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## BS 400 Bible Survey

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Asbury Theological Seminary  
BS400  
Bible Survey  
Spring 2001

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weekdays only, please!)

THIS SYLLABUS IS TENTATIVE!

## OVERVIEW

An introduction to the basic content of the Christian Scripture.

## LEARNING GOALS

1. Content: Students will know and be able to articulate the basic content of the Bible, the OT, the NT and each book therein. Students will thereby gain a confidence in navigating the pages of Scripture.
2. Hermeneutics/Exegesis: This course does not cover hermeneutics or exegesis, the science and art of interpreting texts. However, this course does seek to acquaint students with Biblical content foundational to interpreting the Bible and specific passages therein. Therefore, student will be aware of the possible interpretative significance of Biblical content. Students will be confident enough in their knowledge of Biblical content to use it in other interpretative courses and/or preparation for preaching and teaching.
3. Biblical Theology: This course does not cover biblical theology, the articulation of the theological message of Scripture as a whole. However, this course does seek to acquaint students with Biblical content foundational to articulating a Biblical theology. Therefore, student will be aware of possible directions for Biblical theology in light Biblical content. Students will be confident enough in their knowledge of Biblical content to use it to articulate a Biblical theology in other courses and in the practice of ministry.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bible! Preferably *NRSV* or *RSV*. *NIV* allowable.

Anderson, Bernhard W. *The Unfolding Drama of the BIBLE*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.

Marshall, Celia Brewer. *A Guide Through the Old Testament*. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox, 1989.

Marshall, Celia Brewer. *A Guide Through the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster/ John Knox, 1994.

## COLLATERAL TEXTS

Aharoni, Yohanan and Michael Avi-Yonah. *The Macmillian Bible Atlas*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Rev. Anson F. Rainey and Ze'ev Safrai. New York: Macmillian, 1993.

Bauer, David. *Biblical Resources for Ministry*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Napanee: Evangel, 1995.

*Bible Map Insert*. Fort Smith: Son Light, 1995.

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981.

Bruce, F.F. *New Testament History*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1969.

### EVALUATION: TWO EXAMINATIONS

Your grade be calculated basis of two examinations:

| Examination | Date                     | Weight |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------|
| OT Exam     | Thursday October 26 4pm  | 50%    |
| NT Exam     | Thursday December 14 1pm | 50%    |

This course is credit/non-credit. A grade of 70% will be required to receive credit.

### ATTENDANCE

Students will indicate attendance each day on an attendance sheet. Students will be allowed two excused absences, if the instructor is notified at the student's earliest convenience. More than two unexcused absences will render a student ineligible to receive course credit.

### READINGS

Students will complete all the assigned readings prior to class. Students will indicate at the beginning of each class on the attendance sheet what percentage of the assigned reading you completed for that day. Students will not be allowed to amend the percentage from previous class days. Failure to complete 100% of the assigned readings prior to class for more than two class days (including absences!) will render a student ineligible to receive course credit.

### BREWER WORKBOOKS

Students will complete the assigned reading and study guide questions from the Brewer workbooks (*A Guide Through the OT* and *A Guide Through the NT*). The additional discussion questions, class projects, creative writing assignments, etc. are optional. Students will submit completed workbooks to the instructor during the appropriate examination period. Failure to submit the completed workbooks will render a student ineligible to receive course credit.

### REFLECTION PAPER

Students will complete Anderson's *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible* by December 7. Students will write a one-page single-spaced reflection paper answering the following questions: "Do you think Anderson's view of the Bible as unfolding drama provides an adequate basis of a synthetic Biblical theology? Why or why not? Strengths? Weaknesses? What other proposals might one suggest? How do they fare in comparison?" Students will submit this paper on December 7 as proof of completing the book. Failure to submit the reflection paper will render a student ineligible to receive course credit.