

## BIBLICAL INTRODUCTION

Course Goal: This is a survey course of the Bible, covering the historical, religious, and literary backgrounds of the Bible and its times.  
This will include a look at the relevant history and literature of contemporaneous cultures, from Sumer to Rome. The importance of the geo-topographical situation of the promised land will be sketched as well as the contributions of archaeology in confirming the biblical record.  
The historical development of the biblical canon will be discussed, including theories of and criteria for canonicity. Omission from the canon of apocrypha and pseudepigraphal writings will be considered.  
Higher criticism will be introduced: a brief history of higher criticism, various models of skeptics, with a critique of critical approaches to the Bible.  
Introduction to textual criticism: definition and necessity, the canons (principles) of text criticism, and illustrations. Preservation of the biblical text through centuries in various manuscript traditions and translations.

### Texts:

- 1) Frank E. Gabelein, ed. *Expositor's Bible Commentary: Introductory Articles*, Vol. 1 (Select essays).
- 2) Gleason Archer. *Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, Part I
- 3) Everett Harrison. *Introduction to the New Testament*, Parts I-IV (Similar NT Intros are acceptable.)
- 4) **Recommended:** Paul Wright. *Holman QuickSource Bible Atlas*  
Students may give a one minute brief each class session on their favorite Holman chart/map of the day.  
All readings must be completed by July 31.

### Assignments

- 1) Reading and Reporting. Following the reading schedule below, produce a three to five page outline of the assigned essay found in the *Expositors Bible Commentary*; supplement your outline with information from the assigned, supplemental reading(s). The outline will be used for class review in June. You may wish to bring your own annotated outline to the June session.
- 2) Essay Quizzes. Once you read each essay and complete its outline, take the relevant, open-book quiz on that essay.
- 3) Final Exam. This exam will be based on the original questions from the quizzes and will be taken the last day of class in June 2015.
- 4) An eight+ page paper due by June 30. (Electronic Submission is OK.) Possible topics are:
  - Compare/contrast Near eastern accounts with the biblical account of the creation or of the flood
  - Compare/contrast Hammurabi's Law Code with that of Moses
  - Develop some of the methods of archaeology; or summarize a listing of some of its major contributions
  - Define and Critique a higher critical method
  - Develop reasons why the apocrypha is sub-canonical
  - Develop the importance of textual criticism
  - The impact of the Bible on cultures of the ages OR the importance of having the Bible in understandable language
  - Your choice...

### Grading

Readings = 20%    Outlines = 30 %    Quizzes = 20%    Paper = 15%    Final = 15%

**BIBLICAL INTRODUCTION**  
**Reading and Quiz Schedule**  
PMP 2014-2015

(The Outline and Quiz for each Essay is due by the end of each designated month.  
Electronic submissions are OK.)

- October**      Geography of Palestine. *EBC*:83-102 by Houston
- November**    OT Archaeological Highlights. *EBC* I:309-338 by Wiseman  
                  Reference Archer I, chpt 13
- NT Archaeological Highlights. *EBC* I:645-672 by Yamauchi
- Contemporary OT Cultures. *EBC* I:339-358 by Livingston
- December**    Between the Testaments. *EBC*:179-196 by Hoehner
- Background of NT times. *EBC*:483-500 by Rupprecht  
                  Reference Harrison, parts I and II
- January**      Historical/Literary Criticism of OT. *EBC*:232-252 by Harrison  
                  Reference Archer, part I, chpts. 6-12
- Historical/Literary Criticism of NT. *EBC*:437-458 by Guthrie
- February**     Canon of the OT. *EBC*:385-394 by Fisher  
                  Reference Archer, Introduction 1 & 2 and part I, chpt 5, and, if possible,  
                  Bruce, chap. 1 of *The Canon of Scripture*
- Canon of the NT. *EBC*:631-644 by Walls  
                  Reference Harrison, part IV, and Bruce, chaps. 21-23 of *The Canon of Scripture*
- March**        Intro to Text Criticism of the OT. *EBC*:211-230 by Waltke  
                  Reference Archer, part I, chpts. 3 and 4
- Intro to Text Criticism of the NT. *EBC*:419-438 by Fee  
                  Reference Harrison, part III
- April**         Bible Transmission and Translation. *EBC*:39-60 by Bruce