



McMaster Divinity
College

Biblical Foundations 2

NT 1A03

Winter Semester 2016

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

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Course Description

Biblical Foundations is an orientation to the Bible that provides an interpretive framework that is theologically grounded, spiritually enriching, critically aware and practically relevant. Attention will be paid to the contents of individual biblical books, the process of their composition and development, and the historical contexts out of which they emerged. The historical contexts are the ancient Near East, Second Temple Judaism and the Greco-Roman world. Attention will be given to the relationship between the Testaments, unity and diversity within the biblical canon, important literary motifs, and theological themes. Orientation will be given to key interpretive principles for reading the Bible and applying its truth to contemporary time.

Course Objectives

Knowing

- Students will gain an introductory knowledge of the Old and New Testaments.
- Students will become familiar with the presuppositions, methods and conclusions of modern critical scholarship in analysing the Bible.
- Students will integrate the content of Scripture.
- Students will understand the historical contexts of all biblical books.
- Students will understand the Bible in each of its components, and how these developed to become the canon used and accepted by the Church.

Being

- Students will experience the Bible as Scripture, an authority for faith and life in the Christian community.
- Students should experience personal growth in maturity and understanding as they engage Scripture.
- Students will understand the relevance of Scripture for answering questions and resolving conflicts within society.
- Students will come to experience more fully the presence of God in their lives.

Doing

- Students will correlate geography and topography with biblical genres.
- Students will contextualize biblical genres in their historical situation.
- Students will develop skills in research of ancient texts
- Students will engage biblical theological motifs to develop their own worldview.

Textbooks

Michael Gorman, ed., *An Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible and Its Interpretation*, Hendrickson / Baker, 2005. Pages listed are from the Hendrickson edition.

Luke Timothy Johnson, *The Writings of the New Testament*, 3rd ed., Fortress Press, 2010.

Iain Proven, et al., *A Biblical History of Israel*. Westminster John Knox, 2003.

Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 304 The East Mall, Suite 100, Etobicoke, ON, M9C 5K1: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; e-mail: books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Required Readings: Bible with Apocrypha

The second portion of the Bible with Apocrypha will be read. This may be in the language of the student's choice.

Old Testament, Apocrypha, and New Testament may be read in different translations. Preferred Old Testament options include:

A New English Translation of the Septuagint (NETS)

Tanakh: The New JPS Translation (Jewish Publication Society)

New Testament books will be read before the material is to be presented according to the course schedule.

On the date of the final exam, each student will submit a reading report on the final exam, stating the combined percentage of the reading completed on time.

Course Evaluation

1. Literature and Theology of the Old Testament Paper [30%]

The paper will be **due Friday midnight Feb 5**. Email to Konkel and TA as a pdf file.

Fifteen pages.

Follow the MDC Style Guide

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

E.g. double-spaced, 12 pt Roman font throughout entire paper. However, footnotes must be single spaced and 10 pt Roman font.

See the 'Paper Evaluation' section below

After reading Clines, Smith, and von Rad, students will write a theological thematic paper on the Old Testament interacting with the assigned readings, material covered in the classroom and at least **5** other secondary sources. By way of **supplement** to these 5 sources, a student may use a **maximum of 2** internet resources. Students are responsible for the quality of these internet resources. These secondary sources do not include primary sources (the Bible, Josephus, Qumran). Each source listed must be drawn on in the paper and evidenced in the footnotes etc.

The theological theme(s) covered in the paper must interact with each of the major sections of the Old Testament (Torah, the Prophets and the Writings) and show awareness of the diversity exhibited in the Old Testament while also pointing out continuity and unity in this theology. The closing section of the paper (2 pages) must identify preliminary links between this Old Testament theology and the theology of the New Testament and through this the impact on the church today.

2. New Testament Research Paper [30%]

The paper will be **due midnight Friday March 11**. Email to Westfall and the TA as a pdf file.

Fifteen pages

Follow the MDC Style Guide

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Eg. Double-spaced, 12 pt Roman font, footnotes must be single spaced and 10 point Roman font.

See "Paper Evaluation" below for specific criteria.

Each student will write a research paper on literature or related New Testament topics. The paper must contain a bibliography consisting of *at least 12 items* of varied secondary sources (commentaries, theological dictionaries, specialized books and *at least 2 articles from refereed journals*). By way of **supplement** to these 12 sources, a student may use a **maximum of 2** internet resources. Students are responsible for the quality of these internet resources. These secondary sources do not include primary sources (the Bible, Josephus, Qumran). Each source listed must be drawn on in the paper and evidenced in the footnotes etc. Textbooks should be used but do not count toward the 12 sources.

Choose a general topic from the list below or in consultation with the professor:

Parables and Preaching of Jesus

Meaning of the Kingdom of God in the Gospels

Messiah

Jesus as Teacher

Jesus' Ethics
Jesus and the Law
Josephus, the Jewish historian & NT Interpretation
Formation of the NT Canon
Pseudonymity and the NT Writings
Synoptic Problem and Source Criticism
Textual Criticism
New Perspective on Paul
The Formation and Care of Congregations in Acts or Paul
The Delay of the Parousia in Paul or the General Epistles
Typology & Symbolism
Structure of an NT book
Exegesis of an NT passage

- TOPICS MUST BE APPROVED BY PROFESSOR WESTFALL by Feb 10

3. Final Exam [30%]

Scheduled April 5 at class time (During exam week)

The main purpose of the final examination is to help students master basic knowledge of the Bible and its historical context, identify major themes, and assimilate material from the course.

The final exam will consist of:

- A list the books of the New Testament in order.
- Objective questions on NT people, places, key passages (see attached lists)
- 4 essays—one OT and 3 NT

4. Required Readings [10%]

Grading Summary

- 1. Literature and Theology of the Old Testament Paper – 30%**
- 2. New Testament Research Paper – 30%**
- 3. Final Exam – 30%**
- 4. Reading – 10%**

Policy concerning late papers

Extensions for papers will not be given except in very exceptional circumstances (serious illness, family crises, etc.). Busy-ness, computer problems etc. are not legitimate reasons to grant extensions and in the interests of fairness any request for extensions will take into account the entire class. Late assignments will be docked at the rate of 1% per day for the first 7 days (including weekends) and 4% per day after that. All assignments must be received by the last day of class in order to avoid a failing grade in the class.

Classroom Behaviour

Attendance & Participation

- Students are expected to be on time to class or ready to give an explanation for their tardiness to the professor.
- Students are also expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance with the professor.
- More than 2 absences may result in a reduction of the final grade, more than 4 absences may result in failure
- Students are not to carry on off-topic conversations in class.
- Students are not to access e-mail, send or receive text messages, surf the net, etc., while class is in session
- All student participation in way of comments or questions must be done without disrespect or ridicule
- Students may eat or drink in class if they do not distract others and they clean up their desks.

MDC Policies

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses <http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/MDCStyleGuide.pdf>
Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

Westfall Office Hours: Mondays 2-5, Tuesdays 1:30-3:00, other times by appointment
Konkel's Office Hours TBA

NT1A03 Daily Schedule

DATE	CLASS SESSION/Assignment	Reading	Bible Reading
Jan 5	Introduction to Reading the Bible - Pre-modern reading of the Bible - Modern critical reading of the Bible	Gorman 133-175	
Jan 12	Reading the Torah	Clines, <i>Theme of the Pentateuch</i> , 2 nd ed. 9-93	
Jan 19	Reading the Prophets	G. V. Smith, "Prophet," <i>ISBE</i> 3:986-1004	
Jan 26	Reading the Writings	G. von Rad, <i>Wisdom in Israel</i> 53-73; 190-239	
Feb 2	Synoptic Issues, Mark & Matthew Literature and Theology of the OT Paper Due Friday midnight Feb 5	Johnson chs 7-8	Mark, Matthew
Feb 9	Narrative, Luke-Acts Submit NT Research Topic to Westfall for approval	Johnson ch 9	Luke, Acts
Feb 16	Reading Week		
Feb 23	The Pauline mission begins	Johnson chs 10, 11, 13	Bring letters to class Galatians vs. James 1 & 2 Thess
Mar 1	Pauline controversies	Johnson chs 12, 14 Gorman 11-12	1 & 2 Corinthians Romans
Mar 8	Letters from prison New Testament Research paper Due Friday midnight March 11	Johnson chs 15,16, 17, 18 Gorman ch 13	Philippians Colossians & Ephesians Philemon
Mar 15	The Pastoral Epistles	Johnson ch 19 Gorman ch 14	1& 2 Timothy & Titus
Mar 22	Hebrews and the General Epistles	Johnson chs 20, 21,22, 23 Gorman ch 15	Hebrews. James 1 & 2 Peter & Jude
Mar 29	Johannine Literature	Johnson chs 24, 25, 26 Gorman ch 16	John, 1,2,3 John, Revelation
Ap 5	Final Examination Submit reading report on the final exam		

Paper Evaluation

Name: _____ Topic: _____

I. The next items are rated according to this scale: 1 = inadequate; 2 = adequate; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = superior.

Bibliographic consciousness	1	2	3	4	5
Range and Use of Sources	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity in Defining Issues	1	2	3	4	5
Strength of Argument	1	2	3	4	5
Awareness of Exegetical Issues	1	2	3	4	5
Accuracy of Data and Assertions	1	2	3	4	5
Analysis /Critical Thinking	1	2	3	4	5
Introduction (Thesis Statement /Clear Issue)	1	2	3	4	5
Development of Thesis (focus)	1	2	3	4	5
Literary Style (awkward, wordy, repetitive)	1	2	3	4	5
Organization/coherence of ideas	1	2	3	4	5
Grammar/Spelling	1	2	3	4	5
Neatness/Presentation	1	2	3	4	5

§ Note: this is a simple evaluation tool to assist in paper assessment. The categories are not weighted equally, and thus are not added together or averaged to calculate your grade.

II. The following need attention if so indicated

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use inclusive language | <input type="checkbox"/> The paper is too long/too short |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write a unified essay | <input type="checkbox"/> Edit your paper more thoroughly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line spacing, Font size, Margins, Page numbers etc. need attention | <input type="checkbox"/> The paper needs balance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cite primary resources correctly/consistently (e.g., Gen 1:26; Genesis 1; etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cite secondary resources correctly/consistently |

III. Comments

PEOPLE, PLACES AND PASSAGES TO KNOW/LOCATE FOR THE FINAL

People	Places	Key Passages
Ananias (1)	Antioch (of Syria)	Matthew 1:18-2:23
Ananias (2)	Antioch (of Pisidia)	Matthew 5-7
Anna	Asia (minor)	Matthew 13
Annas	Athens	Matthew 16:13-20
Apollos	Capernaum	Matthew 24-25
Aquila	Bethlehem	Mark 9:14-32
Barabbas	Bethany	Mark 16:9-20
Barnabas	Caesarea (Maritima)	Luke 1-2
Caiaphas	Colossae	Luke 4:14-30
Cornelius	Corinth	Luke 10
Elizabeth	Crete	John 1:1-18
Eutychus	Cyprus	John 3
Felix	Damascus	John 11
Festus	Dead Sea	John 13
Gallio	Decapolis	John 14-16 (general content)
Gamaliel	Emmaus	Acts 2
Herodias	Ephesus	Acts 9
Jairus	Galatia	Acts 15
Junia	Galilee	Romans 1:16 & 17; 18-32
John Mark	Italy	Romans 5:12-20
Joseph of Arimathea	Jericho	Romans 8
Judas Iscariot	Jerusalem	1 Corinthians 7
Lazarus	Jordan River	1 Corinthians 12-14 (esp. chap 13)
Levi	Judea	1 Corinthians 15
Lydia	Macedonia	2 Corinthians 4:7-12
Martha	Mediterranean Sea	2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Mary Magdalene	Nazareth	Galatians 3:28
Mary of Bethany	Perea	Galatians 5:22-26
Nathanael	Philippi	Ephesians 5:15-6:9
Nicodemus	Rome	Ephesians 6:1-10
Philip	Samaria	Philippians 2:5-11
Priscilla	Sea of Galilee (Genessaret)	Philippians 4:4
Sapphira	Syria	Col 1:15-20
Silas	Tarsus	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Simeon	Thessalonica	1 Timothy 2:11-15
Simon Magus	Troas	1 Timothy 3:1-12
Simon of Cyrene	Tyre	2 Timothy 2:2
Simon the leper		2 Timothy 3:16
Simon the Pharisee		Hebrews 6:4-8
Stephen		Hebrews 5-10
Theophilus		Hebrews 11
Timothy		James 1:2-8
Titus		James 2:14-26
Zaccheus		1 Peter 4:12-19
Zebedee		1 John 2:16
		1 John 3:11-15
		Revelation 2-3
		Revelation 17-18
		Revelation 20

10 people and 10 places and 10 passages will be chosen for the exam. For character names and passages, the question will involve a one-phrase description and you will supply the correct name. For places, on

blank maps of Israel (for the Gospels list) and the Roman Empire (for the Acts list) you will write in the names at the correct locations.