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## BS 400 Bible Survey

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# BS 400XL Bible Survey

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This syllabus may be amended prior to the beginning of class.

## Welcome to BS 400XL

We will be working through the Bible together, becoming acquainted with its narratives, instructions, prophecies and poetic expressions of the heart. Our specific concern is to build a working knowledge of the people, places, events, instructions, etc. of the Bible. As we pursue this concern let's keep in mind that the data points beyond itself. It points to relationships between God, people, and the world through which God reveals important truth about who we are, who God is, and life itself. We want to learn the data in such a way that it reminds us of the narratives, instructions, prophecies, worship expressions, etc. that communicate these relationships to us and through which God speaks to us.

## Support for the Journey

I will be your guide through our journey through the Bible. As a guide I will help us to organize for the trip, chart the path we will take, set our pace, draw attention to landmarks, and record our findings. Please do not hesitate to dialog with me about any discoveries, questions, obstacles, etc. that you encounter. Prior to the beginning of the course you may reach me by email (preferred) or by phone (before 10:00 p.m.). Once the course begins you may utilize the "to Office" icon to send messages to me that are intended for my eyes only.

In addition, the following people are available to assist you with any concerns you have about technical or administrative issues concerning the ExL program:

### ExL Contact Information:

For **general questions regarding the ExL program**, email [ExL\\_Office@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu)

For **technical support**, email [ExL\\_Office@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu)

For **library research support**, contact Information Commons at [Information\\_Commons@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu)

For **library loans**, contact Dot James at [Dot\\_James@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Dot_James@asburyseminary.edu)

### **Catalog Course Description**

This course is designed to rapidly survey the Bible in order to acquaint the student with the geography, historical framework, persons, and contents of the Bible.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Students will be able to identify the major characters, events, places, time periods, and general content of the books of the Old Testament and New Testament.
2. Students will be able to present a synopsis of the content and sequence of the biblical canon.
3. Students will gain experience with reflecting upon biblical content, the way it relates to the whole canon, and listening to God as they reflect upon the content.
4. Students will gain experience in collaborating with others to compose a survey of the content of the Bible.

### **Course Texts - Required**

1. *HarperCollins Study Bible* (NRSV), Harper San Francisco, 1993 (Hard: ISBN 0060655801) or 1997 (Soft: ISBN 0060655275).
2. *HarperCollins Concise Atlas of the Bible*, edited by James B. Pritchard, 1997 (ISBN 0062514997).

### **Basic Orientation:**

1. Beginnings

Our course will begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2004. Sometime during the day, our course icon will appear on your FirstClass desktop.

2. Modules

Each module will be available by the first Monday, 9:00 a.m. ET of the period for which it is scheduled. Upon opening each module, you will find detailed instructions for that module. These modules will consistently be found within the Course Center. In addition to posting each module on Monday of each week, I will be on-line throughout each week to answer any of your questions, respond to your comments, and participate in discussions.

### 3. Windows and Icons

While I am sure that each of you are aware of the intended use of each of the items which appear in the BS400X folder, let me summarize the manner in which I intend to use them this semester:

The Course Center will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules.

The Discussion Center will be used for all public communications. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else which would be of interest to your classmates and me, you should post to the Discussion Center. Also, this is where our conversations for each module will take place.

The Teams folder will be used for team discussions and collaboration.

The To Office icon is for private correspondence between you and me. This is where you will submit individual assignments and send private correspondence to me.

The Archives Center will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The Chat Center is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. None of the conversations carried on in this location is ever saved.

The Resource Center provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, the Services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer, and a Real Audio player. I encourage you to take advantage of all these resources, and particularly to utilize the chapel access in order to connect with the seminary's on-campus opportunities for spiritual growth.

#### **Endings ....**

Our course will officially end (communication will come to a close) on December 17, 2004. You will receive an exit correspondence from me on that day. You will not be able to submit anything to me after 12 midnight (PT) on December 17.

#### **Course Requirements**

1. Students will write and submit to their Team folder **an Interaction Paper for each module** that engages with the assigned portion of the Bible. The interaction paper will have four parts:

a. In part one, students will provide a **synopsis** of that portion of the Bible (from a few sentences to several small paragraphs per book).

b. In part two, students will **list** the major characters, events, places, time periods and other significant data found in that portion of the Bible.

c. In part three, students will raise several **questions** about or offer some initial **reflections** upon the content of the Bible portion and the responses they think the content is calling for from their contemporary Christian community. (a few sentences to a small paragraph per interaction paper)

d. In part four, students will write a **brief paragraph** offering some initial reflection on the **relationships** of the assigned portion of the Bible to other parts of the **canon**.

2. Students will all be assigned to a team folder. Each team folder will have four to six students assigned to it. Within their team folder students will **collaborate** to form a synthesis of their individual interaction papers. It will be the responsibility of each team to create a **team consensus paper** for each module that represents a consensus of the thought of the whole team. This collaboration will go through several stages:

a. Students will read their team members individual interaction papers and **discuss** with each other what should be included in the synopsis, the list of data, the questions and reflections, and canonical significance sections.

b. The team will strive to reach a **consensus** regarding what should be included in the paper. (The paper should not simply add parts of individual team members' papers to each other. Instead, work as an editorial team).

c. One student from the team will be responsible to **submit to the "Discussion Center"** their team's interaction paper. When we move to a different module, responsibility for submitting the team interaction paper will rotate to a different team member.

d. Students will prepare for the midterm and final exams by **studying** the material indicated by the team interaction papers. Questions on these exams will include data from the team interaction papers.

3. For each module, one member from each team will present to the "Discussion Center" a **devotional thought** based on some of the Bible verses they are studying during that module. This responsibility will rotate to another team member when we enter another module. The devotional thought should be no more than 250 words.

4. Students will take a **Midterm Exam** covering content from Genesis to Song of Songs. The exam will be in a multiple choice and short answer format. The material on the exam will include data taken from the team interaction papers.

5. Students will take a **Final Exam** covering content from Isaiah to Revelation. The exam will be in a multiple choice and short answer format. The material on the exam will include data taken from the team interaction papers.

## Course Grading Method

This course is a pass/fail course. A score of 70% is necessary to pass the course. The score will be calculated as follows:

1. Interaction Papers – 15%
2. Participation in Team Discussions – 10%
3. Team Interaction Papers – 10%
4. Devotional Presentation – 5%
4. Midterm Exam – 30%
5. Final Exam – 30%

The grading scale for exams will be:

90 and above = A, 80 and above = B, 70 and above = C, 60 and above = D, below 60 = F.

## Course Outline

### Module One (September 7-13): Genesis

1. Devotional thought, Introductory comments, Team assignments
2. Read Genesis
3. Sample interaction paper (Genesis)
4. Team discussion of sample interaction paper (complete by Monday, **September 13**, 12 midnight PT)
5. Instructor's posting of team consensus paper for Genesis

### Module Two (September 13-28): Exodus through Numbers

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Exodus through Numbers
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **September 20**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Exodus through Numbers
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and the devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **September 28**, 12 midnight PT

### Module Three (September 20 - October 5): Deuteronomy through Ruth

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Deuteronomy through Ruth
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **September 27**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Deuteronomy through Ruth

5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **October 5**, 12 midnight PT

Module Four (September 27 - October 12): 1 Samuel through 2 Kings

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read 1 Samuel through 2 Kings
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **October 4**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of 1 Samuel through 2 Kings
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **October 12**, 12 midnight PT

Module Five (October 4- October 19): 1 Chronicles through Esther

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read 1 Chronicles through Esther
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **October 11**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of 1 Chronicles through Esther
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **October 19**, 12 midnight PT

Module Six (October 11- 26): Job through Song of Songs

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Job through Song of Songs
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **October 18**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Job through Song of Songs
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **October 26**, 12 midnight PT

Module Seven (October 18- November 2): Review and Midterm Exam

1. Review team interaction papers
2. Instructor's posting of exam by Wednesday, October 20, 9:00 a.m. ET
3. **Midterm Exam due by Tuesday, October 28 November 2, 12 midnight PT**

Module Eight (October 25- November 9): Isaiah through Lamentations

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Isaiah through Lamentations
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **November 1**, 12 midnight ET
4. Team discussion of Isaiah through Lamentations

5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **November 9**, 12 midnight PT

Module Nine (November 1- November 16): Ezekiel through Malachi

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Ezekiel through Malachi
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **November 8**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Ezekiel through Malachi
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **November 16**, 12 midnight PT

Module Ten (November 8- November 23): Matthew through Mark

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Matthew through Mark
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **November 15**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Matthew through Mark
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **November 23**, 12 midnight PT

Module Eleven (November 15- November 30): Luke through John

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Luke through John
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **November 22**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Luke through John
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **November 30**, 12 midnight PT

Module Twelve (November 17 - December 7): Acts through Philemon

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Acts through Philemon
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **November 29**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Acts through Philemon
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **December 7**, 12 midnight PT

Module Thirteen (November 29- December 14): Hebrews through Revelation

1. Read introductory comments

2. Read Hebrews through Revelation
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Monday, **December 6**, 12 midnight PT
4. Team discussion of Hebrews through Revelation
5. Submit team consensus paper to the Discussion Center and devotional thought to the Discussion Center by Tuesday, **December 14**, 12 midnight PT

#### Module Fourteen (December 6 - December 17): Review and Final Exam

1. Review team interaction papers
2. Instructor's posting of exam by Wednesday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. ET
3. **Final Exam due by Friday, December 17, 12 midnight PT**

The following information will be immensely helpful to you:

### **Obtaining Library Materials and Assistance**

**General Questions:** [information\\_commons@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:information_commons@asburyseminary.edu) Toll-free 1-866-454-2733

This is the best place to start when you have questions about library resources. Help is available Monday-Thursday from 8AM-7PM and Friday and Saturday from 8AM-5:45PM. If the people at the desk can not answer your questions, they will direct you to the person or department who can.

**Materials Requests:** [library\\_loan@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:library_loan@asburyseminary.edu) Or call toll-free 1-866-454-2733

ExL Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the library loan office for information on costs and instructions on how to make requests.

ExL students are also encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Wilmore campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

**Research Questions:** [Hannah Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu)

**Or call the toll-free number and ask to be transferred to Hannah**

**(x2189).**

ExL students are encouraged to contact Hannah Kirsch for research assistance including help choosing a paper topic, determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

#### **Online Databases:**

To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to [www.asburyseminary.edu/library](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/library) and enter your 10 digit student id number in the login box. Your student id is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a ten digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id). If you have questions, contact the information commons desk.

Blessings.