

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Interpreting the Christian Bible

Course Number and Section:

RELSTUD

2330F 550

Instructor Name(s): Nick Meyer

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

An introduction to the reception and interpretation of the biblical writings as Scripture in historical and theological perspective.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to outline the major periods and some of the major figures in the history of the interpretation of the Bible
- Students will have a basic grasp of the state of scholarship on some of the major questions of, and approaches to, biblical interpretation today, both in the academy and in the church
- Students will be able to make wise and critical use of secondary sources on the Bible
- Students will be able to articulate the fundamental importance of varying contexts, not least their own, in the interpretation of the Bible
- Students will begin to develop their own theoretical framework of interpretation

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Barton, John. The Bible: The Basics. Second edition. London: Routledge, 2019. Available freely for download as a pdf or epub file through the library website. Available for purchase, as a paperback for between \$35 to \$43.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10
Pop quizzes		25
Essay: Response to Modern Biblical Criticism	10/28/25	20

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Essay: Ancient and Modern Commentary Comparison	12/2/25	25
Essay: Theology of Scripture and Interpretive Framework	12/15/25	25

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Tuesday, September 2, 2025