

Israel Study Trip Course Syllabus

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Course Syllabus

COURSE TITLE: BS 202 Bible Lands Study Trip

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study trip designed to orient students to the geography, history, culture, and archaeology of the Bible and early Christian history. Students will experience on-site lectures and tours of locations significant for better understanding Biblical and Christian history.

OVERVIEW OF THIS TRIP:

Students will travel through Israel, exploring locations significant for OT, NT, and Church History studies. Through on-site lectures and exploration, students will gain a greater appreciation for the geographical, historical, and cultural background to the Bible.

Simultaneously, students will experience modern Israeli and Palestinian culture, helping them gain a greater understanding on the current state of Israel in the modern world and wrestle with the proper foreign policy of the Evangelical American today.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To trace the life of Christ on location, visiting the key locations of His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection.
- To provide an overview of the geographical, social, historical, archaeological and cultural settings of the Bible.
- To gain firsthand experience of the geographical setting of Bible events in order to better understand the context of the Biblical narratives.
- To gain an overview of modern biblical scholarship, including the rudiments of archaeology, and its importance for clergy and lay people.
- To emphasize the significance of the land of Israel for biblical and theological studies.
- To promote personal and group spirituality.
- To become familiar with the nature of Christianity in the Holy Land and the role of the church today.
- To gain understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for peacemaking.

Any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations of any kind or measure is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course. Please note that, due to the nature of this course, *students must be physically prepared* for international travel, considerable walking on location, and international food. Any student having further questions regarding this syllabus, grading point systems, dress codes, attendance requirements, etc., should consult the college catalog or professor.

Course Requirements:

Class Preparation. Carefully read the assigned textbooks before departure. A **Reading Report** will be due on Feb. 14th. Reading is due by December 28th.

Students are expected to remain with the group during **on-site lectures** and outings. Times for individual exploration will exist, but for the safety and comfort of all participants (as well as the integrity of the itinerary) students must remain together.

Journal: Students will maintain a daily journal during the study trip. Journal entries are for the students' own benefit and may be formatted according to student desire (audio recordings, handwritten, etc.) as is most convenient for them during the study trip.

However, a **summary** of journal entries highlighting academic, spiritual, or experiential insights learned during the study trip will be due on February 14th. The Journal Summary must be 2-3 pages, Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, double spaced. Journal Summary excerpts may be selected for evaluation and promotion of NEBC study trips.

Research Paper: A 8-10 page, Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, double spaced research paper on a topic of the students' choosing. The topic must be approved by Mr. Libby **before departure**. The paper will be due February 14th. Students should utilize personal trip experience as well as reference materials in their research for this paper. Include a bibliography (books, articles, and other reference materials).

Evaluation/Promotion: Although not graded, students will be asked to fill out evaluation forms to benefit future study trips. Pictures, videos, and Journal Summaries may also be used in PR. In the past, this benefited the students as well as the school, as pictures were "pooled" and every participant ended up having nearly all the pictures taken from all the cameras! In addition, past students have had part or all of their study trip expenses covered by family,

friends, or church supporters. In these cases, it is helpful to have a well-organized presentation to share with those who covered the expenses.

Course Grading:

Course Reading: 30%

Journal Summary: 15%

Course Paper: 55%

All assignments are due on the date due. Papers submitted on time may be rewritten for up to one letter grade higher if resubmitted along with the original paper one week after original paper is returned by the Professor. One week late results in one letter grade reduction and the inability to rewrite. Each additional week results in one letter grade reduction. Granting of extensions is done on a case-by-case basis.

Course Texts:

The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands ISBN: 0802404383

TBA: One text which is organized Site-by-Site

One additional reference book specifically chosen by the student for their research paper (must be approved by Mr. Libby)

Course Schedule:

Dec 28 **Reading Report Due**
Dec 28-Jan 7 **Israel Study Trip: Daily Journal**
Feb 14 **Research Paper and Journal Entries Due**

Course Itinerary: **Daily itinerary is subject to local condition.**

Mon. Dec 28: Day 1 **Depart USA**

Tues. Dec 29: Day 2 **Arrive Tel Aviv**

Daily Itinerary: TBA

Th. Jan 7: Day 11 **Travel to USA**

Reading Report (Due Dec 28th)

I have carefully read the following books:

On time:

By Feb. 14th (1/3 credit)

Moody Atlas (selected passages TBA)

TBA: Site by Site Text

Student's Choice Research Text

Signature

Bibliography

(L) indicates resource is in the NEBC Library

General Bible

Ryrie, Charles, *The Ryrie Study Bible*. Moody Press, Chicago, IL, 1995. (L)
The official Bible of New England Bible College.

Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *Bible Knowledge Commentary*. Victor Books, USA, 1985. (L)

This commentary is an excellent beginning point for any biblical study. Although without the copiousness of more specific commentaries, this work notes significant controversies over the text, along with explaining its general content.

Wilkinson, Bruce, and Boa, Kenneth, *Wilkinson and Boa Bible Handbook*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 2003. (L)

This general survey of Scripture provides a brief title, outline, and historical background for each book of the Bible. In addition, this book seeks to demonstrate each book's unique contribution to Scripture, along with its prophecies concerning Christ. It is a redone *Talk Thru the Bible*.

Geisler and Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible*. Moody Press, Chicago, IL, 1986. (L)

This overview of the formation of the canon, textual criticism, revelation, inspiration, and authority, is an excellent resource.

OT

Elwell, Walter and Robert W. Yarborough, *Encountering the Old Testament*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999. (L)

This is the textbook for NEBC's OT Survey courses.

Finkelstein, Israel and Neil Asher Silberman. *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of its Sacred Texts*. New York: Touchstone, 2001.

This is an excellent analysis coming from a minimalist "liberal" perspective on the history of Israel. This is primarily an archaeologically-oriented book.

Kaiser, Walter C., *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant?*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2001. (L)

Dr. Kaiser demonstrates the authenticity (historical, lingual, text-critical) of different sections of the Old Testament (i.e., Gen. 1-11; Prophets, Torah, etc.). He also concludes with a section on the relevance of each section to the modern Christian.

Walton, John H., *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1994. (L)

Especially useful for creating charts of particular time periods, this resource seeks to give visual overviews of many of the persons, events, and books of Scripture.

Wood, Leon J., *A Survey of Israel's History*. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1986. (L)

This survey follows a chronological order, placing sections of Scripture by the chronology of their content. This is especially useful for specific geographical and cultural information, along with footnotes of relevant archeological resources.

NT

Elwell, Walter and Robert W. Yarborough, *Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey 2nd ed.*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005. (L)

This is the textbook for NEBC's NT Survey course. Please note that although the ¾ of God's Word covered in the companion E-OT has yet to warrant an update, the E-NT has already been blessed with a second edition.

Thomas, Robert L., and Gundry, Stanley N., *A Harmony of the Gospels*. Harper & Row, San Francisco, CA, 1978. (L)

A harmony shows the parallel passages side by side. So, instead of reading Matthew, then Mark, etc., you could read through all the passages relating to Jesus' birth at once. These also exist for other texts (like Kings and Chronicles).

Walton, John H., *Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament*. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1994. (L)

Especially useful for creating charts of particular time periods, this resource seeks to give visual overviews of many of the persons, events, and books of Scripture.

Witherington, Ben III, *The Jesus Quest*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995. (L)

Church History

Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder, *Documents of the Christian Church*. 3rd ed. London: Oxford, 1999. (L)

Bruce, F.F., *The Spreading Flame: The rise and Progress of Christianity*, 1953. (L)

Ferguson, Everett, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993. (L)

Geography:

Beitzel, Barry, *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*. Grand Rapids, MI: Moody, 1985. (L)

This was the text for NEBC's Geography class. It has a particularly helpful section on climate and region information, as well as a tracing of Biblical events.

Biblical Archaeology Review. (L)

This Journal is written in layman's terms for non-archaeologists and focuses on recent archaeological discoveries in the Holy Land. NEBC has back issues of this journal going back to the 70's.

Rasmussen, Carl G., *Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.

(L)

This particularly readable and colorful atlas is a helpful resource for noting the locations of Bible events.

Helpful Websites:

www.biblicalarchaeology.org

This is the magazine's website. There is perhaps no better magazine in existence which keeps Christians updated on the latest archaeological digs, controversies, and exhibits which relate to Biblical lands and texts.

www.blueletterbible.org

This website contains numerous versions of the Bible and commentaries that you can look through on a verse-by-verse search engine. The Greek and Hebrew are aligned by Strong's numbers, and although the Greek text is based on the majority (KJV) text, the speed and ease of use of this website make it a must-use for word studies.

www.christianbook.com

CBD's online catalogue. Some of the best deals I have found on numerous Christian texts have been from this company. If you are not on their mailing list, you are missing some great catalogues, and their quatra-annual warehouse sales in MA are (I hear) phenomenal.

www.domini.org/tabern/tabhome.htm

This personal site contains pictures of a model of the tabernacle, along with a well-done history of the creation and significance of the tabernacle.

www.earlychristianwritings.com

This site has numerous early church writings, and is an extremely useful resource for finding the writings of each church fathers in multiple translations.

www.e-sword.net

This site, created by Rick Meyers, has an excellent Bible software program which has dozens of Biblical resources. This program can be downloaded for free, and has many of the same features as Biblesoft and Logos software programs.

www.earth.google.com

This amazing and free program allows you to view satellite photos of anywhere on the globe, as well as plot various routes.

www.perseus.tufts.edu

This website allows students to search ancient manuscripts in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew, as well as English versions. An excellent resource for advanced word studies in the languages and knowledge of classical and papyri manuscripts.

www.usm.maine.edu/maps/exhibit1/

This USM site contains numerous ancient maps (along with the history) of the city of Jerusalem.