



Bible 353 - Course Syllabus

Course Title: *Messianic Prophecy (3 Credits)*

Course Description: This course examines how Old Testament prophecies communicate a coherent and detailed foretelling of the Messiah, serving as the context and basis for the New Testament's identification of Jesus as the Christ. The course traces the biblical storyline from Genesis to Revelation, identifying the original divine promises and their ultimate fulfillment in Christ. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the New Testament's messianic interpretation of Old Testament prophecy and on personal application in teaching and evangelism. Over the course of the semester, students will complete homework assignments including discussion boards, comparative charts, and short writing assignments, along with two larger projects: a lesson plan presentation and a six-page term paper. Readings will be drawn from Scripture, the textbook, journal articles, and selected videos. There will also be regular quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.

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

Instructors:

- Professor: Peter Manwiller
 - Phone: 734-516-0341

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 Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy: Studies and Expositions of the Messiah in the Old Testament*, ed. by Michael Rydelnik and Edwin Blum. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2019.

Class Time: Class will meet weekly on Sundays from 7pm-10pm. 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 (7:00 - 7:10)
- Review of Assignments (7:10 - 7:20)
- Lecture (7:20 - 8:20)
- Break (8:20 - 8:25)
- Lecture (8:25 - 9:25)
- Break (9:25 - 9:30)
- Discussion (9:30 - 10:00)

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 and fill-in-the-blank. 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 will hold an in-class discussion in place of a quiz. Participation will be tracked based on thoughtful contributions made to the discussion. The lowest two quiz/discussion scores for each student will be dropped.
- **Homework** - There will be 12 homework assignments throughout this course. Each homework assignment is distinct, and the exact assignment details are published on Populi. 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.
- **Lesson Plan** – Two weeks will be spent preparing a creative lesson plan and recording a 10-minute video with visual illustrations teaching from Hebrews chapter 1.
- **Final Paper** - The final paper will be a six-page theological term paper covering the broad topics of biblical messianic prophecy and fulfillment from Genesis to Revelation. The paper can cover specific topics of interest to the student that are relevant to the class. Beginning the outline and researching published sources for the paper early is built into the course plan and is due on Week 14.
- **Exams** - There will be two exams during the course. A midterm will take place on Week 8 of the semester during the first part of class time. The final will take place on Week 15. The exams will be cumulative and cover all the lecture and study material content up to that point. However, the Final exam will emphasize material covered after the midterm 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.

Populi: Populi is Anchor Bible College's student information system and online classroom. It is 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 log in to Populi 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	20%	12 Quizzes The lowest two quiz/discussion scores dropped
Homework	20%	12 homework assignments, all equally weighted
Lesson Plan	10%	Outline and 10-minute video lesson
Discussion Boards	10%	4 Populi discussion boards
Final Paper	10%	6-page paper due Week 14
Midterm Exam	15%	Week 8
Final Exam	15%	Week 15

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:

Date	Lecture Topic	Study Material	Assignments Due
Week 1 8/30	'Messiah' in the Hebrew Scriptures: Terminology and Context Hope of a Messiah in Genesis	1 Sam. 16:1-13; 2 Sam. 7:8-17; Ps. 89 Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3; 22:16-18; 49:8-12; Gal. 3 "Messiah and the Hebrew Bible" by Sailhamer in MHMP (pp. 41-59) "What Does the Hebrew Bible Say About the Coming Messiah?" by Rydelnik in <i>The Apologetics Study Bible</i> (pp. 1351-1353)	Nothing Due First Day of Class
Week 2 9/6	Define the title "Messiah" in its OT context Define the title "Messiah" in its NT context	Read the dictionary entry "Messiah in the Old Testament" in the <i>New Bible Dictionary</i> (by J.A. Motyer, pp. 753-760) Read the dictionary entry "Messiah in the Old Testament" in the <i>New Bible Dictionary</i> (by R.T. France, pp. 760-761)	Quiz 1 - Covering week 1 lecture Discussion Board 1: Sailhamer suggests that the Hebrew Bible functions like a stained-glass window. What does he mean by this metaphor, and how could this approach help identify the OT's messianic message? Did Sailhamer's article highlight an OT passage you hadn't before realized could be interpreted messianically? HW 1 Chart 1: Create a "timeline" (in canonical order) of at least ten OT Scripture passages showing the progressive sharpening of the descriptions that would later be used to identify the Messiah of the NT. Along with each of these 10 OT passages, provide one or more NT references that support these identifications as messianic with a fulfillment in the life of Jesus.

Week 7 10/11	The Sign of Immanuel (Isaiah 7-11) Review for Midterm Exam using practice quiz questions taken from students	Isaiah 7-11 Read “Isa. 7:1-16—The Virgin Birth in Prophecy” in MHMP (pp. 815-827) Read the entry “Immanuel” in the New Bible Dictionary (pp. 500-501)	Quiz 6 - Covering week 6 lecture HW 6 Chart 4: Fill in a table of NT quotations of Psalm 2 and Psalm 110, summarizing the theological point of each quotation. Also, write a short (150-250-word) description of why Psalm 2 and Psalm 110 were so important to Jesus and the early Christian church.
Week 8 10/18	Midterm God is coming (Isaiah 40)	Isaiah 40:1-11; Malachi 3:1; 4:5; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-6; John 1:19-34 Read the dictionary entry “Prophecy, as Proof of the Bible,” in Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (by Norman L. Geisler), pp. 610-613)	Midterm Exam HW 7 Chart 5: Fill in a chart describing the context of the Immanuel prophecy in Isaiah 7-11, and how it is used in Matt. 1.
Week 9 10/25	Key Messianic Titles: Branch, Root, Servant, Seed, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace, The One Shepherd The Messianic Shepherd	Isaiah 11:1-10; 52:13-53:12; Genesis 3:15; Jer. 23:5-6; Rev. 22:16 Read “The Messiah and His Titles” in MHMP (pp. 29-38) Ezekiel 34; Mic. 5; Ps. 23;	Quiz 7 – Just discussion/attendance HW 8 Writing Assignment 2: Your friend (perhaps a Muslim or a Jehovah’s Witness) has heard that “a messiah” just means “an anointed one” and is said of other kings in the Bible who were not divine. She wonders why Jesus, even if he was a messiah, should be understood to be God. Write roughly 400 words to your friend, answering her questions in a

Week 11 11/8	Zechariah's Messianic Global Feast of Booths Zechariah's Messianic Priest and King— Atonement	Zechariah 12-14 Zechariah 3; Zechariah 6:9-15; Zech. 9:9-13; Read "The Normal Christian Life" by Watchman Nee: Chapter 1: The Blood of Christ Chapter 8: The Holy Spirit	Quiz 9 - Covering week 10 lecture HW 10 Writing Assignment 4: In Acts 8, we read that the Ethiopian Eunuch was reading the Isaiah scroll when Philip happened upon him and answered his question: "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this?" Imagine you are Philip, traveling along some desert road in the First Century. As you happen upon this Ethiopian reading from Isaiah's scroll, how would you demonstrate that Isaiah 52-53 is about Jesus? Bullet point 10 reasons on a single page. Continue working on your final term paper (see week 14). Submit an outline, a bibliography with 8+ published sources, and an introductory paragraph including your thesis statement. Use proper citation format (see the Turabian guide here).
Week 12 11/15	The Old Testament in the New Testament: direct prophecy, typology, and <i>sensus plenior</i> New Testament High Christology: The Divine Identity of Jesus	Read "The Old Testament in the New Testament" by Rydelnik in MHMP (pp. 103-114) Read G. K. Beale, "Did Jesus and His Followers Preach the Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts?" <i>Themelios</i> 14, no. 3 (1989): 89-94. John 1:1-18; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1; Philippians 2:1-11	Quiz 10 - Covering week 11 lecture Memorize the main themes in Hebrews 1 (in Quiz 11) Prepare a lesson plan that can be used to teach through Hebrews 1. Choose the type of audience intended for your lesson. Make a 1-page outline with notes for a 10-minute presentation, also include at least two visual illustrations.

Week 13 11/22	Messianic Themes in Revelation Is Jesus Ruling and Reigning Now? (Eschatology)	Revelation 5; Revelation 19:11-16; Rev. 20 Ephesians 1:19-23; Hebrews 2:5-9; Isaiah 2:1-5; Daniel 2; Matt 28:18-20	Quiz 11 - Covering week 12 lecture Creative Lesson: Submit a 10-minute video teaching from Hebrews 1 using the outline and visual illustrations from the previous week. HW 11 Exam 2 Review Questions 2: Create 10 quiz-style questions, each taken from a different week of lecture slides (since the midterm), and submit. Cite which lecture slide the question can be answered from
11/29	Thanksgiving Break!		
Week 14 12/6	Summation: Theology and Practice of Messianism Today Review for the Final Exam using practice quiz questions taken from students	2 Peter 3:8-14 Philippians 2:5–11; Ephesians 4:7–16	Quiz 12 – Covering week 13 lecture Final Paper Quiz Discussion Board 4: How has studying messianic prophecies affected my view of Jesus and how I will present him to others in evangelistic or teaching settings? Final Paper: Submit your 6-page theological term paper. Include a title that represents the main idea of your paper. For example: “Why Jesus is the Messiah: A Biblical Case from Genesis to Revelation.”
Week 15 12/13	Final Exam & Final Discussion Discuss doctrinal statements Discuss final paper topics		Final Exam HW 12 Writing Assignment 5: Refine your doctrinal statement from Week 3, describing your theological definition of the term “Messiah” that you believe Jesus fulfilled based on the OT and NT. Support all assertions with Scriptural references. Include an additional final paragraph highlighting what aspects of your statement may have changed during

			your studies in the course.
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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 accommodate unique or difficult but not ordinary 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 before the due date.

Appendix: How to Log In to Populi for the First Time

This course uses Populi, Anchor Bible College's student information system and online classroom. Your Populi account is created for you once you have been approved for the class, so there is nothing for you to sign up for. Please perform the following steps to activate your account:

- Check your email for a welcome message from notifications@populi.co with the subject line "Welcome to Populi." It is sent to the personal email address you registered with.
- The email contains your username, which the college has already set for you. Usernames follow the format firstname.lastname (for example, jayden.spring).
- Click the link in the email to set your password. This link expires thirty days after the email is sent, so log in as soon as you receive it even if class has not yet started.
- Populi will first ask for a mobile phone number so the college can send you text notifications. You may skip this step. If you enter a number, Populi will text you a verification code to confirm it.
- Set your password. It must be at least ten characters long and contain at least one capital letter and one number. Populi will not accept a password that has appeared in a known data breach.
- Check the box to accept the Acceptable Use Policy, then click "Save Password and Log In."

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

<https://anchor.populiweb.com>

Use your username and password to log in. Then click on your course.

Anchor Bible College does not require students to use an authenticator app, so your username and password are all you need. Populi will log you out after one hour of inactivity; when you log back in, it returns you to where you were working.

Populi publishes its own help articles for students:

Logging in for the first time

<https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/articles/223791887-Your-Populi-account-login-everything-you-need-to-know>

Assignments, lessons, discussions, and tests

<https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/sections/360006197054-Your-courses>

If you have trouble logging in or reaching your course, contact Jayden Spring, Administrative Specialist. Call or text 517-320-2659, or email jayden.spring@anchorbiblecollege.org.

Appendix: How to submit assignments in Populi

From your Populi Home page, click your course and 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 the name of the assignment to open its page
- Click the upload area in the main part of the screen
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by uploading them the same way

- You may also attach a file, along with any comments or questions for your instructor, in the feedback section on the right side of the page

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.

Please note, you may replace your submission as many times as you would like prior to the assignment deadline by deleting the uploaded file and uploading a new one. Once your instructor has viewed or graded your submission, the file can no longer be deleted, so be sure the version you upload is the one you want graded.

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.