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## BS 400 Bible Survey

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**Bible Survey  
BS 400 X2  
Fall 2005  
Instructor: Holly J. Carey**

*Please note that this syllabus is subject to revision by the instructor.*

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**Contact Information**

Holly J. Carey  
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You may contact me by phone at my home number for urgent matters, but be aware that *I am currently living in Scotland* and that I am generally 5-8 hours ahead of US time! For this reason, it is best to contact me via email.

**E-mail:** Before our course begins, feel free to contact me via the above e-mail address about any questions you might have; *but when the course begins, you will need to address personal correspondence to my virtual office* (under **Basic Orientation** below, see (3) **to Office**). This way you can be assured that your e-mail will not get lost somewhere in my personal ATS mailbox!

I will make every effort to be working online in our classroom every day, or at the very least, every other day, because I know how important it is for the instructor to make herself available in an online course. You will be notified in advance if I must go offline for more than a full day. This is a commitment that I make to you.

**Welcome to BS 400X2!**

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.

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 and administrative assistance regarding the ExL program**, contact Dale Hale:

[ExL\\_Office@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu)  
Phone: (859) 858-2393

For **technical support, library research support, library loans**, and **ExL media** contact Information Commons:

[Info\\_Commons@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu)  
Phone: (859) 858-2233  
Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

### **Accessing Information Commons Materials:**

#### **1. General Questions:**

- The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here:

<http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/hours.shtml>.

#### **2. Materials Requests:**

- To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/index.shtml>

- 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 Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

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

### **3. Research Questions:**

- ExL students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons 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.

### **4. Online Databases:**

- To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/icommons/index.shtml> 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 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

## **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 Monday, September 5, 2005. Sometime during the day, our course icon will appear on your FirstClass desktop.

### **2. Modules**

Each module will be available by the first **Tuesday, 12 noon EST** 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 Tuesday 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 BS400X2 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. Note that 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 16, 2005. You will receive an exit correspondence from me on that day. You will not be able to submit anything to me after 12 midnight (EST) on December 16.

## **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%
5. Midterm Exam – 30%
6. 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 6 -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 Tuesday, **September 13**, 12 midnight EST)
5. Instructor's posting of sample consensus paper for Genesis

### Module Two (September 13 – September 27): Exodus through Numbers

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Exodus through Numbers



3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Tuesday, **September 20**, 12 midnight EST
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 27**, 12 midnight EST

Module Three (September 20 – October 4): Deuteronomy through Ruth

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

Module Four (September 27 – October 11): 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 Tuesday, **October 4**, 12 midnight EST
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 11**, 12 midnight EST

Module Five (October 4 – October 18): 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 Tuesday, **October 11**, 12 midnight EST
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 18**, 12 midnight EST

Module Six (October 11 – October 25): 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 Tuesday, **October 18**, 12 midnight EST
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 25**, 12 midnight EST

Module Seven (October 18 – November 1): Review and Midterm Exam

1. Review team interaction papers
2. Instructor's posting of exam by Wednesday, October 26, 12 noon EST
3. **Midterm Exam due by Tuesday, November 1, 12 midnight EST**

Module Eight (October 25– November 8): Isaiah through Lamentations

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Isaiah through Lamentations
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Tuesday, **November 1**, 12 midnight EST
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 8**, 12 midnight EST

Module Nine (November 1 – November 15): Ezekiel through Malachi

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Ezekiel through Malachi
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Tuesday, **November 8**, 12 midnight EST
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 15**, 12 midnight EST

Module Ten (November 8 – November 22): Matthew through Mark

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Matthew through Mark
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Tuesday, **November 15**, 12 midnight EST
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 22**, 12 midnight EST

#### Module Eleven (November 15 – November 29): Luke through John

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Luke through John
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Tuesday, **November 22**, 12 midnight EST
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 29**, 12 midnight EST

#### Module Twelve (November 22 – December 6): Acts through Philemon

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Acts through Philemon
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Tuesday, **November 29**, 12 midnight EST
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 6**, 12 midnight EST

#### Module Thirteen (November 29 – December 13): Hebrews through Revelation

1. Read introductory comments
2. Read Hebrews through Revelation
3. Compose individual interaction paper and submit to the Team Center by Tuesday, **December 6**, 12 midnight EST
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 13**, 12 midnight EST

#### Module Fourteen (December 6 – December 16): Review and Final Exam

1. Review team interaction papers
2. Instructor's posting of exam by Wednesday, December 14, 12 noon EST
3. **Final Exam due by Friday, December 16, 12 midnight EST**