

Introduction to the Bible and Theology

DO 2701

Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to the nature and origin of the Bible, as well as a preparation for more advanced theological studies. Students will learn about the Bible's overall structure and storyline, its divine inspiration and authority, the development of the canon, and the transmission of the Biblical text. An overview of basic doctrinal categories is presented, with special emphasis on Theology and Christology, and students are introduced to important theological terminology. Class discussions, quizzes, projects, and assignments are carried out online, with corresponding textbook reading. (3 hours)

Textbooks

1. Blomberg, Craig L. *Can We Still Believe The Bible? An Evangelical Engagement with Contemporary Questions*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2014.
2. Bruce, F. F. et al. *The Origin Of The Bible*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2012.
3. Grenz, Stanley; Guretzki, David; and Nordling, Cherith. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
4. Holsteen, Nathan D. and Michael J. Svingel, gen. eds. *Exploring Christian Theology, Volume One: Revelation, Scripture, and the Triune God*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2014.
5. Youngblood, Ronald. *The Heart of the Old Testament: A Survey of Key Theological Themes*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.

College Mission

The ultimate mission of Ozark Christian College is to glorify God by evangelizing the lost and edifying Christians worldwide. The immediate mission of Ozark Christian College is to train men and women for Christian service as a degree-granting institution of biblical higher education.

College Learning Goal

The learning goal of Ozark Christian College is to educate and equip students to become like Christ and serve Christ in leadership ministry. Graduates will be biblically grounded, spiritually matured, culturally engaged, and vocationally prepared.

College Learning Outcomes

Ozark has identified learning outcomes for each area of the curriculum – General Education (GE), Biblical Education (BE), and Professional Education (PE). This course will directly address the following college learning outcomes:

General Education Outcomes:

GE 2: Think critically from a Christian worldview.

GE 6: Integrate learning and experiences to new settings and complex problems.

Biblical Education Outcomes:

BE 1: Know the historical and theological content of the Bible.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course learners should be able to:

1. Articulate the story of the Bible in a way that reflects the unity of its overall structure
2. Describe and defend the divine inspiration of the Bible
3. Demonstrate the implications of Biblical authority for personal life and ministry
4. Explain the process by which the canon of the Bible was formed
5. Assess the state of the Biblical text and weigh arguments against the text's reliable transmission
6. Compare and contrast basic categories of doctrinal study
7. Recall the meanings of numerous terms used in theological studies
8. Compile and summarize Biblical teaching on a chosen area of doctrine

Information Literacy

Ozark Christian College is committed to information literacy training. This training will be intentional, incremental, and missional. Students will learn to access, evaluate, and utilize pertinent information in their ministry preparation.

ADA Accommodation

If you have a disability and are requesting an accommodation, please contact the Dean of Online Learning at 417-626-1234 Extension 2007 as soon as possible.

Online Course Policies

Turnitin

Ozark Christian College contracted with iParadigms, LLC for Turnitin® services to be used at the instructor’s discretion. The Originality Check service allows students to submit a paper through Canvas to check for improper citation and potential plagiarism before it is submitted to the instructor. The Peer Review service allows students to submit assignments anonymously to peers for editing and feedback. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

OCC Student Email Address

All Ozark Christian College students must use the official e-mail address provided by the college (lastname.firstname@my.occ.edu) to receive communication from the faculty and staff. The OCC student e-mail address may be forwarded to another e-mail service (e.g. yahoo.com or hotmail.com). **Email will be the professor’s chosen method of communication with the student in this course, so check your email regularly.**

Online Course Refund Policy

Refunds of tuition and certain fees may be made upon official withdrawal of any student according to the table below. To receive a refund adjustment for any classes dropped, less an administration fee, the student should contact the Dean of Online Learning at lindsay.shawn@occ.edu. See [the website](#) for specific dates.

Week 1: Monday-Sunday	100% refund
Week 2: Monday-Sunday	75% refund
Week 3: Monday-Sunday	50% refund
Week 4: Monday-Sunday	0% refund

Online Course Drop Policy

Online courses dropped during the first four days of the course will not be recorded on the student’s transcript. Any student who wishes to withdraw from a class after the Add/Drop period must notify the Dean of Online Learning or the Registrar’s Office and formally request to be withdrawn from the class(es). Until this is done, the student is officially enrolled in the class whether or not he/she participates. Likewise, the student is responsible for appropriate charges and coursework until he/she is officially removed from the course.

Online courses withdrawn after the fourth day but before the sixth week of the course will be recorded as a “W” on transcripts. This grade will not be calculated in the student’s GPA but will impact financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. After five weeks, students cannot drop or withdraw from online courses and grades will be issued based on course performance. The only exception is for reasons approved by the Dean of Online Learning.

Online Course Attendance

Online courses often demand greater discipline and careful attention to details within a compressed period of time compared to on-campus courses. Students are strongly advised to remain in close contact with their online instructor in the event that they must be absent for a brief period of time. Attendance in online courses will be taken on a weekly basis. Students will be expected to actively participate according to the individual course syllabus.

Participation may include, but not be limited to: submitting written assignments, posting in graded forum discussions, completing exams, and written communication with the instructor directly related to the course.

Online students who do not participate in the above ways for seven consecutive days will be considered absent. Students are permitted a maximum of one absence.

The following scenarios may negatively impact a student's academic record and financial aid opportunities.

1. Being administratively dropped due to lack of login or participation within the first four days of an online course. Online Learning Department personnel will contact students via their OCC student email account and/or current phone number to assist them prior to this deadline.
2. Missing twelve consecutive days. The student will be contacted by the instructor via the student's OCC email account. Instructors will promptly convey this information to the Dean of Online Learning. The student will be given 48 hours to communicate his/her intentions. Those who do not respond, or who do not wish to continue in the course, will be administratively withdrawn.
3. Acquiring a second absence after the fifth week. Students who exceed the absence limit (one) without the consent of the online instructor will fail the course. If a student exceeds the absence limit within the first five weeks, he/she may elect to withdraw from the course.

Assignment Submission

All assignments will be facilitated through our Canvas course site. You may post replies to the discussions forums, as well as take quizzes and exams. For written assignments, save documents in either .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf format (or as otherwise indicated by your instructor) and upload them to the Canvas site.

Late Work

Assignments are due on Thursday and Sunday by 11:59 pm Central Standard Time. Late work may or may not be accepted, at the discretion of the teacher. Any grade deductions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. If you have a question about a particular assignment, please contact the teacher well ahead of the deadline.

Responses to Your Work

You may generally expect replies to personal communication (email, Canvas inbox) within 24-48 hours. For written assignments, the professor will endeavor to grade and give feedback within seven days of the due date.

Academic Honesty

Due to the commitment of training men and women for Christian service and the commitment of educational excellence, academic integrity is our natural expectation. Compelling evidence of academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating or plagiarism) will be reported to the academic dean's office and the student development office. Penalties could range from failure of an assignment to suspension from college. Students should avoid dishonesty and irresponsibility at all costs.

Required Course Tools/Connectivity

Successful participation in this course requires the student to possess or obtain (and know how to use) the following in addition to course books:

- One fully functional and adequately performing desktop or laptop computer, free of known viruses.
- A word processor that can publish or save into .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf format.
- Access to your @my.occ.edu email address.
- Daily access to a reliable internet connection of at least 1MB/s speed.
- A webcam and mic (typically integrated on most laptops).

Course Topic Outline and Workload

In keeping with standards typical of higher education, the expectation is that you will spend between 112 to 135 hours completing all coursework in this 3-hour online course.

Module	Topics Covered	Hrs./Min. Covered
1	What is the Bible all about? (Books of the Bible, Storyline of the Bible, Unity of the Bible)	17.5 hr.
2	What kind of book is the Bible? (Historical Trustworthiness)	16.25 hr.
3	What kind of book is the Bible? (Divine inspiration and authority)	16 hr.
4	How did the Bible books come together? (formation and history of the canon of the Old and New Testaments)	13.5 hr.
5	How did the Bible come down to us? (history of textual transmission of both Old and New Testaments)	14.25 hr.
6	What are the major doctrinal categories in the Bible (Introduction to Theological studies, Theology and Anthropology)	15.25 hr.
7	What are the major doctrinal categories in the Bible? (Christology, Pneumatology, and Soteriology)	16 hr.
8	What are the major doctrinal categories in the Bible? (Ecclesiology and Eschatology)	14.75 hr.
Total Hours Students will Spend Working on Course Assignments (120-135 Total)		123.5 hr.

Grades

Below is a listing of assignments that comprise the 100% percentage points possible for this course.

Assignment	Grade	Course Obj.
Welcome Exercise	20 points	
Assignments/Projects	400 points	1, 2, 3, 4
Quizzes	180 points	1, 6, 7
Graded Discussions	300 points	2, 3
Research Assignments	50 points	8
Reading	50 points	
Total Points	1000 points	

Grading Scale

Total Score	Course Grade	Value
100-95 points	A	4.0
94-93 points	A-	3.67
92-91 points	B+	3.33
90-87 points	B	3.00
86-85 points	B-	2.67
84-83 points	C+	2.33
82-79 points	C	2.00
78-77 points	C-	1.67
76-75 points	D+	1.33
74-72 points	D	1.00
71-70 points	D-	0.67
69-0 points	F	0.00
For further information on grading policies, refer to the college catalog.		