

The Bible is the best gift God has given to humankind.

-Abraham Lincoln

Hebrew Scriptures/New Testament

**Department of Religious Studies
St. Mary's College High School**

**Ms. Clare McCormick
Rm. 510 cmccormick@stmchs.org**

Course Information

This course strives to give students a basic understanding of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures as well as some tools for Biblical exploration and learning. We will approach the Bible as a faith text which reflects the various authors' theologies. In the fall semester, we will study Hebrew Scriptures and in the spring, the Christian Testament.

Required Materials

Fall: Written on our Hearts by Mary Reed Newland

Spring: Jesus of History, Christ of Faith by Thomas Zanzig

New American Bible

Dedicated 3-ring binder with three sections: Notes/handouts, returned assignments and homework, and journal/reflection

Course Goals/Values

That the students will...

- Develop a basic understanding of how the Bible came to be.
- Become familiar with the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures and have some basic understanding of them.
- Know and appreciate the major themes and issues.
- Reflect on how the biblical truths may be incorporated into their own lives.
- Develop a deeper understanding of how God has worked in human history and continues to work presently.

Course Methodology

- interactive lectures and notetaking
- frequent quizzes
- reading (silent and oral)
- large and small group work
- audio-visuals

Course Expectations

Academic

- All assignments must be dated, labeled, and neatly presented.
- As a general rule, late work is not accepted; excused absences are an exception. (see handbook p. 28-29) In the case of an absence, it is the *student's* responsibility to meet with me the day he or she returns to school to establish a due date for the work missed while absent. When turning in absent work, write "ABSENT" on the top of the paper and be sure it is labeled.
- Participation is not measured by the frequency or volume of a student's remarks, but by one's *total and undivided attention*. Intelligent questions, objections, input and arguments will communicate how carefully one has read and prepared for class.
- Plagiarism/cheating will result in failure of the given assignment and referral to the Academic Assistant Principal. (see handbook p. 18)
- At least once a week I will check to make sure that you have ALL your books (text, bible, binder) with you. You must have all three to get credit.

Behavioral

- Respect all people, property and space.
- Enter the classroom quietly.
- In your seat when the bell rings.
- Remain in your seat.
- Raise your hand to be recognized.
- No hats, gum, food or drinks (other than water).
- All electronic devices are to be put away including headphones.
- No lotions, make-up, cosmetic or grooming items in class.
- Recycle all paper, cans, and bottles in the class bin.

Assignment submission guidelines

- All work must be written in black or blue ink, but preferably typed in 12-pt. Times font or equivalent.
- Only loose-leaf binder paper or standard typing paper is accepted.

All submitted assignments are to be headed thus:

Your Name

Due Date

RST 3-4, period__

Title of Assignment

Homework

- *Frequent biblical reading assignments*
- *Written homework twice weekly*
- *Maintain an organized binder*

Grading categories and weights

- 1. Quizzes/Tests (40 %)**
- 2. Notebook/Journal (15%)**
- 3. Book preparedness (5%)**
- 4. Homework/Classwork (25 %)**
- 5. Final exam (15 %)**

Departmental Guidelines for Grading

“A” (Outstanding 90-100%)

1. completes 100% of assignments
2. participates consistently in class activities as an active questioner or commentator, and as an intent listener
3. exhibits consistently superior comprehension and organizational ability in testing, speaking, and writing assignments
4. exhibits unusual insight or originality in work
5. actively engaged and self-directed in the learning
6. consistently a good citizen in attendance and behavior

“B” (Very Good 80-89%)

1. completes 100% of assignments
2. participates generally in class activities as an active questioner or an occasional commentator
3. exhibits good comprehension and organizational ability in testing, speaking, and writing assignments
4. is consistent, but work is not characterized by unusual insight or originality
5. shows initiative, but tends to rely on teacher direction

“C” (Satisfactory 70-79%)

1. completes 100% of assignments
2. participates in class activities usually as an interested listener or an infrequent commentator, generally comments only when questioned
3. exhibits fair comprehension and organizational ability in testing, speaking, and writing assignments
4. sees what is explicit but reveals no unusual insight or originality
5. relies on teacher direction

“D” (Minimum achievement 60-69%)

1. may not complete all assignments on time or at all
2. participates in class activities primarily as a listener, comments only if questioned
3. exhibits minimum comprehension and organizational ability in testing, speaking, and writing assignments
4. often misses explicit connection between content-theme(s)
5. relies on teacher direction

“F” (Failure due to unsatisfactory achievement)

1. does not complete assignments
2. rarely or never participates in class activities in any capacity
3. exhibits little comprehension
4. consistently misses explicit connection between content-theme 5-relies upon but fails to follow teacher direction

CUT HERE

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Please sign below and return this sheet to Ms. McCormick

I have read and will support the guidelines and policies set forth in the course description

PRINT PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

I will work in accordance with all the guidelines and policies stated in the course description

PRINT STUDENT NAME

STUDENT SIGNATURE