

CHR 105 OA1 – Introduction to the Bible

Anderson University – 3 Hours Credit

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Per the course catalog, this course introduces you to the academic study of the Bible and is designed to sharpen your understanding of the key terms, historical context, structure, and content of the Bible. The course purpose is to understand, interpret, and evaluate the Bible as the Word of God and the account of God's saving activity in world history. **No prerequisites required.**

ABOUT THE COURSE

This is a **Flex Program** course formatted in a seven-week term, [REDACTED]. Course material for each Module has a specific due date, but students have a "Flex Forward" option and may choose to complete materials early. The course includes seven learning Modules. Each Module has an overview with specific competencies, resources, and assignments. Students may expect to complete each of the seven Modules in one week each. But again, students may progress faster, if desired. Make sure to check in with your journey coach and instructor routinely throughout the term. The recommended time for course work per week is 18-20 hours, including reading and assignments.

NOTE ON CLASSTIME EXPECTATIONS

Though this class will meet for synchronous Zoom Classroom online sessions, the majority of the course work will be completed by the student on their own time. Per Anderson University policy, students may expect to spend an amount of time on classwork in an online class that corresponds to and is consistent with that of a traditional seated class. As an online class, the majority of this time will be spent learning in the digital environment (interacting with class lessons, etc.) and in out-of-class reading (biblical texts and textbooks) and writing (exams, journals, etc.). In online and blended courses, students are expected to be an active participant in the course. Even though you may not see your classmates and instructor, AU online and blended courses are designed to include discussion and other forms of collaboration and communication. You should be willing and ready to communicate regularly with classmates and instructors online. You will participate in weekly activities in your courses. You will need to log into your course and check your official Anderson University email account daily. Doing so will allow you to view announcements, participate in class activities, assignments, online discussions, and complete assessments. You are expected to complete all assignments, quizzes, tests, and any other activities by the due date. If difficulties or unforeseen circumstances arise during the course term, please contact the instructor promptly so that accommodations can be arranged.

INSTRUCTOR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

COURSE LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Articulate why the church and individual Christians believe the Bible to be authoritative and relevant;
2. Identify the principal processes and stages in the formation, canonization, and transmission of the Bible;
3. Utilize key hermeneutical principles and Bible study tools in the proper exegesis and application of the biblical text;
4. Describe the overall theological storyline of the Bible, identifying the key moments in salvation history, culminating with the person and work of Jesus Christ;
5. Identify the individual and unique contributions of canonical books and divisions to the overall message and storyline of the Bible.

INSTITUTIONAL CORE COMMON LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As part of a CORE curriculum at Anderson University, this course will contribute the student's achievement of the following common learning objectives:

1. [CP] Knowledge and integration of historical and contemporary Christian perspective.
2. [HP] Knowledge of global historical perspectives.

METHOD(S) OF ASSESSING ACHIEVEMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A variety of methods—including tests, quizzes, journals, and thought questions—will be used to determine the level at which each student is achieving the above learning objectives. Although unlikely, the professor reserves the right to alter, add to, or delete requirements of the syllabus based upon the professor's judgment of what is best for the educational purposes of a particular class. Changes in class requirements and their influence on the final grade for the course will be discussed in class in advance.

STUDENT FEEDBACK AND GRADING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following assignments are to be completed as described below by the dates outlined in the course schedule. Your final grade will be based on the following criteria:

Grading Scale: A=100-90, B=89-80, C=79-70, D= 69-60, F=59 and below

Required Assignments Summary

1. Lesson Quizzes	20%	Due: By the end of each Module
2. Mid-Term Exam	20%	Due: By the end of Module 4
3. Thought Questions	14%	Due: By the end of each Module
4. Journals	21%	Due: By the end of each Module
5. Final Exam	20%	Due: By the end of Module 7
6. Participation in Zoom Sessions	<u>5%</u>	Due: According to Schedule
	100%	

Your final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- 1. Unit Quizzes (20 percent):** Quizzes will cover the assigned reading and the narrated PowerPoint lectures for each Unit. Quizzes will serve as a review for the material in each Unit, and they must be completed before moving on to the next Module. To achieve competency for each Module, students must score at least 70% on the quiz(zes) for that Module. Students have three opportunities to take the quiz and achieve competency. If the quiz is taken two or more times, the final grade will be the average of the scores. If students do not score 70% after three attempts, they will not demonstrate competency and will not be able to complete the course. Quizzes will usually have objective questions (multiple-choice, true-false, matching) questions, and they will be **open book and open notes**. However, the quizzes will also be timed. Thus, the quizzes are designed so that students will not be able to look up every answer. In other words, even though the quizzes are open note, students will need to prepare for these quizzes before taking them by listening to the lectures and/or reading the material. Doing the reading/listening beforehand should be sufficient preparation.
- 2. Mid-Term Exam (20 percent):** Test questions will be essay questions, designed to integrate and demonstrate understanding of key course concepts. Questions will be taken from assigned readings (book, Bible, and posted class material) and narrated PowerPoints. They will also be open book, open note. The midterm will be completed in Module 4. To achieve competency, students must score at least 70%. If students do not score 70% on the first attempt, they may attempt the exam one more time. The final grade on this assignment will be the average of those two scores. If students do not score 70% after two attempts, they will not demonstrate competency and will not be able to complete the course.
- 3. Thought Questions (14 percent):** An important aspect of this course will be student interaction on key questions and issues regarding the Bible. Such peer interaction will improve critical thinking skills, as well as one's understanding of the message and importance of the Bible. Beginning the first Module, the instructor will post topics or questions for each Module. Each student should post three responses the topics or questions (at least 100 words each). These responses may be original posts, or students may respond to other students' posts. Of course, this is the minimum participation; students are encouraged to interact more. The Thought Questions will be evaluated on depth of reflection and engagement. Since this assignment counts 14% of the total grade, each Module of full participation (7 total) will count 2% of the total grade in the class. Thought Questions will be monitored by the course instructor, who will also participate at times in the discussions. Responses to other students must be more than "I agree" or "I disagree" statements. These responses should indicate that you have read the posting and thought about what your fellow student said. Students are encouraged to engage in discussions respectfully and civilly. Failure to do so will result in an initial warning (in which an apology will need to be issued). Future infractions will result in a zero for that week of participation.
- 4. Journal (21 percent):** In order to learn and get practice with the exegetical process and unpacking the original meaning of a biblical text, students will submit an exegetical worksheet on a select passage of Scripture for each Module (except for Module 1, which will involve more reflective questions). The professor will choose a biblical text to examine for each Module.

Consult Module 2 Lectures for details on the steps in the process. The professor will also describe the process in one or more of the Zoom Classroom sessions. Use the provided exegetical worksheet and write out your answers to each question on the worksheet. You may consult your textbook or a study Bible in answering the questions, but understanding the process is more important than extensive answers. Citations are not necessary. **However, remember: These are your personal reflections!** Do NOT copy from any other sources, including other students and internet sources. This is considered plagiarism and will be subject to AU's academic integrity policies. These journals are passed through turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection website. Grades for the journal entries will be based primarily on depth of reflection. You will not be graded down for disagreeing with the professor. Each Module's journal will count 3% of the total 21% allocated to this assignment. The following rubric will be used to grade the journal entries each Module:

Grammar/spelling (10 pts)	Followed Assignment Specifications (10 pts)	Understanding of Exegetical Tools and Process (40 points)	Correct Understanding of the Original Meaning (40 points)	Final Grade

5. **Final exam (20 percent):** The final exam will cover material since the mid-term. Test questions will be essay questions, designed to integrate and demonstrate understanding of key course concepts. Questions will be taken from assigned readings (textbook, Bible, and posted class material) and narrated PowerPoints. The final exam will be completed in Module 7. To achieve competency, students must score at least 70%. If students do not score 70% on the first attempt, they may attempt the exam one more time. The final grade on this assignment will be the average of those two scores. If students do not score 70% after three attempts, they will not demonstrate competency and will not be able to complete the course.
6. **Synchronous Zoom Classroom (5 percent):** We will meet regularly online for synchronous chat sessions at select times through Zoom Classroom. Times will be available each week—some official sessions and some online office hours. Students should attend at least two sessions, from the available times. Sessions will typically last 45 minutes-1 hour. During this time together, we will discuss course material and requirements, and any questions/concerns that students may have.

CONTENT OUTLINE



METHOD(S) OF INSTRUCTION

Online resources and narrated PowerPoints, directed discussions, Q&A, writing of a Scripture-reading journal, and reading and interacting with the course text.

[illegible]

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REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USAGE

AU Student Email Policy

All students are expected to establish and maintain an e-mail address on the Anderson University e-mail system. Students are expected to check their University e-mail at least once each week during the Fall and Spring semesters. Students are responsible for all material, assignments, and announcements sent by e-mail. Ignorance of course requirements, instructor statements and directions, and University announcements or policy statements sent through University e-mail is not an acceptable excuse for failure to meet the requirements of a course or to adhere to University policy.

Recording Lecture/Synchronous Class Meetings Not Allowed

Audio or video recordings of synchronous class discussions are not permitted in this class. AU values the open exchange of ideas which occurs more freely if the participants know that comments and discussions will not be recorded and shared. Recording of lectures is permitted only if permission is secured in advance from the Center for Student Success and the course instructor is notified. Recordings can be used only to assist the individual student in that class. Publishing, distributing, or using classroom recordings in violation of these restrictions is a violation of the student code of conduct and may be a violation of federal copyright laws. NOTE: However, Zoom Classroom does record all synchronous sessions and these will be made available via Canvas.

COURSE POLICIES

1) Makeup Tests/Presentations and Late Penalties: If significant issues arise during the course that hinder your ability to complete course material, you must notify your professor as soon as possible to arrange for makeup work. This should only be done in extreme circumstances. It is solely your responsibility to contact the professor in this event.

2) Statement on Disabilities and Academic Adjustments: If you have a disability that may interfere with your learning, testing, or assignment completion in this course, you may be

eligible to receive an academic adjustment to help provide you with an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from this course. Please contact Dr. Dianne King, Director of the Center for Student Success, who will advise you on appropriate documentation, determine reasonable adjustments, and notify me of any adjustments for which you are eligible. Once you have been approved for an academic adjustment through the Center for Student Success, please discuss with me its appropriate implementation in this course. Documentation must meet the guidelines specified by university policy, and no one else can be notified of your disability or adjustment without your written consent. This process must be repeated for every semester you are enrolled at Anderson University and wish to receive an adjustment. Academic adjustments are intended to “level the playing field” so that students with disabilities can demonstrate their true abilities in their courses. Changes cannot be made to grades earned before a student has requested an adjustment, so please attend to this early in the semester.

3) Academic Integrity: Students are expected to complete their own work on all assignments and tests. Students may contact classmates or the instructor to discuss course content or clarify assignments. Study groups are encouraged. However, you must remember that submitting work prepared by another student as your own is cheating. Students must also be careful to avoid plagiarism. If students are found to have submitted work prepared by another person as their own, the grade for the assignment will be zero and the offense will be reported to the Vice President of Student Services. Students should read and follow carefully the Academic Honesty and Dishonesty Policy in the Student Handbook. **We will be using turnitin.com with respect to written assignments (including the journals). Further instructions on how to use turnitin.com will be given in class.**

4) Withdrawals: Students can withdraw from a course until [REDACTED] with no grade and no financial responsibility. Students can still withdraw from a course until [REDACTED], and receive a "W" for their grade, but they will be financially responsible for that course. After [REDACTED] students will be both financially responsible and will receive a grade for the course, even if they have stopped attending class and did not complete the required coursework. The only reason a student can withdraw after [REDACTED] and receive a "W" is for medical reasons as approved through the Center for Student Success.

LEARNING FACILITIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS PERTINENT TO THE COURSE

Not Applicable

COURSEWARE AND COPYRIGHT

COURSEWARE

This course syllabus and the accompanying course protocols are intended to reflect accurately all aspects of the course learning experience. However, the professor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as necessary because of events and circumstances that occur during the term.

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