

115.515 Biblical Theology
Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Henderson
Lecturer: Charles Erlam

Semester 1, 2015
NQF Level: 5, 15 credits

CONTENT OVERVIEW

1. The Bible and Theology
2. The Bible: Unity and Diversity
3. Creation: God Establishes His Kingdom (Act 1)
4. Fall: Rebellion in the Kingdom (Act 2)
5. Redemption Initiated: The King Chooses Israel (Act 3 Scene 1)
6. Redemption Initiated: The King Chooses Israel (Act 3 Scene 2)
7. A Kingdom Story Waiting for an Ending – the Second Temple Period
8. Redemption Accomplished: The Coming of the King (Act 4)
9. The Mission of the Church: Spreading the Good News of the King (Act 5)
10. Redemption Accomplished: The Return of the King (Act 6)
11. The Drama as Whole Story – Revisiting Key Elements
12. The Bible, Biblical Theology and All of Life

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

1. Online Discussion Forum

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	1, 4
<i>Due Dates</i>	Midnight Sunday at the end of Semester Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	20%
<i>Length</i>	As specified below

- a) The online discussion requires you to engage with various themes and topics. Typically these tasks will require you to prepare an initial post of 200 words in response to a reading and some questions. This is to be followed by a response to at least one other student's post of at least 50 words, which is due the following week. Specific instructions will accompany each online discussion task. Students are expected to complete all online discussions in a timely manner.

2. The Story of the Bible

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	2, 4
<i>Due Dates</i>	
Part A - Worksheet 1:	Midnight Sunday of Semester week 8 (10 May)
Part B - Worksheet 2:	Midnight Sunday of Semester week 11 (31 May)
Part C – Essay:	Midnight Sunday of Study Week 1 (14 June)
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	
Part A – Worksheet 1:	10%

Part B – Worksheet 2:	10%
Part C – Essay:	30%
<i>Length</i>	Essay: 2500 words
<i>Expected Sources</i>	The two text books, the Bible and at least three other resources.

This is the largest piece of assessment for this course. It is in three parts; two worksheets, and one major essay. The worksheets will be available on Moodle, and must be completed electronically and uploaded to Moodle by the due date. The worksheets will require you to engage with the main parts of the “Story of the Bible” and will provide a framework from which you can write your 2500 word essay.

Part A – Story of the Bible Worksheet #1 – The Old Testament Story

In this worksheet you will explore the main events that make up the Old Testament story, locate them within the biblical text, and think about the key themes, theological insights and contemporary significance associated with these events. This worksheet is provided as a Microsoft Word document, and should be completed on your computer using Word or a similar word processor. Where possible, put something in every box on the worksheet. You will find this worksheet to be most meaningful if you complete it as you go through the course, rather than just before it is due; that way you will have time to reflect meaningfully on the significance of what you are learning. As you think about themes, you may want to use some of the ones provided in the list below. There is no word limit for this worksheet, but you should expect to spend no more than 10 hours completing it.

Part B – Story of the Bible Worksheet #2 – The New Testament Story

This worksheet covers the New Testament – see Part A (above) for instructions.

Tutorials sessions will be available to help you understand how to complete these worksheets, if you need them.

Part C – Story of the Bible Essay

This is a 2500-word integrative essay in which you are going to present the whole story of the Bible in a comprehensive summary, while also reflecting on key themes and theological insights. Using your two worksheets from Parts A and B as a starting point, tell the story of the Bible as a narrative journey starting in Genesis and ending in Revelation. Make reference to key biblical events and texts or passages as part of telling the story. Comment on how the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament epistles are related to the story. Be sure to weave at least three key biblical themes into your story. You may want to use themes from the list below. As you trace those themes throughout the story, highlight the key points or events in the biblical story which inform your chosen themes. You will also need to reflect on the theological insights you have gained from your understanding of the biblical story.

In summary, the following are the key elements that must be present in your essay:

- An overview of the biblical story, including key events and texts/passage, and some comments about how the OT prophets and NT epistles relate to the biblical story
- At least three biblical themes woven into your overview of the biblical story
- A reflection on theological insights from the biblical story

Some possible themes you may wish to include in your essay are:

- Land
- Covenant
- Kingdom/kingship
- Mission
- Law
- Temple
- People of God
- Salvation

- Remedy for sin
- Promise/hope
- Rest
- Creation/recreation
- Righteousness/justice

Tutorials sessions will be available to assist you in writing your essay.

3. Exam

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	1, 3
<i>Due Dates</i>	Exam Week (exact date to be advised)
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	30%
<i>Length</i>	2 hours

The exam will assess your grasp and understanding of the subject of biblical theology. Further details will be given closer to the exam.

Tutorial sessions will be available to assist you in preparation for the exam.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Online Discussion Forum

- Engagement with material
- Constructive engagement with others
- Structure and presentation
- Timeliness

The Story of the Bible

- Coverage: Discusses key biblical events, texts and themes
- Careful thought: Links key biblical events, texts and themes into a coherent whole
- Theological Insight: Demonstrates understanding of biblical theology
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
- Communication & Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

Exam

- Coverage of main points
- Application of biblical theological method
- Clarity and development of answers

LEARNING HOURS

Task	Weight	Hours
Classroom sessions		25 hours
Personal reading and reflection		25 hours
Online discussion	20%	15 hours
Story of Bible		
Worksheet #1	10%	10 hours
Worksheet #2	10%	10 hours
Essay	30%	35 hours
Exam preparation and exam	<u>30%</u>	<u>30 hours</u>
	100%	150 hours

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

TEXTBOOKS

The required texts for this course are:

Bartholomew, Craig G, and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

[Please note the above book was also published in 2006 in the UK by SPCK. This is an abridged edition, and is NOT the correct edition for this course. Please be sure to buy the 2004 Baker Academic edition.]

Plantinga Jr., Cornelius. *Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.

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In order to ensure a wide and balanced appreciation of the range of theological opinion found in the Christian community, especially recommended additional works are:

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Dumbrell, William J. *The Faith of Israel*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

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- Roberts, Vaughan. *God's Big Picture: tracing the story-line of the Bible*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
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- Scobie, Charles H.H. *The Ways of Our God: An Approach to Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Strom, Mark. *The Symphony of Scripture: Making Sense of the Bible's Many Themes*. Phillipsburg, P & R Publishing, 1990.
- Walsh, Brian J. and J. Richard Middleton. *Truth Is Stranger Than It Used To Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
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Articles:

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