

School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities  
Course Unit Descriptor

19.01.2021

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Credit Rating     | 10                               |
| Course Unit Title | <b>Introduction to the Bible</b> |
| Unit Code         | 112                              |
| Unit Level        | 1                                |
| Contact Hours     | 22                               |
| FHEQ Level        | 4                                |
| Teaching Period   | Flexible delivery                |
| Teaching Staff    | Lucy Robinson MTh                |
| ECTS              | 5                                |

**EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW**

This unit walks through the contents of the Bible and shows how knowledge of its background helps modern readers to understand it. The student is introduced to relevant source materials such as the Apocrypha and to the history of the biblical period. Attention is paid to principles of exegesis and to issues such as inspiration, authority and canonicity. Throughout relevant study skills are repeated and applied.

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**AIMS**

This unit lays a foundation for the other units by introducing students to the Christian Scriptures, their backgrounds and the first principles of their interpretation.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Knowledge and Understanding**

- By the end of this unit students will be able to:
- Reproduce key elements of the historical setting of ancient Israel, the ministry of Jesus and the beginnings of the church
  - Identify the main literary genres in the Bible
  - Explain what unfair practice in coursework is and how it can be avoided

**Intellectual Skills**

- By the end of this unit students will be able to:
- Distinguish between biblical and extra-biblical sources of information

- Engage in a discussion about canon and biblical authority

### Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Write an academic essay with appropriate bibliography and footnotes
- Use suitable tools such as commentaries, reference works and websites

### Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Work independently and direct their own learning
- Apply appropriate information technology skills including word processing, internet communication, information retrieval, online literature searching and library databases
- Manage their time, plan and work on several areas at once and meet a variety of deadlines

### Employability Skills

Basic employability skills will be enhanced through this unit. For example, students will be guided in the use of Information Technology as a source of information; they will develop learning skills including how to manage their time; they will develop their ability to communicate their ideas clearly in writing.

### SYLLABUS

1. Backgrounds to the OT in general
2. Genesis to Numbers
3. Deuteronomy - Judges
4. Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon, Northern Kingdom
5. Southern Kingdom, exile, return
6. Composition, canon, transmission and inspiration
7. Sources for the background to the NT
8. Political history 333 BC - 70 AD
9. The cultural background to the NT
10. Judaism in the first century
11. The theological unity of the Bible

### TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

Interactive lectures – online lectures and interactive discussion  
Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

### ASSESSMENT METHODS

| Assessment task  | Length                     | Weighting within unit |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Formative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A quiz in class</li> <li>• A short essay</li> </ul>   | 10 questions<br>1000 words | n/a<br>n/a            |
| <b>Summative:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An essay</li> </ul> [One of the essays has to be on the Old Testament, the other on the New Testament.] | 2000 words                 | 100%                  |

## FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

## REQUISITES

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Available on which programme(s)?                           | BA in Theology                |
| Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)? | Available as Free Choice (UG) |
| Pre-requisite units  | n/a                           |
| Co-requisite units   | n/a                           |

## RECOMMENDED READING

**Arnold, Bill T., and B.E. Beyer, *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian survey* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999) – a very useful textbook**  
Drane, John, *Introducing the Old Testament* 3<sup>rd</sup> edn (London: Lion, 2010)  
Drane, John, *The World of the Bible* (Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2009)  
Drane, John, *Introducing the New Testament* 3<sup>rd</sup> edn (London: Lion, 2011)  
Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough, *Encountering the New Testament: A historical and theological survey* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998)  
**Fee, Gordon D., and D. Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth* 3<sup>rd</sup> edn (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003)**  
**Ferguson, Everett, *Backgrounds of Early Christianity* 3<sup>rd</sup> edn (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003) – another useful textbook**  
**Gundry, Robert H., *A Survey of the New Testament* 4<sup>th</sup> edn (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003) – already on Perlego**  
Hillyer, Norman (ed.), *Illustrated Bible Dictionary* 3 vols (Leicester: IVP, 1980)  
Jones, Simon, *The World of the Early Church: a social history* (Oxford: Lion, 2011)  
**Further helpful texts are on a Perlego reading list. More will be added as they become available. <https://www.perlego.com/reading-list/323648/112-intro-bible-unit>**

## SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22

## PLACEMENT HOURS

n/a

## INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 hours

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

## APPROVAL

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Date approved by UGC              |  |
| Valid from Date (Publishing Date) |  |