Syllabus: THEO 202 Introduction to Biblical Studies Fall 2026 eConcordia class

It is the student's responsibility to read this syllabus carefully and to ask questions about anything they do not understand 100%.

This syllabus is subject to change, and any changes will be posted in the Announcements section of your Course.

Disclaimer: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, this course's content and/or evaluation scheme could be subject to change.

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About This Course

Important Information

- This class is entirely online, **except for the final exam**.
- The course is asynchronous, but students have completion tasks to complete each week (worth 20% of the grade).
- Q&A sessions will be held once weekly (Sunday evenings at 7–8 pm), unless otherwise stated.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr Steven R. Scott

There are various ways to contact Dr Scott and ask questions about the course:

1. Live Q & A Zoom session.
    a. There will be one weekly group Zoom meeting to ask questions and discuss the Bible.
    b. These meetings will be in two parts: Part 1 on course mechanics and assignments, and Part 2, a discussion on the lecture content and readings.
    c. Sunday evenings at 7–8 pm.
    d. Zoom links are found on eConcordia.
2. The Q&A forums on eConcordia
    a. Please consult this syllabus, the recorded group videos, and previous questions in the forum before asking a question.
        i. You may well find the answer there.
    b. There are two forums
        i. Questions on the Running of the Course
            1. This concerns how the course works, the assessments, its grading, etc.
        ii. Questions on the Lectures and Readings
            1. Questions about the Bible and how it is studied.
    c. Please allow 1 to 2 business days for a response
        i. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays are not business days.
3. Dr Scott's email: steven.scott@concordia.ca
    a. This email is only for personal concerns (health issues; special personal requests)
        i. If a question falls under the Q and A forums, you will be directed to ask the question there.
        ii. Please allow 1 to 2 business days for a response.
            1. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays are not business days.
    b. You must email Dr Scott using your student email (new Concordia email policy)
4. Individual Zoom appointments
    a. These are available if you cannot attend the group meetings or wish to discuss a personal matter.
    b. Contact Dr Scott at the email above.

New Concordia Email Policy

Your Concordia email is the official channel for all university communications, **including important course updates, Moodle announcements, etc.** According to the Concordia Email Policy, ***students must use their Concordia email when communicating with university faculty and staff*** and are required to check it regularly to avoid missing important information. Failure to use your Concordia email for university communication may result in service delays due to security requirements. **Deadlines missed because your Concordia email was not checked regularly may not be accommodated.**
Students are expected to use their Concordia email in a respectful and responsible manner. This policy ensures that communication across the university remains secure, reliable, and consistent. Learn more about how to access your Concordia email.

Basic Course Information

Course Website

The course website can be accessed at www.econcordia.com. You can log in using your Concordia Net name and password. Your eConcordia course will be accessible until the end of the term for which you are registered and for 6 months after the term's end.

Your account will allow you to access the online course material, including videos, notes, discussion boards, all graded course components, useful links, readings and many more resources from the course website for the term.

Overview

This course is intended to initiate students into the Bible and its study. The course is divided into three parts

1. An overview of the Bible (contents, composition, transmission, translations, and different canons), the history and geography of the Ancient Near East (ANE), and the Torah
2. The historical, prophetical, wisdom, and poetic books of the Jewish Bible/Old Testament.
3. The New Testament

For each section of the Bible, an overview of the content and major themes is provided, specific texts are considered in more detail, and methodological and theological issues are discussed.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Summarise and classify the contents of the Bible.
- Identify and list the major theological themes found in the Bible.
- Recognise the problems encountered in analysing and interpreting biblical texts.
- Summarise the process of formation and transmission of the Bible.
- Describe the relationship between the two Testaments (Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and New Testament).
- Identify the different literary genres as vehicles of theological messages.

Course Material

The material for this course includes Bible readings, video lectures (.5 hours per week), the assigned textbook (1.5 hours per week), and knowledge checks (2.5 hours per week).

Since this course introduces students to the Bible, a collection of religious literature, the reading level is quite high. It includes nearly the entire textbook (360 pages of reading, 30 pages per week on average) and 25 pages of Bible Reading per week.

Required Textbook

- Stephen L. Harris, *Exploring the Bible*. 2nd Edition. New York, McGraw-Hill, 2014.

The Bible: Free Access

You will also need to have access to a good translation of the Bible or the New Testament.

Free online NRSV UE (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition): https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-Updated-Edition-NRSVue-Bible/

- This website has numerous translations and study tools; it is recommended.

The Bible: To Buy

If you wish to buy a Bible:

Recommended Study Bible: *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, Augmented Third Edition* (5th ed.; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018). Amazon: $41.50 (hardcover), $38:12 (paperback), $18.06 (Kindle e-book); ***or without the Apocrypha***: $24.50 (hardcover) and $10:82 (Kindle).

Recommended Plain Bible: *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*: **Kindle and Kobo (Chapters/Indigo) versions are free**.

Recommended compact New Testament: Crossway, *ESV Outreach New Testament*: $2.99 (paperback).

For the free Amazon Kindle app, go to: Hyperlink to Amazon Kindle download

The Bible: Acceptable and Unacceptable Translations

You may use your own Bible *if it is a modern scholarly translation:*

Acceptable translations include: the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV/NRSVUE), the New American Bible (NAB), the New English Translation (NET), the English Standard Version (ESV), the New American Standard Bible (NASB), and the World English Bible (WEB).

Unacceptable translations include: The King James Version (KJV) or the New King James Version (NKJV), New International Version (NIV) or Today's New International Version (TNIV), and the Good News Bible.

- These translations often display a particular theological slant.

Weekly Work: 20% of the Final Grade

Students are expected to complete the assigned lectures, readings, and activities for each week. The coursework is structured in a specific order to aid learning: Bible Readings and Bible reflections; lectures and lecture reflections; textbook readings, textbook reading reflections, and knowledge check quizzes. **20% of the grade is based on completing this work on time each week**.

If, for any reason, you are unable to complete the work that week, you can email Prof. Scott to request an extension. You will need to provide the reason, which of the four tasks you need an extension for, and the date by which you will complete them.

Online Exam Requirements - Safe Exam Browser (SEB)

1) This course includes exams that require the use of Safe Exam Browser (SEB).
    a. Safe Exam Browser is a customised web browser designed to provide a secure environment for eConcordia online quizzes by restricting access to other applications, websites, system functions, and unauthorised resources while an assessment is in progress.
2) Detailed instructions for installing SEB and completing the SEB Practice Test are found in the SEB section in the Assessments section on the course website.
    a. Students who experience technical difficulties that may affect their use of SEB should contact the eConcordia Helpdesk (helpdesk@econcordia.com) at least a week before the first test.
3) Students are required to install SEB on a compatible device and successfully complete the provided SEB Practice Test
    a. Safe Exam Browser is supported ONLY on Windows 10 or later, macOS 10.7 or later, and iOS 9.3.5 or later.
        i. It is not supported on Chromebook, etc.
    b. The practice test is designed to verify that SEB is working correctly before the assessment.
        i. You need to complete the practice test using the same device you plan to use for the actual course quiz or exam.
    c. Some antiviruses or security software tools may interfere with SEB's ability to secure the device.
        i. Completing the SEB Practice Test in advance will help identify and resolve potential installation, compatibility, or authentication issues before the assessment.

Assessments

Graded Assessments: Overview

Component	Date	Grade %
Completion Tasks	**Due each week, by 23:59 each Sunday**	**20%**
Bible-reading reflection		(4%)
Watching the lecture reflections		(4%)
Textbook Reading reflections		(6%)
Comprehension check quizzes		(6%)
Unit 1 test	**Online: Tuesday, 6 October, 12:01 to 23:59 (online)**	**20%**
Comprehension check questions test		(10%)
Mini-essay questions based on the lectures and reading		(10%)
Unit 2 test	**Online: Monday, 9 November, 12:01 to 23:59 (online)**	**20%**
Comprehension check questions test		(10%)
Mini-essay questions based on the lectures and reading		(10%)
Final exam	**9–12 AM, Tuesday, 15 December (see your student centre for the room)**	**40%**
Comprehension check questions test		(10%)
Mini-essay questions based on the lectures and reading		(10%)
Long essay question		(20%)

Description of Graded Assessments

Completion Tasks: 20%

Each week, students need to complete the assigned work: read the assigned bible passages, watch the lecture, read the assigned textbook chapters, and answer the knowledge-check quiz. There is a completion task for each of these tasks that needs to be completed by the end of the week (23:59 Sunday).

Lessons vs. Weeks: Completion Task and Assessment Dates

This course was designed for 13 weeks (plus a reading week). There were thus 13 lessons, but some were combined, and some had a much higher workload than others. The university now runs on a 12-week plus-reading-week format. The timing for completing lessons has thus been divided to reflect this and balance the workload.

Week	Lessons	Completion Date
Week 1	Lessons 1 and 2	23:59, Sunday 13 September
Week 2	Lessons 3–4	23:59, Sunday 20 September
Week 3	Lessons 5–6, Part 1	23:59, Sunday 27 September
Week 4	Lessons 5–6, Part 2	23:59, Sunday 4 October
Online Unit 1 Test	**On lessons 1–6**	**00:01–23:59, Tuesday 6 October**
Week 5 and **Reading Week**	Lesson 7, Part 1	23:59, Sunday 18 October
Week 6	Lesson 7, Part 2	23:59, Sunday 25 October
Week 7	Lesson 8	23:59, Sunday 1 November
Week 8	Lesson 9	23:59, Sunday 8 November
Online Unit 2 Test	**On lessons 7–9**	**23:59, Monday 9 November**
Week 9	Lessons 10–11, Part 1	23:59, Sunday 15 November
Week 10	Lessons 10–11, Part 2	23:59, Sunday 22 November
Week 11	Lesson 12	23:59, Sunday 29 November
Week 12	Lesson 13	23:59, Sunday 6 December
In-Person Final Exam	**On lessons 10–13** **Plus, a long essay question (supplied beforehand) on the whole course**	**9–12 AM, Tuesday, 15 December (see your student centre for the room)**

Reflections on the lectures and readings

Directly after completing these tasks, open the connected completion task. Here, you will be asked to write a paragraph about your thoughts on what you have learned. These must refer directly to the content. There are guiding questions to help you.

These reflections are graded on a pass/fail basis: you either complete them on time (pass) or you do not (fail). As such, there are no right or wrong answers as long as you directly refer to the content.

Comprehension-Check Quizzes

These quizzes are for you to check how well you have remembered and understood the contents of the readings and lectures. They contain multiple-choice and true-or-false questions.

To get the completion task grade, you only need to complete the quiz once. Your grade, like the reflections, is calculated on a pass-fail basis: you complete the quiz (answer every question) before the deadline, you pass, and if not, you fail. In other words, this grade is not based on how many answers you get correct.

These questions will also be used on the three tests and are designed to help you prepare. You can and should practise these quizzes multiple times (see the quiz instructions for how to do this quickly and efficiently), because there is a severe time limit for this portion of the tests. See the test instructions.

Two Online Tests: 20% Each

4) The Unit 1 and Unit 2 tests take place online on Tuesday, 6 October and Monday, 9 November
    a. These tests will be open for a 24-hour period, from 12:01 to 23:59.
        i. If you foresee any problem (schedule conflict, different time zones, etc.), you must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to make alternative arrangements to avoid getting a zero on a test.
        ii. Documentation is required if a test is missed due to health or other crises.
    b. The Unit 3 test is part of the final exam, which takes place **in person** during the exam period (date set by the university).
    c. Online Exam Requirements - Safe Exam Browser (SEB)
5) This course includes exams that require the use of Safe Exam Browser (SEB).
    a. Safe Exam Browser is a customised web browser designed to provide a secure environment for eConcordia online quizzes by restricting access to other applications, websites, system functions, and unauthorised resources while an assessment is in progress.
    b. Detailed instructions for installing SEB and completing the SEB Practice Test are found in the SEB section in the Assessments section on the course website.
        i. Students who experience technical difficulties that may affect their use of SEB should contact the eConcordia Helpdesk (helpdesk@econcordia.com) at least a week before the first test.
    c. Students are required to install SEB on a compatible device and successfully complete the provided SEB Practice Test
        i. Safe Exam Browser is supported ONLY on Windows 10 or later, macOS 10.7 or later, and iOS 9.3.5 or later.
            1. It is not supported on Chromebook, etc.
        ii. The practice test is designed to verify that SEB is working correctly before the assessment.
            1. You need to complete the practice test using the same device you plan to use for the actual course quiz or exam.
        iii. Some antiviruses or security software tools may interfere with SEB's ability to secure the device.
            1. Completing the SEB Practice Test in advance will help identify and resolve potential installation, compatibility, or authentication issues before the assessment.

Format of the Unit Tests

1) The tests are in two parts that are taken separately.
    a. Part 1: Multiple-choice and true/false questions taken from the Comprehension-Check Quizzes
        i. There is a severe time limit to answer these questions to avoid cheating
        ii. Be sure to practise the comprehension quizzes multiple times (as per their instructions)
    b. Part 2: Short Answer Questions
        i. These are based on the questions found at the end of each chapter of the textbook.
            1. See the list of possible questions
        ii. There are four questions, one to two paragraphs long

Final In-Person Exam: 40%

1) The final exam will consist of one part in the format of tests 1 and 2 and one essay question. You will be given 5 questions beforehand to prepare and will be randomly given one to answer during the exam. The questions and instructions will be provided during week 10 of the course

Policies: Extensions and Missed Tests or Final Exam

Weekly Completion Tasks

You are given sufficient time to complete these assignments before their due date.

Students are responsible for foreseeing any possible delay (computer problems, illness, etc.); however, if unforeseen circumstances arise, you may request an extension.

To be considered for an extension, you must send Prof. Scott an email **before the due date** with the following information:

1) Your name and student number
2) The name of this class (THEO 202)
3) The name of the tasks not completed
4) The reason
5) The date you will have them completed

Professor Scott will then consider your request and adjust your due date.

Missed Tests or Final Exam

The university has a very strict policy concerning missed tests and exams. Students can only write the test or exam due to unforeseen exceptional circumstances, such as:

- A serious illness or severe injury
- A recent death in your immediate family
- Assuming unexpected responsibilities of an immediate family member due to serious illness
- Fire

Personal travel plans are **not** considered a valid reason for a deferral.

Documentation is required.

If for whatever reason you miss a test or exam, you must contact Professor Scott immediately.

Accessibility Policy:

The instructor is committed to making this course accessible to all students.

Don't hesitate to ask the instructor questions or express concerns about the course readings and requirements.

If you have a documented disability, you are also encouraged to contact the Concordia Access Centre for Students with Disabilities.

All class lectures have closed captions and downloadable transcripts.

Class Schedule: Fall 2025

Unless otherwise indicated, all deadlines are at 11:59 p.m. on the date listed.

Unit one: Bible Overview and the Torah (Weeks 1–4, Lessons 1–6)

The Bible: An Overview and Canonisation (Week 1: Lessons 1 and 2)

- What the Bible is and is not?
- One Bible, two religions: the twofold division of the Bible
- The content of the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament
- The content of the New Testament
- The Canonising Process

- Canonisation of the Bible
- The Bible's many translations

The land and times of the Bible (Week 2: Lessons 3–4)

- The geography of the Ancient Near East
- Archaeology and the Bible
- Biblical historical periods

The Pentateuch/ Torah (Weeks 3–4: Lessons 5–6)

- The beginnings of biblical studies: the "Documentary Hypothesis."
- The Cosmogony in the Ancient Near East
- The creation stories in Genesis, Abraham, and God's Promises
- Moses and the Exodus
- Leviticus, Numbers and the book of Deuteronomy.

Online Test 1 on Unit 1: 00:01–23:59, Tuesday, 06 October

Unit Two: The Rest of the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament (Weeks 5–8, Lessons 7–9)

The Historical Books (Weeks 5–6: Lesson 7)

- The conquest of Joshua
- The book of Judges
- The beginnings of prophecy and monarchy in Ancient Israel

The Prophets (Week 7: Lesson 8)

- The prophets as defenders of the cult.
- The prophets as promoters of social justice

The Writings/ Wisdom Literature (Week 8: Lesson 9)

- The book of Proverbs and the role of Lady Wisdom
- The book of Job and the problem of human suffering
- Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes) and the futility of life

Online Test 2 on Unit 2: 00:01–23:59, Monday, 09 November

Unit three: The New Testament (Weeks 9–12, Lessons 10–13)

The Political and Social Situation at the Time of Jesus (Week 9: Lessons 10–11, Part 1)

- Major political events and cultural developments that shaped the Greco-Roman world
- The different forms of Judaism that existed in the time of Jesus
- Messianic expectations at the time of Jesus

The Synoptic Gospels (Week 10, Lessons 10–11, Part 2)

- The Synoptic Gospels
- The Gospel of Mark
- The Gospel of Matthew
- The Gospel of Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of John, Johannine Literature and non-canonical gospels (Week 11, Lesson 12)

- Gospel of John
- Introduction to Johannine Literature
- Non-canonical gospels

Paul and Pauline literature (Week 12, Lesson 13)

- Paul's experience of the Risen Jesus.
- Paul's letters and message

In-Person Final Exam: ~~9~~–12 AM, Tuesday, 15 December (see your student centre for the room)

Important University Dates

Monday, 07 September — Labour Day: University closed

Tuesday, 08 September — Classes Begin

Monday, 21 September — Last day to add or drop fall-term and two-term courses; deadline for withdrawal with tuition refund (DNE) from fall-term and two-term courses

00:01–23:59, Monday, 05 October — Test 1 on Unit 1

Saturday, 10 October — Reading Week Begins

Monday, 12 October — Thanksgiving Day: University Closed

Friday, 16 October — Reading Week Ends

Friday, 23 October — Deadline to register with Access Centre for Students with Disabilities

00:01–23:59, Monday, 09 November — Test 2 on Unit 2

Monday, 30 November — Deadline for academic withdrawal (DISC) from fall-term courses

Monday, 30 November — Last day for instructor-scheduled tests or examinations

Monday, 7 December — Last day of classes

Wednesday, 9 December — Examinations Begin

In-Person Exam: To Be Scheduled by the Exam Office

Tuesday, 22 December — Examinations end

Thursday, 24 December– Tuesday, 5 January — University Closed

Important University Help Information

Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity
Educational Technology Guidelines	Concordia Educational Technology Guidelines for Faculty and Students (the "Guidelines")
Access Centre for Students with Disabilities	ACSD
Concordia Library Citation & Style Guides	How to cite...
Course Communication Tools	Communication
eConcordia Policies	Policies
Final Exams Information	Final Exams
Helpdesk/Support	FAQ; help@concordia.ca
Refunds	Refunds
Technical Requirements	Technical Requirements
Tips for Studying Online	Studying Tips
Tips on how to reach online learning goals (learning modules)	How to Succeed @ eConcordia
How to install and use Zoom	Zoom Information
Theology Department's Undergraduate Academic Advisor: Dr Christine Jamieson	Here's the email
Counselling and Psychological Services	Hyperlink for the services
Health Services:	Hyperlink to health services
Financial Aid and Awards Office:	Hyperlink to the office

HOJO (Off-Campus Housing and Job Centre):	Hyperlink to the centre
Concordia Student Union Advocacy Centre:	Hyperlink to the centre
International Students Office:	Hyperlink to the office

Theology Department Grading System

Row 1	A level	A: Excellent: The highest level of achievement. Superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations perfectly presented and done in a well-organised manner. There is evidence of an extensive knowledge base, original thinking, and the capacity to analyse and synthesise. The work is well-structured and grammatically correct.
Row 2	A+ (4.3) 95–100	Perfect: truly outstanding work; this level is only achieved by an extremely small number of students.
Row 3	A (4.0) 90–94.9	Excellent skills and great originality: work is superior in content, structure, and presentation.
Row 4	A- (3.7) 86–89.9	Excellent. The student has an insightful grasp of the subject matter. The work demonstrates a clear and persuasive argument that is well-structured and features solid introductory and concluding sections. There are a few presentation errors.
Row 5	B Level	B: Good: Evidence of grasp of subject matter with some critical capacity and analytic ability. There is a reasonable understanding of relevant issues with evidence of familiarity with the primary and secondary literature.
Row 6	B+ (3.3) 82–85.9	Very Good performance. Thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques. The student can learn independently and use the relevant evidence to develop logically valid arguments. Some minor but noticeable errors in the presentation may detract from the otherwise high quality of work.

Row 7	B (3.0) 78–81.9	A good grasp of the subject matter. The work is clear and well structured, but minor components of an answer may be missing.
Row 8	B- (2.7) 74–77.9	Good level of knowledge. Ability to go beyond the simple reiteration of the material presented in class. Work is articulate and fulfils course requirements.
Row 9	C Level	C: Adequate/Satisfactory: Academic work of acceptable quality. The student is profiting from the university experience, has a base understanding of the subject matter, and can develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
Row 10	C+ (2.3) 70–73.9	Competent: The student's work is competent and demonstrates an adequate understanding of the subject matter. Work of acceptable quality, with ideas presented in a coherent, orderly style. Presentation errors that affect the quality of the work are present.
Row 11	C (2.0) 66–69.9	Fairly competent. Acceptable level of knowledge. The work needs structuring, and the student has some difficulty clarifying his/her thoughts.
Row 12	C- (1.7) 62–65.9	Barely Satisfactory: Command of only the basic concepts of knowledge. The student has obvious difficulty structuring and developing ideas.
Row 13	D Level	D: Marginal/Passing: Indicates the lowest passing grade. The student has some evidence of familiarity with the subject matter, and minimal critical and analytical skills have been developed.

Row 14	D+ (1.3) 58–61.9	Marginal performance: Superficial grasp of the subject matter. A sense of organisation and development is often not demonstrated. Major components of a question may have been neglected. Difficulty in expressing ideas.
Row 15	D (1.0) 54–57.9	Minimal grasp of the material. Ideas are not clear to the reader.
Row 16	D- (0.5) 50–53.9	Deficient in many of the objectives of the course. Important skills not attained.
Row 17	F Level	F: Inadequate: Basic concepts and principles not learned. Weakness in critical and analytic skills.
Row 18	F (0) 0–49.9	Failure: Little evidence of even a superficial understanding of the subject matter. Limited or irrelevant use of literature. Essential skills not demonstrated.