



BIBLE 313 - Course Syllabus (rev. 1/3/2024)

Course Title: *The Book of Hebrews (3 Credits)*

Course Description: An exposition of the epistle of Hebrews covering the background, structure, biblical and theological content, and the development of the argument of the book. Attention will be given to practical matters of exegesis (outline, diagramming, word study, cross-references, etc.) and synthesis of the content of each section. Student will gain greater understanding of the doctrines of Christ and salvation as they study how the book of Hebrews weaves together the overall storyline of the Bible. Student will learn through weekly lectures, class discussions, homework, and quizzes, along with several exams.

Prerequisites: Bible 101 (required for Anchor Bible College “for-degree” students)

Instructors

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Course Objectives

1. The student should be able to communicate a basic understanding of the content and argument of the book of Hebrews.
2. The student should become acquainted with the interpretive difficulties in the book, particularly the warning passages.
3. The student should gain greater understanding of the doctrines of Christ and salvation.
4. The student should have a better grasp of the overall storyline of the Bible and how various parts of Scripture fit together.

Course Materials

- English Bible or Bible app. You may use one or more translations of your choice. I encourage reading the epistle in multiple translations.
- Class notes by the instructor.

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, 2nd ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Eerdmans, 1990.

Class Time: Class will meet once weekly on Thursdays from 7pm-10pm from January 11th until April 25th except for February 15th. Class will take place in Room 105 at Hope Community Church, located at 2100 Ellsworth Rd. Ypsilanti, MI, 48197. Class time will be broken down into the following general schedule (draft):

- Quiz, Lecture and Discussion (7:00 – 8:00)
- Break (8:00 – 8:10)
- Working session in the text (8:10 - 9:20)
- Break (9:20 - 9:30)
- Chapel: Discussion and application (9:30 - 10:00)

Assignments

1. **Reading.** The English text of Hebrews must be read twice according to the assigned schedule. Completion of this reading will be indicated on the weekly quiz. Each student also must read 400 pages from the commentaries listed in the course materials above or the Further Reading Section below. Fill out the reading report in this document and turn in by the end of the semester.
2. **In-Class Interaction** – Students are expected to participate in class discussion and interaction with the teacher.
3. **Quizzes** - There will be weekly quizzes covering the prior material. These quizzes will generally take place at the beginning of class time each week and will cover the previous week's study materials. The quiz format will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer-style questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to provide the students with regular graded feedback on their understanding of the course material. The quizzes also ensure a student's regular and punctual attendance for the weekly class time. The lowest quiz score for each student will be dropped. In case of absence, students are to arrange with the instructor for receiving a copy of the quiz electronically, filling it out, and returning it either electronically or at the start of the next class period. Quizzes are CLOSED BOOK.
4. **Homework and Notebook** - There will be weekly homework assignments based on the week's lessons. There will typically be one chapter assigned per week. The homework assignment will consist of outlining, diagramming, or other writing based on the passage for that week. A binder or notebook is *required* to organize notes and assignments for future reference. Submission of the homework will generally be done in class, on paper. Some may be done through Canvas, say if you are absent. Typed documents may be uploaded directly. Handwritten homework can be scanned and submitted, preferably as a complete .pdf document. Homework is graded for completeness with points deducted only for incomplete submissions or a clear lack of effort.
5. **Exams** - There are two major tests. The precise schedule for exams will be determined as the class unfolds. Tests are CLOSED BOOK.

For Further Reading:

1. Schreiner, Thomas R. *Hebrews*. EBTC. Lexham, 2021.
2. Lane, William L. *Hebrews*. 2 vols. WBC. Word, 1992.
3. Cockerill, Gareth L. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. NICNT. Eerdmans, 2012.
4. Ellingworth, Paul. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. NIGTC. Eerdmans, 1993.
5. Homer A. Kent, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*.
6. David L. Allen, *Hebrews in New American Commentary*.

Assessment: Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Reading	10%	Weekly
In-Class Interaction	5%	Absences make in-class interaction impossible, so good attendance is required.
Quizzes	40%	Weekly
Homework and Notebook	25%	Student will keep a notebook with notes, diagrams, etc.
Exams	20%	Two major tests

We will use the following thresholds to convert numerical scores into letter grades:

A+: >= 98%	B+: >= 88%	C+: >= 78%	D+: >= 68%	F: < 60%
A: >= 92%	B: >= 82%	C: >= 72%	D: >= 62%	
A-: >= 90%	B-: >= 80%	C-: >= 70%	D-: >= 60%	

Depending on the distribution of raw scores at the end of the semester, these thresholds may change; however the final thresholds will be no stricter than the current thresholds. For example, if you receive a raw score of 85% in the course, you will be guaranteed a letter grade of at least B; however it may happen that you receive a higher letter grade depending on the overall distribution of raw scores.

Class Schedule:

In general, I would like you to read the Bible chapter before the class that covers that chapter. Most weeks I will assign homework. The *next* class we will go over the homework, and then take a quiz on the previous material. Then we will learn new material for the new chapter that week.

Late Policy

Assignments are expected to be submitted prior on the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances outside of the student's control, they may request an extension from the teaching staff.

Additionally, it is often the case that due to any number of other circumstances, a student finds that they are unable to adequately complete a given assignment. In such cases, the student is welcome to submit the assignment after the due date, up to the end of the semester; however, a late penalty will be given for such a late assignment. The standard late penalty is a 20% flat reduction in grade for the given assignment. This late penalty is meant to penalize late submissions and encourage timeliness, while still allowing the student to still finish the given assignment to the best of their ability even if they are unable to complete the assignment for some time due to any extended circumstances.

This late policy is subject to instructor discretion. The 20% late penalty policy is intended to allow for unique or difficult but not extraordinary circumstances. Any student who abuses this policy, per the instructors discretion, is liable to have this policy revoked and the grade revert to either a zero or that based on any submission prior to the due date.

Appendix: How to set up your Canvas Account

Canvas is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of homework and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents.

You should set up a Canvas account with your regular email and will be able to access the course on Canvas with a simple course invitation sent to your email. Please perform the following steps to setup your Canvas account:

- Check your email for a course invitation to Canvas.
- Click the “Get Started” button, which should redirect you to a Canvas page.
- Accept the course invitation. Upon accepting, it should redirect you to a page that will allow you to either set up a new Canvas account or link a current Canvas account.
- If you do not already have a free Canvas account, proceed to create a new account. To create a new account, it will set your login to be your email, you simply need to set your password and accurate time zone.

Your new account should be all set. To log in to Canvas in the future, go to the following URL:

<https://canvas.instructure.com/login/canvas>

Use your email and password to log in. Then click on your BIBLE 121 course.

To use the mobile Canvas app, you'll want to download the Canvas app. Upon downloading and opening the app for the first time, it will prompt you to “Find my School.” Select this option and put in “Free Canvas Accounts.” Select this option and proceed to log in with your email and password associated with your free Canvas account.

Appendix: How to submit homework on Canvas

From the course's Canvas home page, navigate to the assignments tab. Select the homework assignment from the list of assignments. Follow the instructions for the different cases of typed and handwritten submissions.

For typed documents:

- Click “Start Assignment” (“Submit Assignment” in the mobile app)
- Click “Upload File” (“Files” in the mobile app)
- Click “Choose File” (simply select the file in the mobile app)
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by selecting “Add Another File”

For handwritten documents:

You may use a scanner, scanner app, or simply take photos of your work and submit the files by following the same steps outlined for typed documents. The best option may be to use the Canvas mobile app to submit the assignment and use the scanner feature as an option after selecting “Submit Assignment.”

Please note, you may submit as many times as you would like prior to the assignment deadline. The most recent submission will count as your graded submission.

Appendix: Academic Integrity

Students are expected to hold themselves to a Christian standard of ethics in all matters. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from any forms of plagiarism, cheating, sharing or acquiring any materials that would give a student an unfair advantage, or any dishonest representation of one's work. Below is outlines the consequences for an infringement of academic integrity for a given assignment:

- First offense – A grade of zero is given for the assignment; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file.
- Second offense – A grade of F is assigned for the course; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file. The Dean of Students and/or Registrar will notify faculty of students who incur a second offense in this area.
- Third offense – The professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file and the student may be suspended or dismissed from this institution.

Reading Report Form: Hebrews English Bible

Your Name: _____ Turned In Date: _____

Book/Article	Author	Date Completed	# Pages
Total Pages			