

Bible History Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Derek Harvey

E-mail: DHarvey@bledsoecountyschools.org

Course overview

The course will look at the Bible and its historical and cultural significance. The course will go through each book of the Bible and look at what is found in each book. We will also look at the historical setting and the culture of the time to place each book in its proper frame of reference. We will also look at some of the other major religions of the world. The course will explore works of art, words, phrases, popular culture, and major historical movements influenced by the Bible in some way. The first 9 weeks of class will cover the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the 2nd 9 weeks will cover the New Testament.

The purpose of this course is to enable students to acquire an understanding and appreciation of the Bible's major ideas, historical/geographical contexts, and literary forms. The course will include the study of the Bible in its historical, sociological, and cultural contexts, and its impact on later cultures, societies, and religions. It is understood that the student's experience, or in some cases lack of experience with the Bible, may influence their perceptions of the assignments and it is understood that they may be a broad range of religious and nonreligious perspectives among the students and that all students have the right to their own personal views of religious topics.

Bledsoe County High School Bible History Curriculum

<https://content.schoolinsites.com/api/documents/2e0792352be145678920b06f41f201dc.pdf>

Materials needed for class

A Bible (translation of your choice)

Textbook

Paper

Pencil or pen

Google Classroom

We will also be using Google Classroom this year for assignments and other activities. You must use your school email addresses to access this program. I have provided links to Google Classroom on my teacher website at

<https://bchs.bledsoecountyschools.org/derek-harvey>

We will talk more about Google Classroom in class.

Class Expectations (Non-negotiable)

All expectations and procedures outlined in the BCHS Student Handbook apply to this class.

Respect

- Show respect for ourselves, others, and our classroom.

Curiosity

- Be curious about the world around us and ask questions.

Collaboration

- Work with others to develop our knowledge and understand group roles.

Communication

- Speak to others respectfully and communicate learning and needs.

Open-Mindedness

- Be open-minded to other people's ideas, perspectives, cultures, and beliefs. You don't have to agree, just be respectful of others' opinions.

Class Procedures

- Be in your seat ready to begin class with all supplies, textbook, and school device when the bell rings. The school tardy policy will apply for all tardies. You must begin your BELLRINGER assignment when you enter the classroom.
- Cell phones are not allowed during class time and should be powered off and placed in your assigned holder in the front of the room or in your backpack.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to complete all missed assignments within 5 days starting the day you return to school.
- Respect others. Bullying and inappropriate language are not allowed.
- Dispose of garbage in a trash can before leaving the classroom.
- Wait until the teacher dismisses you before leaving class.
- Cheating on any test, quiz, or assignment will result in an automatic zero.
- Follow all school rules and the Golden Rule: do unto others (including the teacher) as you would have them do unto you.

Disciplinary Actions

Tardies:

1. Document in Skyward
2. Document in Skyward
3. Document in Skyward, Assign 1 day LD, Parent notified
- 4+. Document in Skyward, Office Referral, Parent notified

Cell Phones or Unauthorized Devices:

1. Take up the device and return it at the end of class
2. Lunch Detention, Parent notified
 - Take up the device and send to the office
3. 2 days Lunch Detention, Parent notified
 - Take up the device and send to the office
4. Office referral through Skyward, Parent notified
 - Take up the device and send to the office

Most Other Issues:

1. Warning
2. One day of lunch detention; inform parent their child is on step 2
3. Two days of lunch detention; inform parent their child is on step 3
4. Office referral through Skyward

School Devices

You will need your school-provided Chromebook each day. Please bring it daily as we will do much of our work electronically. Your participation grade will be based on bringing your device to class every day, charged and ready to use. Devices must be used according to the school's Acceptable Use Policy, and all devices must be returned at the end of the year. Students may be responsible for any damage to the devices.

Textbook

Your textbook will be online (link in Google Classroom) but I have a limited number of hard copies available

The main text is *The Bible and Its Influence*, a textbook published by The Bible Literacy Project, launched in September 2005. It is the only First-Amendment-safe textbook that supports academic study of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The classroom textbook is taught in over 640 public high schools in 44 states. Because of its broad acceptance in the educational community and its widespread use nationally, it has become the standard for

academic Bible study in the U.S. It is also fast becoming the academic standard in the global community. Developed over a five-year period with input from 40 leading scholars, religious leaders, and academic practitioners, *The Bible and Its Influence* is an opportunity to share the contents of the Bible in an appropriate way. Used in combination with the Bible, the textbook presents biblical content - the narratives, characters, plots, poetry, letters, events, parables, prophecies, and proverbs in the Bible. The program was designed to address the fact that, without an understanding of the Bible, today's youth cannot fully understand literature, art, history, music, or culture.

Each student will also need a bible and may use the biblical translation of his/her choice as a text (link to an online bible can be found in Google Classroom)

Attendance

You can only miss 5 unexcused days and still receive credit for the class. Anyone who arrives to class 10 minutes late or leaves with less than 10 minutes remaining will be counted absent for that class period.

Late Work/Makeup Work

Late work will only be accepted at the discretion of the teacher. You have five days from the day you return to school to make up work if you are absent. You can only make a maximum of a 70 on any work turned in after the five days.

Daily Reading Assignments

You will receive daily reading assignments for each week on the Friday of the previous week. All reading assignments will be posted in Google Classroom at that time, along with focus questions you need to review for the corresponding class. You must complete these assignments before the class they are assigned for and keep your focus questions in your binder. On certain days, there will be a quiz on the reading assignment, and you may use your reading notes and focus questions during the quiz.

Review Tests:

There will be a multiple choice review test each week covering the material covered in class during the week.

Major Tests

There will be major tests each nine weeks during this class. Tests will consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. I will prepare study guides for the class before these tests.

Test 1: **Introduction to the Bible and its Influence, The Books of Moses (Genesis-Deuteronomy)**

Test 2: **The Promised Land (Joshua-II Chronicles, Major and Minor Prophets)**

Test 3: **The Gospels**

Test 4: **Acts, New Testament Letters, and Revelations**

Bell-ringers:

Some classes will begin with a bell ringer activity, typically a critical thinking question written on the board at the start of class. To receive full credit, you must write a response of at least half a page. Keep your bell ringer responses organized in a notebook or folder, as they will be graded during notebook checks.

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given after some lessons. The quizzes will cover the notes for the day and may be unannounced. I will usually allow you to use your notes on the quiz. It is important that you take good notes and are attentive during class in order to pass the quizzes.

Binders/Notebooks:

You are required to maintain a binder or notebook for this class. It should include the following clearly labeled and organized sections:

1. **Class Syllabus**
2. **Reading Notes/Focus Questions**
3. **Bellwork**
4. **Class Notes**
5. **Handouts**
6. **Returned Assignments/Tests** (if completed on paper)

I will periodically collect binders for grading. Additional points will be awarded for including a creative cover page for your binder.

Role Play/Discussions

We will have discussions or role play exercises over many topics we cover in class. You will be graded on this discussion by your participation in the discussion. This will count as part of your participation grade.

Exit Tickets:

Each day you will have an exit ticket covering that day's class. This will be posted to Google Classroom and will be due at the end of each class period.

Projects

You will complete one group project each nine weeks, which will account for 15% of your grade.

1st 9 Weeks: Group Teach

You will be assigned to a group and given a topic to teach to the class. Topics include Psalms, Wisdom Literature (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon), Ruth & Esther, and Ezra & Nehemiah.

2nd 9 Weeks: New Testament Letter Poster

You and a partner will be assigned a New Testament letter and will create a poster presentation focusing on it. Your poster should include detailed information about the author, the recipients, the main themes, famous passages, and the letter's influence on Western civilization and history.

Grading Categories

- Classwork/Quizzes/Homework: 30%
- Tests: 30%
- Class Projects: 15%
- Participation: 10%
- Midterm/Final*: 15%

*To be exempt from the final exam, a student must have an average of 90% or higher in the class with no more than 5 excused or unexcused absences.

Grading Scale

A=100-90

B= 89-80

C= 79-70

D= 69-60

F= 59 and below