

Syllabus for
BIB 302—Historical Geography of the Holy Land
3.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2017

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the geography and history of Palestine since antiquity, especially in relation to the nation of Israel and the Early Church.

Prerequisite: None

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Narrate biblical events of Israel as they were molded by geography of the land.
- B. Impart a basic knowledge of the geology, geography and hydrology of the land of the Bible and their bearing on patterns of human settlement, communication, defense and historical development, especially during the days of the Bible.
- C. Acquaint students with the geo-political trade routes in Israel, key mountain passes, valleys, geographical divisions, which impacted the historical events of the Bible.
- D. Introduce students to the tools of biblical geography, including atlases, archaeological encyclopedias, periodical literature, Internet resources, and archaeological societies.
- E. Demonstrate how an understanding of the physical settings of the Bible enhances exegetical clarity in one's preaching and teaching.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of class lectures, readings, research and class discussion, the successful student will be able to do the following:

- A. Trace the progression of biblical history and ways that the geo-political setting relates to biblical events.
- B. Identify the major regions of the geography of Israel and describe the topographical characteristics of each.
- C. Trace on a map of the Holy Land the geo-political trade routes in Israel, key mountain passes, valleys, geographical divisions, which impacted the historical events of the Bible.
- D. Demonstrate facility in the use of the tools of biblical geography, including atlases, archaeological encyclopedias, periodical literature, Internet resources, and archaeological societies.
- E. Evaluate the benefits of an understanding of the physical settings of the Bible for exegetical clarity in preaching and teaching.

TEXTBOOKS

- A. Required Materials
 - 1. Textbooks

Beck, John A. *The Land of Milk and Honey: An Introduction to the Geography of the Bible*. St. Louis, Missouri: Concordia, 2006. ISBN 0-7586-0056-9

Lancaster, Steven P. and James M. Monson. *Regional Study Guide: Introductory Map Studies in the Land of the Bible*. Rockford, Illinois: Biblical Backgrounds, 2014. Download: https://www.juc.edu/pdf/study_guide.pdf

Regional Study Maps. Introductory Package. Biblical Backgrounds. 2014. http://www.bibback.com/purchase_files/01_ISP_Introduction_May2014.pdf

Schlegel, William. *Satellite Bible Atlas: Historical Geography of the Bible*. Jerusalem: Schlegel, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-0-9884275-1-8

2. Other

Lamp, Jeffery S. *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department*. ORU Bookstore, 2011.

B. Optional Materials

1. Subscribe to *Biblical Archaeological Review*

III. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the

end of the semester.

5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
 - a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
 - b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.
2. Attendance Policy
 - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows:
 - (1.) If class meets three times a week, 3 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 6 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - (2.) If class meets two times a week, 2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 4 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - (3.) If class meets one time a week, 1 unexcused absence will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 2 unexcused absences will automatically result in an "F" for the course.
 - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, only. (Faculty may require documentation.)**
Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
 - c. The penalty for tardies is at the discretion of the instructor.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Unit 1 Exam: Regions 20%
 - b. Unit 2 Exam: Historical Geography 20%
 - c. Regional Study Maps (7) 35%
 - d. Final Exam 25%
 - Total 100%
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: None.
3. Grade Scale:
90+ = A; 80+ = B; 70+ = C; 60+ = D; 59- = F
("Grading Criteria for Theological Courses")

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	TOPIC
1	Israel: the Land Between
2	Regions of Israel
3	Regions of Israel
4	Regions of Israel
5	Roads, Climate, Agriculture, Industry
6	Patriarchal Period
7	Exodus and Conquest
8	United Kingdom
9	Divided Kingdom
10	Exile and Return
11	Maccabean Revolt
12	Herodian Dynasty
13	Life of Christ
14	Expansion of the Church
15	Jerusalem
16	Final Exam

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
BIB 302—Historical Geography of the Holy Land
Spring 2017

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	X			
1C	Evangelistic capability	X			
1D	Ethical behavior		X		
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Evangelistic capability	X			
2B	Ethical behavior		X		
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation		X		
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle			X	
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle			X	
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship		X		
4E	Leadership capacity		X		