- Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.
- Dyck, Elmer (Ed). *The Act of Bible Reading*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Hendricks, Howard G. *Teaching that Changes Lives*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1987.
- Hendricks, Howard G., and William D. Hendricks. *Living by the Book*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1991.
- Hendricks, Howard G. *Teaching to Change Lives*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 1987.
- McCartney, Dan, and Charles Clayton. *Let the Reader Understand (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed)*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Publishing, 2002.

- McQuilkin, J. Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1983.
- Pazmino, Robert W. *Basics for Teaching for Christians*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.
- Richards, Lawrence O., and Gary J. Bredfeldt. *Creative Bible Teaching*. Moody Press, 1998.
- Schultz, Thom and Joani. *Why Nobody Learns Much of Anything at Church: and How to Fix it*. Loveland, CO: Group, 1993.
- Stein, Robert H. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.
- Wilkinson, Bruce. *Almost Every Answer for Practically any Teacher*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 1992.
- Wilkinson, Bruce. *The Seven Laws of the Learner*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 1992.
- Willis, Wesley R. *Make Your Teaching Count!* Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1986.
- Yount, William R. (Ed). *The Teaching Ministry of the Church (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed)*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2008.
- Zuck, Roy B. *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth*. Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1991.