

WESTERN SEMINARY
Portland, Oregon 97215

BLS 502 and BLS 512 (Prophets and Gospels)
Fall Semester 2010

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This course is designed to help the student know the major themes and developments with biblical history and to understand the "big picture" of God's redemptive program.

Course Description

In this course you will learn the historical background of each of the prophets and become acquainted with their distinctive contribution and modern relevance. After examining the prophecies concerning the Messiah, you will see how they are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Our focus in the Gospels will be on Matthew and John. Our study of Jesus' teachings, miracles, and parables will be with a view to present day application. Four semester hours credit.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. The Curriculum Objective for all the BLS courses is that the student will know the major themes and developments of God's redemptive activity revealed in Scripture.

To achieve this the student will understand the framework of biblical history, the contribution of each book to the canon, the argument of each book, and its relevance for contemporary ministry.

2. The student will have a meaningful experience in studying God's Word and grow spiritually.

To achieve this goal we will give attention to the practical application of biblical principles presented in the Prophets and the teachings of Jesus.

3. The student will master the basic introduction of each book studied.

To achieve this goal, the student will learn the theme, purpose, theological contribution and contemporary relevance of each book.

4. The student will be able to interact with the major interpretive and critical problems of the books surveyed.

To accomplish this, the student will receive class notes and participate in class discussion on these issues.

5. The student will know the major themes and developments in God's plan for the ages.

To achieve this, the student will be able to define the eschatological Day of the Lord and outline the prophetic events of that period. The student will also be able to explain Jesus' teaching concerning the "kingdom of God" and the development of this important theme in the gospels.

6. The student will know the the historical backgrounds of the Prophets and the Gospels.

To achieve this, the student will be learn the chronological order of the prophets, and the dates and major events associated with the life of Christ.

7. The student will become familiar with the literature of the books studied in this course.

To accomplish this goal the student will be able to explain the relationship between the Prophets and the covenant form, including prophetic lawsuit speeches and the rib motif.

Course Texts

Federal law now requires institutions to provide ISBN numbers and retail prices for all required books. Western Seminary encourages students to visit our campus bookstore, Windows Booksellers, in order to obtain these titles at a reduced rate.

Required: New American Standard Bible *OR* English Standard Version
Helpful: J. Carl Laney, Concise Bible Atlas (ISBN 1-56563-366-0) \$16.95

Your On-Line Classroom

I have prepared an on-line classroom where you will be able to download your class notes, Bible reviews and other class resource material. Go to <http://www.wscll2.net/classrooms>. In the category "Fall 2010 Campus Courses" choose Dr. Carl Laney BLS 502 Resources." You will come to a login page. On the right hand side are instructions for beginning a new account. Follow those instructions to set up a user name and password. You will be asked for an enrollment key. This will be given to you on the first day of class. If you have trouble accessing the site, please contact Jon Raibley: jraibley@westernseminary.edu; 503-517-1899.

Course Requirements - For BLS 502 students; BLS 512 students see syllabus supplement

1. Maintain a record of your reading and report in on the last day of class.

Required reading includes the Prophets and Gospels, the class notes and the assigned journal articles. Estimated time: 30 hours

The Journal articles are available in PDF format in the On-Line Classroom. Report your journal reading WEEKLY by writing several paragraphs (up to a page) on how the article contributes to our understanding of the Bible. Students are required to read and respond to 10 of the journal articles.

2. Complete preparation for each class. After reading the Scripture section for the lecture, read the class notes and write a *brief* response to the study questions. Estimated time: 20 hours. A check list will be provided to record your preparation. The check list must be turned in at our **last class**.

3. Complete four Bible Reviews which will measure your mastery of the course objectives. Estimated time: 20 hours (5 hours for each Review).

4. Complete a series of assignments designed to help you practice your Bible and teaching/preaching skills. The assignments will be based on your study of a text (a paragraph or several verses of Scripture) from the prophet Malachi or the Gospel of Mark. Estimated time: 40 hours (4 hours each).

- (1) Setting: Discuss the historical setting of your text. When was your text written and by whom? What does the historical setting contribute to your understanding of the text? Discuss relevant cultural features referred to in your text. 1-2 pages
- (2) Purpose: What is the purpose of the book? Why was this book written? Look for clues in the text. What would be missing if this book was not in the Bible. 1 page
- (3) Theme: What is the theme of the book? What is the theme or big idea being communicated in your text? What evidence can you present in support of your conclusion? 1 page
- (3) Context: Discuss the context of your text. What goes before? What follows? What would the book be lacking if *your* text was missing? 1-2 pages
- (3) Outline: Construct an outline of the text you have selected from Malachi or Mark. Is there some natural structure in the biblical text that leads to an exegetical outline? Explain your understanding of the structure. Enumerate your points with Roman Numerals and provide a reference for each point and sub-point. 1 page
- (3) Expository Summary: Prepare a summary or synopsis of the text highlighting the key points which you would develop in a more complete presentation or sermon This is a condensed version of the exposition/commentary on your text. 2 pages

- (3) Theology: What theological contribution does your text make to our understanding of God and His truth? Where is the Gospel in this passage? Does it anticipate, declare or develop the implications of the Gospel? Is Jesus revealed directly or does the text point to Jesus in the outworking of redemptive history? 1-2 pages
- (3) Principles: Biblical principles are truths from Scripture which have abiding significance and application for believers. What abiding truths have you discovered in the study of your text? State several principles concisely with biblical references from your text and other relevant texts. Explain how each principle is relevant and has application to life. 1-2 pages
- (3) Introduction: Based on your study of a biblical text, prepare an engaging introduction (using a personal story or illustration) which serves to catch the attention of your listener/reader. Include a clear transition from your introduction into the presentation or exposition of the text. 1 page
- (3) Bibliography: Prepare a bibliography of resources that you have used in your study or would draw from when doing further research on your text (8 to 10 entries). Which of these resources would you recommend to another student? Explain your answer. 1 page

Evaluation

Course grading will be done on a point and percentage system.

Bible Reviews: 40% (10 each)	Bible Project: 40% (4 each)
Reading: 10%	Class Preparation: 10%

100-93 = A	[A+ = 99-100; A = 95-98; A- = 94-93]
92-86 = B	[B+ = 92-91; B = 90-88; B- = 87-86]
85-79 = C	[C+ = 85-84; C = 83-81; C- = 80-79]
78-70 = D	[D+ = 78-77; D = 76-74; D- = 73-70]

Study Schedule

Western Seminary's academic standards call for 2 hours of homework for each hour of class. That means students taking a four hour class are expected to do 8 hours of work outside class each week (120 hrs/semester). Here is a suggested division of your 8 hrs/week study time: 4 hours per week reading; 1 hour responding to study questions in the notes; 3 hours on the weekly assignment or Bible Review

Course Policies

Every week you owe BLS 503 eight hours of your time. If you choose to give those eight

hours to other activities or another class, don't expect to receive credit for assignments you have not completed. Since late work *will not be accepted*, submit whatever work you have completed on the due date. Forgetting to submit an assignment is not an acceptable excuse for turning it in after the due date.

Incomplete Class: According to Western Seminary policy, in cases of serious illness or family emergency an instructor may grant an incomplete providing a maximum extension of six weeks to finish the semester's work. Note that an incomplete turns into an "F" if the class work is not completed by the end of the six week extension. The maximum grade granted for a student receiving an incomplete is a "B."

Attendance: It is expected that the students will be in attendance for all class sessions to benefit from the lecture, discussion, and visual presentations. Students who are frequently tardy or noticeably absent can expect to receive a lower semester grade.

Notification of Disability Assistance: Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

Course Schedule (Reading should be completed in preparation for the class lecture)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Bible Text</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>
Aug 30	Obadiah Joel & Jonah	Introducing the Prophets Obadiah: Problems with Pride Joel: Living with Locusts Jonah: A Whale of a Tale
Sept 6	Labor Day - No Class	
Sept 13	Amos & Hosea Isaiah 1-39	Amos: The Social Gospel? Hosea: The Prophet's Marriage The Immanuel Prophecies Setting Due
Sept 20	Isaiah 40-66 Micah, Nahum	The Servant Songs Micah: The Barefoot Prophet Nahum: Jonah's Favorite Book Purpose Due

Sept 27	Zephaniah	Zephaniah: Hidden of Yahweh
	Habakkuk	Habakkuk: the Problem of Doubt
	Jeremiah	Jeremiah and the New Covenant Bible Review (Ob-Micah) Due
Oct 4	Daniel 1-6	Daniel's Experiences
	Daniel 7-12	Daniel's Visions Theme Due
Oct 11	Ezekiel 1-24	Ezekiel: Prophet of Pantomime
	Ezekiel 25-48;	Ezekiel: Israel's Future Context Due
Oct 18	Hag. Zech. Malachi	Restoring and Rebuilding Outline Due
	Matt. 1-2	Birth of Christ
Oct 25	Matt. 3-4	Baptism & Temptation
	Matt. 5-10	Sermon on Mount; Miracles Bible Review (Nahum-Malachi)
Nov 1	Matt. 11-13	Rejection, Parables
	Matt. 14-19	The Church; Divorce Expositional Summary Due
Nov 8	Matt. 20-25	Olivet Discourse
	Matt. 26-27	Passover, Arrest & Trial Theology Due
Nov 15	Matt. 27-28, Mark 16	Crucifixion & Resurrection Last Twelve Verses of Mark Principles Due
	John 1-2	John's Prologue, First Miracle
Nov 22	John 3-4	Two Strategic Interviews
	John 5-6	Controversy over Miracles

Bible Review (Matthew)

Nov 29	John 7-9	Conflict at the Feast of Tabernacles
	John 10-12	The Hour of Crisis Introduction Due
Dec 6	John 13-15	Upper Room Discourse
	John 15-19	Consummation of Belief
	John 20-21	Confirmation of Belief Bibliography Due Class Prep checklist Reading Report Due

Dec 9 (Thursday) **Bible Review (John) Due**

Bibliography

Prophets

H. L. Ellison, The Old Testament Prophets

Charles Feinberg, The Minor Prophets

Walter C. Kaiser, Micah through Malachi

J. Carl Laney, Zechariah

_____, Messiah's Coming Temple

Leon Wood, A Survey of Israel's History

Gospels

F. F. Bruce, New Testament History

Richard Bauckham, The Gospels for All Christians

Alfred Edersheim, The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah

David Flusser, Jesus

Harold Hoehner, Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ

_____, Herod Antipas

Joachim Jeremias, Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus

J. Carl Laney, The Gospel of John

A. H. M. Jones, The Herods of Judaea

J. Dwight Pentecost, The Words and Works of Jesus Christ

W. Graham Scroggie, A Guide to the Gospels

Joseph Ratzinger, Jesus of Nazareth

R. L. Thomas & Stanley N. Gundry, A Harmony of the Gospels

Ben Witherington, What Have They Done With Jesus?

Brad H. Young, Jesus the Jewish Theologian

BLS 502/512 Reading Report

This **Reading Report** tells me that you have completed the required reading for this course. The **Check List** is the place to report that you have completed the reading and study questions before class. Reports due: the last day of class

Name _____

Box _____

Due: Last Day of Class

If incomplete, record the approximate percentage completed.

Obadiah _____	Nahum _____
Joel _____	Zephaniah _____
Jonah _____	Habakkuk _____
Amos _____	Daniel _____
Hosea _____	Ezekiel _____
Isaiah _____	Haggai _____
Micah _____	Zechariah _____
Jeremiah _____	Malachi _____
Matthew _____	John _____

_____ Ten Journal Articles _____
(BLS 502 students only)