



Bible 360 - Course Syllabus

Course Title: *The Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus (3 Credits)*

Course Description: This course explores in-depth the events surrounding the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, examining their historical foundations, theological significance, and practical implications for our lives. The curriculum is centered on the creed in 1 Cor 15:3-5 and traces the themes of Jesus' passion and resurrection throughout Scripture and early Christian teaching. The historicity of the claims will also be explored. The second half of the course will emphasize the biblical theology of resurrection in particular and its implications on our lives today. Throughout the semester, students will complete eight homework assignments, such as evaluating the claim of the resurrection, two short essays, and two long essay assignments that address questions like "What did the death of Jesus accomplish?" and "Why did the early Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead?" Regular quizzes, classroom discussions, and two comprehensive exams will support and assess students' engagement with the course material.

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

Instructors:

- Professor: Dan Taylor
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Course Materials:

- Bible (unless otherwise specified, you may use the translation of your choice)
 - Lecture notes and quiz blanks will use the ESV translation.
- *The Bedrock of Christianity: The Unalterable Facts of Jesus' Death and Resurrection*, Justin Bass, ISBN: 978-1683593607
- *The New Testament in Its World : An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians*, N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird, ISBN: 978-0310499305

Class Time: Class will meet weekly on Fridays from 4pm-7pm. 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:

- Quiz (4:00 - 4:10)
- Review of Assignments (4:10 - 4:20)
- Lecture (4:20 - 5:20)
- Break (5:20 - 5:25)

- Lecture (5:25 - 6:25)
- Break (6:25 - 6:30)
- Discussion (6:30 - 7:00)

Assignments:

- **Quizzes and Discussions** - There will be 12 quizzes over the course of the semester. 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 and to prepare them for the exams. The quizzes also ensure a student's regular and on-time attendance for the scheduled lecture time. For some topics, we may hold an in-class discussion in place of a quiz. Participation will be tracked based on thoughtful contributions made to the discussion. The lowest quiz/discussion score for each student will be dropped.
- **Homework** - There will be 8 homework assignments throughout this course. Each homework assignment is distinct and the exact assignment details are published on Canvas. The homework assignments are designed to help reinforce the study material and provide a graded structure for study and personal reflection on the material in this course.
- **Long Essays** - There will be 2 long essay assignments throughout this course. Each essay has a distinct essay prompt and further structure and detailed instructions published on Canvas. These essays will require you to interact with multiple authors and come to conclusions about key theological issues in 4-6 pages. Each essay is also structured with a personal reflection and application aspect which is intended to bridge the gap between theological study and practical Christian life and ministry.
- **Short Essays** - There will be 2 short essay assignments throughout the course as well. These assignments will also be structured with a personal reflection and application aspect and will serve to reinforce material covered in lecture and in the course reading.
- **Midterm Exam** - The midterm exam will take place on 3/6/2026 during the first part of class time. The exams will be cumulative and cover all lecture and study material content up to that point. However, the second exam will emphasize material covered after the first exam. The purpose of the exams is to encourage each student to review the material studied so far and to ensure that each student retains the information learned throughout the course of the semester. The exams will be structured in the same format as the quizzes.
- **Final Exam** - The final exam will take place on 4/24/2025. The exam will be cumulative but with a much heavier emphasis on material covered after the earlier exams. The purpose of the exam is to encourage each student to review the entire course material and to ensure that each student retains the information learned throughout the course of the semester. The exam will be structured in the same format as the midterm exams and the quizzes.

Canvas: Canvas is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of assignments and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents. Further details on how to set up a Canvas account and access this course can be found in the appendix to this document.

Assessment: Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Quizzes	10%	12 quizzes according to the course schedule. Lowest quiz dropped
Reading Assignments	10%	
Short Essays	20%	2 short essays equally weighted
Long Essays	20%	2 long essays equally weighted
Midterm Exam	20%	On 3/3
Final Exam	20%	On 4/17

We will use the following thresholds to convert raw scores in the course into letter grades:

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

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:

Week #	Lecture Topics	Reading	Assignments Due
Week 1 (1/9)	"Of First Importance": The Creed in 1 Cor 15:3-5 Studying History	Bass Chapter 1, 3 Wright Chapter 8	
Week 2 (1/16)	The First Century World The Life of Jesus	Wright Chapter 9, 10	- Quiz 1 - Reading Questions 1
Week 3 (1/23)	The Crucifixion of Jesus "In Accordance with the Scriptures": The Suffering Servant	Bass Chapter 4 (through "For Our Sins according to the Scriptures") Wright Chapter 11 (through "The Charges") Treat Chapter 2 (Handout)	- Quiz 2 - Reading Questions 2
Week 4 (1/30)	The Last Supper The Cross of Christ in Romans	Bass Chapter 4 ("This Is My Body, Which Is For You") Wright Chapter 11 ("Last Supper") Wright Chapter 22 (Just "The Argument Of Romans")	- Quiz 3 - Short Essay: How do the servant songs in Isaiah help us understand the purpose for which Jesus died? Looking particularly at the new exodus imagery.
Week 5 (2/6)	Jesus as the Second Adam: Recapitulation Christ's Spiritual Victory at the Cross: <i>Christus Victor</i>	Treat Chapter 5 (Handout) Wright Chapter 11 ("Riddles of the Cross" through "The Victory of God")	- Quiz 4 - Reading Questions 3
Week 6 (2/13)	Implications of the Cross in the Life of the Believer: Moral Influence The Burial of Jesus – Customs, Testimony, and Archaeology	Bass Chapter 4 ("He Was Buried")	- Quiz 5 - Reading Questions 4

Week 7 (2/20)	Fur Rondy Break!		- N/A
Week 8 (2/27)	Comparative Ancient Resurrection Narratives I - Pagan Views Comparative Ancient Resurrection Narratives II - Jewish Views	Wright Chapter 12	- Quiz 6 - Outline and bibliography for Midterm Paper
Week 9 (3/6)	Midterm Exam The Resurrection of Jesus	Bass Chapter 5	- Midterm Exam - Long Essay: What did the death of Jesus accomplish?
Week 10 (3/13)	Alternative Theories – Historical Critiques of the Resurrection Resurrection in the NT	WLC (video) Wright Chapter 13 (pp. 296-308)	- Quiz 7 - Reading Questions 5
Week 11 (3/20)	The Corinthian Correspondence Gospel Accounts of the Easter Story	Wright Chapter 13 (pp. 308-315) Wright Chapter 14	- Quiz 8 - Reading Questions 6 - WLC video
Week 12 (3/27)	Appearances The Gospel Message in Acts	Bass Chapter 6	- Quiz 9 - Reading Questions 7
Week 13 (4/3)	The Rise of the Nazarenes Resurrection in the Early Church	Bass Chapter 7 <i>Irenaeus Against Heresies</i> (Book V, Chapter 13) <i>Origen Against Celsus</i> (Book V, Chapter 23)	- Quiz 10 - Short essay: Comparison of evangelistic presentations of different Christian traditions and Acts.
Week 14 (4/10)	Christ's Ascension and Reign Atonement in Hebrews	Wright RSG Chapter 12 Handout	- Quiz 11 - Reading Questions 8
Week 15 (4/17)	The Church Raised to Life Resurrection Hope	Middleton Chapter 12	- Quiz 12 - Outline and bibliography for Final Paper
Week 16	Final Exam		- Final Exam - Long Essay: Why

(4/24)		<p>did the early Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead, and how did this belief reshape their understanding of God, Scripture, their current duties, and their future hope?</p>
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Late Policy:

Assignments are expected to be submitted prior to 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 instructor's 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

This course will use the free version of Canvas. This means that you will be able to 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 set up 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 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 assignments on Canvas

From the course's Canvas home page, navigate to the assignments tab. Select the specific 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 are outlined 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.

Appendix: Policy on Use of Generative Language Models For Written Assignments

The use of generative language models, such as ChatGPT, is not strictly prohibited and in some cases is very much encouraged as a research and brainstorming tool. However, all written assignments submitted as your own work should reflect your own personal writing. This prohibits copy and paste use of such tools, however, you may feel free to quote such tools provided that you make clear it is a quotation.

In general, you should treat generative language models as equivalent to speaking to another person. You may gain insight from them and be able to improve your value and productivity, but you should not misrepresent someone else's work as your own. These tools may also be treated somewhat like calculators in a math class. You may use them when appropriate and assignments may even assume their use in some ways, but all submitted work must be your own unless specified otherwise.