Instructor Albert Tevanyan
Office hours online: Monday 11am to 12pm.
Email albert.tevanyan@csun.edu

Course Description:

The primary focus of this course will be on the study of major concepts represented in the Bible and religion. A special attention will be given to the critical analysis of key Biblical texts from the historical, political, ecclesiastical and theological points of view. Several approaches to the Biblical text and methods of interpretation will be discussed.

1 Student Learning Outcomes:

Survey of the basic content and major themes of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), New Testament, and Apocryphal writings.

1 Students will demonstrate familiarity with the basic contents and major themes in the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Apocrypha.

2 Students will be able to describe the main events, people, and political and religious institutions (priesthood, kingship, prophecy) of the societies that produced biblical literature.

3 Students will demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in the historical, geographical, social, and political context in which biblical books were constructed.

4 Students will be able to recognize and to articulate (orally and in writing) the difference between academic approaches to the Bible and a personal, devotional approach.

5 Students will be able to demonstrate a basic level of proficiency in the dominant theories regarding the compilation of biblical texts and the literary history of the Hebrew Bible, Apocrypha, and New Testament.

GE Student Learning Outcomes

Goal: Students will understand the rich history and diversity of human knowledge,
discourse and achievements of their own and other cultures as they are expressed in the arts, literatures, religions, and philosophy.

Students will:
1. Explain and reflect critically upon the human search for meaning, values, discourse and expression in one or more eras/stylistic periods or cultures;
2. Analyze, interpret, and reflect critically upon ideas of value, meaning, discourse and expression from a variety of perspectives from the arts and/or humanities;
3. Produce work/works of art that communicate to a diverse audience through a demonstrated understanding and fluency of expressive forms;
4. Demonstrate ability to engage and reflect upon their intellectual and creative development within the arts and humanities;
5. Use appropriate critical vocabulary to describe and analyze works of artistic expression, literature, philosophy, or religion and a comprehension of the historical context within which a body of work was created or a tradition emerged;
6. Describe and explain the historical and/or cultural context within which a body of work was created or a tradition emerged.

Notice: Special emphasis will be given to the analytical and critical thinking of the students. All the exams will be based on the ability of students to apply their knowledge. The note-taking is absolutely crucial. All the exams will be heavily reliant on the lecture notes. The textbook reading will contribute only partially to the successful completion of this course.

Course Requirements:
Tests and Exams:
For all tests and due dates see Canvas.
Research paper: 5 p. minimum double space. (20 points.) For topics see Canvas.
Discussions: You will post your comments based on the the questions you will find in the discussion.
Grading: your grades will be computed based on the following:
Your final grade will be the computed average of the quizzes, the paper and discussions.
Paper 20 points
Textbook Quiz 1 20 points
Textbook Quiz 2 20 points
O.T. quizzes and discussions 40 Points
N.T. quizzes and discussions 60 Points
Course Total 160

Academic Integrity:
Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated. Any form of plagiarism will result in a failing grade. The following violations of academic integrity will be addressed formally:
• Submitting the same work in whole or in part in more than one course
• Submitting as one’s own work material (s) obtained from another source;
• Unattributed quotations or ideas from published, unpublished or electronic sources;
• Unauthorized collaboration in preparing assignments;
• Cheating on exams by any means: using search engines, lecture notes etc. during the test

Grading scale: Plus/minus grading system will be implemented. There will be no A+ grade.

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Required Textbooks:
2. A version of the Bible that contains the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Apocrypha and Christian Canon (New Testament)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1
Read textbook Introduction and Chapter 1.
Read Gen. Chapters 1, 2, 3.

Week 2
Feb. 2.
Quiz on Gen. 1, 2, 3. (5 Points)
Discussion of Gen. 1, 2, 3. (5 Points)
Read Textbook chapter 2

Week 3
Feb. - 9
Watch the video. Discuss video (5 Points)
Read Textbook
Week 4
Feb-16
Read Gen. Chapters 12 to 50
Quiz on Gen. 12 to 50 (5 points)
Discussion on Gen. 12 to 50. (5 points)
Read Textbook Chapter 4

Week 5
Feb. 23
Start working on your paper. Choose a topic.
Read Textbook Chapter 5

Week 6
March 2.
Read Textbook chapter 6 and 7. Pay attention to the section on Isaiah.
Then read Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7; 11:1-5; 40:1-11; and Chapters 52 and 53.
Discussion "Prophets" (5 points)

Week 7
March 9
Read Exodus 21:1-12.
Deuteronomy Chapter 20
Deuteronomy 24: 1- 5
1 Samuel 15:3-34
Read Textbook Chapter 8
Discussion "Controversial Passages" (5 points)
Take the quiz on JOB. (5 points)

Week 8
March 16.
Take the textbook quiz. (20 questions, 20 points)

Week 9
March 23 Spring Recess
Week 10
March 30
Read Textbook Chapter 9, 10
Quiz on Mark (5 points)
Read the Gospel of Mark: Experimental Reading
Discuss: Experimental Reading. (10 points)

Week 10
April 6
Read Textbook Chapter 11 and 12
Quiz on John. (5 points)

Week 11
April 13.
Quiz on Matthew (5 points)
Read Textbook Chapter 13
Discussion: John and Matthew comparison (10 points)

Week 12
April 20
Read Textbook Chapter 14
Quiz on The Acts of the Apostles (5 points)

Week 13
April 27
Read Paul's letter to Romans.
Discuss: Paul's letter to Romans. (10 points)
Read Textbook Chapter 14

Week 14
May 4
Read Textbook Chapter 15, 16.
Read the Gospel of Mary Magdalene. (Canvas)
Discuss the Gospel of Mary (10 points)

Week 15
May 11
Textbook reading quiz # 2 (20 points)
Paper is due. (20 points)