

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary  
**Bible Survey**

BI-400 (0 Units)  
Spring 2002  
Tuesday 6:00pm – 9:00pm  
February 5, 12, 19, and 26

David Eagle

### **Course Description**

This course seeks to give students a basic understanding of the content of the bible, as well as a historical and thematic framework within which to situate the biblical material.

### **Course Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to work through the Bible in a systematic fashion. Students will gain an appreciation for the historical framework in which the bible is situated, will become familiar with the content of the 66 books of the bible, and will become familiar with several common themes that run through the biblical text. The objectives of this course are as follows:

1. To understand the basic content of each book of the bible.
2. To understand the important historical events and figures during Israel's history.
3. To understand the important historical events and figures of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century.
4. To gain an appreciation for several major themes that run through the Bible.

### **Textbooks**

*The Bible* (NRSV or NIV recommended)

Alexander, David, and Pat Alexander, eds. *The Zondervan Handbook to the Bible*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. 813 pages. ISBN: 0310230950

All selected readings for this course will be based on the Bible and the textbook. The textbook is an update to the popular Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible. Students are encouraged to purchase this book, as it is a helpful resource for teaching in the church and for later studies. A copy will be placed on reserve in the Hiebert Library for those who do not wish to purchase the book. Older editions of Eerdmans Handbook cannot be used as they lack certain key articles.

### **Learning Activities**

1. Class Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend all of the class sessions, and participate in class discussions and other classroom learning activities. As noted in the Academic policies, students missing more than 25% of class sessions will drop one letter grade.
2. Textbook/Bible Readings: Students will be given a list of 4 separate reading assignments during the first class. Students are required to complete **three** of these four reading assignments. Readings will be selected from the bible and from *The Zondervan Bible Handbook*.

3. Reading Reports (3): Students are expected to submit on the Monday prior (Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>) to the class session a 1 page reading report. This report is to be submitted via email ([deeagle@jps.net](mailto:deeagle@jps.net)) or via fax (561.423.0770). Reports will be reduced by 10% for each day late. This report is to contain:
- A 400-word summary of the readings in *The Zondervan Bible Handbook*. This should summarize the content and theme of each of the biblical books covered in that week's reading.
  - A 125-word personal reflection/interaction with the material covered in the readings (either the handbook or the readings.)
  - At least one question raised by the reading or one issue you would like to discuss further. Several of these questions will be discussed during class time.
  - A note detailing which biblical texts were read.
4. Quizzes (3): Each class session will conclude with a short, written quiz. Each quiz will consist of three to five short answer, true or false, or matching type question covering the day's lecture material. Quizzes will take no more than 15 minutes. A sample quiz will be completing during the first class.

### Course Schedule

February 6 <sup>th</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to the Course</li> <li>2. Overview of canonization and Biblical translation</li> <li>3. Bible Study: Genesis 1+2</li> <li>4. Introduction to the Ancient Near East</li> <li>5. Brief overview of Israel's history</li> </ol>
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to the major themes in Wisdom theology</li> <li>2. Overview of Covenant</li> <li>3. Prophets and their relationship to covenant</li> <li>4. Bible Study: Isaiah 1</li> </ol>
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to New Testament history</li> <li>2. What is a gospel? Dealing with the gospels as a literary genre.</li> <li>3. Exploring the different emphases of the four gospels.</li> <li>4. Bible Study: Purging of the Temple passages</li> </ol>
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Paul</li> <li>2. Pauline authorship</li> <li>3. Paul and the Law</li> <li>4. Bible Study: Romans 7</li> <li>5. Understanding Revelation</li> </ol>

## Summary of Grading Scheme

This course is grading on a credit/no credit grading scheme. **Credit for the course is obtained with a 70% or greater average.** Upon passing this course, the student is no longer required to write the Bible Content Exam. The grade is calculated as follows:

1. Attendance and participation in 4 class sessions ..... 40%
2. 3 reading reports ..... 45%
3. 3 quizzes..... 15%
4. TOTAL ..... 100%

## Workload

The workload for this course is as follows:

Class attendance (4 classes @ 3 hours/each).....	12 hours
Textbook Reading (316-398 pages @ 30 pages/hour).....	13 hours
Bible Reading (3 hours per week) .....	9 hours
Reading Reports (6 pages @ 1 hour per page) .....	6 hours
TOTAL .....	40 hours