

# LIDLAW COLLEGE

*Te Wananga Amorangi*

## 115.515 Biblical Theology Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus/Delivery Mode: Distance Learning (with on-site tutorials)  
Tutors: Tim Meadowcroft & Stephen Garner

Semester 2, 2015  
NQF Level: 5, 15 credits

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

This course is an introduction to Biblical Theology. It explores the unity, diversity and central themes of God's written word, the Bible. In doing so, it introduces students to critical discussions concerning the relationship of theology to the Bible. It also looks at the relationship between Biblical Theology and other theological methods such as Systematic Theology. Finally, it assists students to begin making sense of the relationship between the Bible, theology and all of life.

### ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Assessment	Word count	% Final Grade	Due Date
Online Discussion Forums	1500 words 6 x (200 + 50)	20%	As per schedule
Worksheet #1	maximum 4 pages in 10-point font	10%	Sunday 20 Sept
Worksheet #2	maximum 3 pages in 10-point font	10%	Sunday 18 Oct
Essay	2500 words	30%	Sunday, 6 Nov
Examination	2 hours	30%	TBA

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Tutorial Date	Topic	Assessment Task
0	28 July	Course Introduction & Orientation	[Online Introduction]
1	4 Aug	The Bible and Theology	Online Post #1
2	11 Aug	The Bible: Unity and Diversity	
3	18 Aug (Intensives week)	Creation: God Establishes His Kingdom (Act 1)	Online Post #2
4	25 Aug	Fall: Rebellion in the Kingdom (Act 2)	
5	1 Sept	Redemption Initiated: The King Chooses Israel (Act 3 Scene 1)	Online Post #3
6	8 Sept	Redemption Initiated: The King Chooses Israel (Act 3 Scene 2)	Online Post #4
7	15 Sept	A Kingdom Story Waiting for an Ending – the Second Temple Period	Worksheet #1
8	22 Sept	Redemption Accomplished: The Coming of the King	Online Post #5

		(Act 4)	
Mid-Term Break 26 Sept-11 Oct			
9	13 Oct	The Mission of the Church: Spreading the Good News of the King (Act 5)	Worksheet #2
10	20 Oct	Redemption Accomplished: The Return of the King (Act 6)	
11	27 Oct	The Bible, Biblical Theology, Wisdom and Vocation	Online Post #6
12	3 Nov	The Bible, Biblical Theology and All of Life (Exam Revision)	Essay Due
13	Study Break/Exams		

## ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

### 1. Online Discussion Forum

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	1, 4
<i>Due Dates</i>	11.59PM Sunday at the end of Semester Weeks 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 & 11
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	20%
<i>Length</i>	As specified below

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/or 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.

### CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Before beginning your first online discussion, please see the grading grid (rubric) on the "Online Discussion grading guide and mid-semester feedback" on Moodle for further details on how these criteria will be applied.

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

### 2. The Story of the Bible Worksheets

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	2
<i>Due Dates:</i>	
Worksheet 1 – OT:	11:59 pm, Sunday 20 September
Worksheet 2 – NT:	11:59 pm, Sunday 10 October
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	10% for each worksheet (total 20%)
<i>Length</i>	Worksheet 1 - OT: maximum 4 pages in 10-point font Worksheet 2 - NT: maximum 3 pages in 10-point font

The two worksheets will be available on Moodle as Microsoft Word documents, 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 essay.

#### 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 and theological insights associated with these events. 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.

- Use the already-completed cells as guidelines to filling in the worksheet
- In the **Biblical Passage** column, identify the large chunks of scripture that tell this part of the Story. This may be several chapters, will often be whole books, or even multiple books of the Bible.
- In the **Key Event/s** column, name the key events in this part of the story – do not describe them in detail.
- In the **Key Text/s** column, list the references to a few biblical verses or short passages (maximum of 5) that sum *up this part of the story* in a nutshell. Note these may come from a part of the Bible that is different from what you have identified in the **Biblical Passage** column.
- In the **Key Themes** column, identify the major themes or subjects covered in this part of the story. Choose from the list of themes in the list below – and only name the theme, do not provide any further detail.
- In the **Theological Insights** column, briefly describe what you learn about God, the world, humanity, salvation, etc. from this part of the story. Bullet points/note form is fine.

You must use the template provided, and with the font for the document set at no smaller than 10 point, your worksheet must be no more than **4 pages** long. Also, remember that you should expect to spend no more than 10 hours completing it.

### **Story of the Bible Worksheet #2 – The New Testament Story**

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

Again, you must use the template provided, and with the font for the document set at no smaller than 10 point, your worksheet must be no more than **3 pages** long. Also, remember that you should expect to spend no more than 10 hours completing it.

List of themes you may choose from as you complete your worksheets:

- Land
- Covenant
- The Kingdom of God
- Mission
- Law
- Temple
- The Character of God
- Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- The People of God
- Sin and Judgement
- Salvation
- Remedy for sin
- Promise/hope
- Worship
- Rest
- Creation/recreation
- Righteousness/justice

### **CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT**

#### **Worksheets 1 and 2**

- The Biblical Story: Shows awareness of key contours of the biblical story and where they fit in the Bible
- Themes: Major themes identified and appropriately associated with the biblical story

- Theological Insights: Demonstrates an awareness of how theological understanding emerges from reflection on the biblical story and themes

### 3. The Story of the Bible Essay

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	2, 4
<i>Due Date:</i>	11:59 pm, Sunday 6 November
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	30%
<i>Length</i>	2500 words
<i>Expected Sources</i>	The two text books, the Bible and at least three other resources.

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 **two** key themes and theological insights.

- Using your two worksheets 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. As you tell the story, comment on how the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament epistles are related to the story and your themes.
- Be sure to weave **two** key biblical themes, from the list provided, into your story. As you trace those themes throughout the story, highlight the key points or events in the biblical story which inform your chosen themes.
- Reflect on the key theological insights you have gained from your understanding of the biblical story.
- Discuss how your theological insights challenge you to think and act differently as you engage with the contemporary world and culture today.

#### CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

- Coverage: Discusses key biblical events, texts and themes
- Careful integration: Links key biblical events, texts and themes into a coherent whole
- Theological Insight: Demonstrates understanding of biblical theology with some key theological insights identified
- Contemporary Significance: Evidence of meaningful reflection upon some implications for our contemporary world
- Structure: Clear and logical arrangement of ideas; valid conclusions
- Communication & Presentation: Clarity, format, spelling, grammar; annotation and bibliography

### 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.

#### CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

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

## LEARNING HOURS

Task	Weight	Hours
Learning guide		50 hours
Online discussion	20%	15 hours
Story of the Bible Worksheet #1	10%	10 hours
Story of the Bible Worksheet #2	10%	10 hours
Story of the Bible Essay	30%	35 hours
Exam preparation and exam	30%	30 hours
	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.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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Alexander, T. Desmond and Brian S. Rosner, eds. *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. (In Reference Collection)

Baker, David L. *Two Testaments, One Bible: The Theological Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Downers Grove, InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Beale, G. K. *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2011.

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. London: Tyndale Press, 1962.

Davis, Ellen F. and Richard B. Hays, eds. *The Art of Reading Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003.

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

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- Lloyd-Jones, Sally. *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.
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- Ollenburger, Ben C., E. Martens and G. Hasel. *The Flowering of Old Testament Theology: a reader in twentieth century Old Testament theology, 1930-1990*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1992.
- Pate, C. Marvin, J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays. *The Story of Israel: A Biblical Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Roberts, Vaughan. *God's Big Picture: tracing the story-line of the Bible*. Leicester: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- Ryken, Leland, Jim Wilhoit and Tremper Longman. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
- 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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- Wolters, Albert M. *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Wright, John W. *Telling God's Story: Narrative Preaching for Christian Formation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007.

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**Articles:**

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