

# REL 1200 RVC 1231 - Introduction to the Christian Scriptures

## Professor Information

### Dr. Joseph Holbrook



<b>Email</b>	Canvas Inbox
<b>Office Phone</b>	(305) 348-2186
<b>Office</b>	DM 302
<b>Virtual Office Hours</b>	By appointment or before 9pm on slack.
<b>Class Twitter Account</b>	<a href="#">@REL_FIU</a>
<b>Class Blog</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/drjholbrook/">https://www.facebook.com/drjholbrook/</a>
<b>YouTube channel:</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/MrJosephholbrook/featured">https://www.youtube.com/user/MrJosephholbrook/featured</a>

## Getting Started

1. Read the [Syllabus](#)
2. Holbrook's video Overview of the Syllabus
3. Complete the [Start Here](#) module
4. Review the [Student Resources](#) module
5. Proceed to the first scheduled content in the [Modules](#)

## Technical Support

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](#). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

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## Course Description and Purpose

This course offers an overview of the Christian scriptures, from the Jewish Torah through the New Testament canon. It is intended to provide students with introductory knowledge writing,

development and collection of the modern Bible, emphasizing its diversity, complexity, and its influence on Western culture.

*Introduction to the Christian Scriptures* will also encourage the study of the entire body of the Christian canon as well as a critical examination of contemporary Christian textual study and interpretations using a variety of social science disciplines and methods. In addition, with the rise of politicized religious movements in many if not most world religions, it becomes more important than ever to provide balanced, academic analysis in the study of the Christian scriptures in all of its myriad interpretations, and its influential role in the public sphere.

In summary, the course will cover the following topics:

- How shall we read the Bible?
- The Old Testament world.
- Primeval History.
- Ancestral Stories.
- The Composition of the Pentateuch.
- Exodus and Covenant
- Sojourn in the Wilderness
- The Reformation and the origins of Protestantism.
- Historical and Social Contexts of the Prophets
- Settlement in the Land
- Movement to Monarchy
- The Latter Prophets
- Exile and Beyond
- The Context of the Writings
- The Psalms
- The Wisdom Books
- Daniel
- The Five Scrolls
- Between the Testaments
- Sociohistorical Developments
- Jewish Beliefs and Religious Practices in Antiquity
- Greek and Roman Beliefs and Religious Practices in Antiquity
- The World of the Gospels
- The Genre and Literary Tradition of the Gospel
- The Acts of the Apostles
- Paul's Life, Ministry, and Letters
- The Pauline Tradition
- The Contours of Paul's Theology
- The General Letters and Revelation
- The World of Early Christians
- Overarching Story of the Christian Scriptures.

## Course Objectives

In addition to providing an engaging introduction to the topic, *Introduction to Christianity* has four specific objectives.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO1 Identify and analyze the historical stages in the development of the Christian scriptures.
- CLO2 Evaluate, contrast, and analyze the wide variety of approaches to the study and interpretation of the Christian scriptures.
- CLO3 Demonstrate professional or scholarly writing.
- CLO4 Identify, compare, and contrast various methods for dating and determining the authorship of portions of the Christian canon.

## Course Modality

This is an in-person, classroom course. Class time will involve presentations, lectures and class discussion. Some of the course work will be conducted online. The syllabus, assignments, and some readings will be available in Canvas.

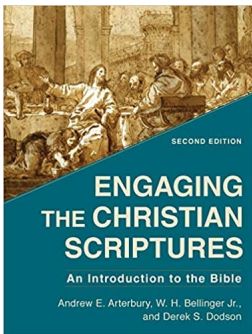
## Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Proctored Exam Policy

This course does not require proctored exams.

## Textbook:



Andrew E. Arterbury, Bellinger, Dodson. *Engaging the Christian Scriptures: An Introduction to the Bible*. Baker Academic, 2021.

## Additional Recommended Readings:

There will also be a variety of PDFs which will be supplied to the students.

## Course Communication

Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

## Canvas Inbox

Use the Canvas Inbox if you need to contact me directly. I will do my best to respond to all inquiries within 48 hours (excluding weekends). But please have patience with me: since messages are the central communication process in the classroom, I may occasionally be overwhelmed with messages and it takes me a bit to sort through them.

## General Discussion Forum

Post to the general discussion forum in the Discussions course section when you need to ask general questions that other students might be able to answer.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

## *Zoom Video Conference*

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct virtual office hours. Office hours will be on Mondays at 4:00 PM for 30 minutes. We will also be using Slack as a chat forum for questions and answers and communications with your peers.

## **Zoom Test Meeting Room**

Use this link to access the Zoom Test Meeting Room. This meeting room is available to test out the software before joining an actual session.

Reference the provided links to access Zoom student tutorials to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.

- [Download Zoom](#)
- [Login to Zoom through Desktop Application](#)
- [Enable and Test Audio & Webcam](#)
- [Schedule a meeting](#) or [Join a Zoom meeting](#)
- [Invite others to join meeting](#)
- [Chat \(Professors\) - Students look at attendees section for instructions](#)
- [Share My Screen](#)
- [Record a Local Zoom meeting](#)
- [Host Control in Meetings](#)
- [Getting Started with iOS](#)
- [Getting Started with Android](#)

# Assignments

This is a writing-intensive course. Some of your participation comes in the form of written reflections on what you have read or otherwise engaged. There will be several types of assignments:

- Class Participation and discussion.
- Weekly reading quizzes.
- Forum Discussions.
- Mid-term and final exams.
- Two writing assignments and one option for revision.

## Forum Discussions

During this semester, you will be required to participate in online discussions with your peers to reflect on films or primary source readings related to the material. A minimum of ten forum discussion grades are required; any discussions beyond ten will be dropped by the lowest grades.

### *General Guidelines for forum discussions*

- *Initial Response:* These should be around 300-350 words in length (about 3 paragraphs).
- *Responses to Peers' Posts (3):* Respond to the posts of at least three of your fellow classmates. Each response should be between 50-100 words in length (about 1 paragraph).

### *Grading Criteria*

The discussions will be graded 20% summary, 20% personal and critical reaction, 20% on analysis and discussion of how it relates to the course themes, and 20% on length, content, grammar and punctuation.

Another 20% of the grade will be for at least three REPLIES of a minimum of 50 words or 3 complete sentences to other students. At the end of the semester, the two lowest discussion grades will be dropped.

Reading Reviews (Discussion forum) rubric:

## ONLINE FORUM DISCUSSIONS RUBRIC

Required elements	Poor (1-3)	Fair (4-5)	Good (6-7)	Excellent (8-10)	Total
(20%) Brief Summary	Missing forum post or is less than 50 % of the minimum word count.	Too short, fails to meet the minimum word count. Factual errors.	Factually accurate but too long and wordy. Shows that the student read or viewed the source.	Factually accurate, concise and brief. Shows that the student read or viewed the source.	
(20%) Significance and relevance and reaction.	No mention of significance or relevance	Significance mentioned in passing but minimally.	Significance mentioned but could be amplified.	Good clear explanation of importance of topic.	
(20%) Personal and critical reaction.	No reaction is mentioned	Brief and indirect mention of reaction.	Brief but clear mention of reaction.	Good, clear statement of reaction.	
(20%) Mechanics – grammar, word choice, spelling, sentence structure	Unacceptable.	Many errors of grammar, spelling, word choices, vague or confusing sentences	Some few errors of grammar, spelling, word choices, poor sentence structure.	No errors of grammar, spelling, word choices or sentence structure.	
(20%) Replies.	No replies.	Only one reply.	Only two short replies/incomplete sentences.	3 substantial replies of more than 50 words.	
<b>Total score</b>					<b>40</b>

*Make-ups/Extra Credit*

Only 3 extra credit points are allowed on the final grade. **Absolutely no extra credits or make-ups will be accepted after the last day of class.**

### Participation

*Participation* (100 points or 10 percent of the overall final grade): Since this is an online class, participation will be measured by additional assignments rather than attendance in nonsynchronous meetings. 20 points will be awarded to students who register in Dr. Holbrook's chat forum in Slack <https://drjosephholbrook.slack.com>. I will be available to chat before 9 pm. Additional points will be awarded for viewing several documentaries and commenting upon them.

### Quizzes and exams.

There will be weekly quizzes on assigned readings. Although there may be more quizzes offered, only 10 quizzes for 10 points each will be required for a total of 100 points and 10 percent of the final grade. The

lowest quiz grades beyond 10 will be dropped. Since I will be dropping lowest grades, I will not reopen quizzes for late submission for any reasons.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

## Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)

### Third-Party Tools Used

- Turnitin
- Zoom
- Slack.

### Lateness Policy

I do not have the time to grade late work or assign alternative assignments. So do not turn things in late. Please turn everything in 24 hours ahead of time in case your computer crashes or the entire neighborhood loses electricity.

Difficulties can arise during a semester: a car accident, a death in the family, relational stress, sickness, or simply a case of summertime college burnout. Sooner or later, these things inevitably happen to everyone. When you have a problem, the best thing is for you to do is message me right away. I will work with you to the best of my ability. If you are proactive (e.g., let me know what is going on before a deadline), I can help you strategize so that you can still make the deadlines as best as possible, instead of missing them completely.

### Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic

misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct includes: **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Learn more about the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#) as well as [student resources](#) that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

## **Statement of Understanding between Professor and Student**

Every student must respect the right of all to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students must adhere to a standard of academic conduct, demonstrating respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. As a student taking this class:

- I will not represent someone else's work as my own
- I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating

Students are expected to understand the definition of plagiarism. **Offenders will receive a grade of F (0 points) for the plagiarized assignment**, and possibly for the course. Please be aware: Previously submitted papers are not allowed, even if it is your own work and even if you are retaking this class. You may not “reuse” papers.



## Course Grade Distribution

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points	Total Weight
Class participation	6	100	10%
Discussion Forums	10	400	40%
Weekly Reading Quizzes	10	100	10%
Midterm Exam	1	100	10%
Final Exam	1	100	10%
First Essay	1	100	10%
Second Essay	1	100	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

## FIU Grading Scale

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

## Weekly Calendar: Introduction to Christian History

Weeks	Topics	Reading
Week 1	Introduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch1 <i>Places to begin</i>. Genesis 1-11.</li> </ul>
Week 2	<b>Part One: The Old Testament-Pentateuch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch2, pp. 25-37,</li> <li><i>Genesis 12-50</i></li> </ul>
Week 3	The Old Testament-Pentateuch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch2, pp. 37-67,</li> <li><i>Exodus</i></li> </ul>
Week 4	The Old Testament, Prophets: Judges, Amos, Hosea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch3, pp.69-89,</li> <li>Judges, Amos, Hosea.</li> </ul>
Week 5	The Old Testament, Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch3, pp.89-109,</li> <li>Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephania</li> </ul>
Week 6	The Old Testament, Writings: Psalm 118, Proverbs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch4, pp.111-123</li> <li>Psalm 118, Proverbs.</li> </ul>
Week 7	The Old Testament, Writings: Daniel, Ruth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch4, pp.124-135</li> <li>Daniel, Ruth.</li> </ul>
Week 8	The Intertestamental period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch5, pp.135-153</li> </ul>
Week 9	<b>Part Two, The New Testament – The Gospels and Acts of the Apostles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch6, pp.155-180</li> <li>Matthew and John</li> </ul>
Week 10	The New Testament – The Gospels and Acts of the Apostles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch6, pp.180-205</li> <li>Luke and Acts</li> </ul>
Week 11	The New Testament – The Pauline Tradition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch7, pp.207-228</li> <li>Galatians, 1 Thessalonians</li> </ul>
Week 12	The New Testament – The Pauline Tradition 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch7, pp.228-249</li> <li>Corinthians, Philippians</li> </ul>
Week 13	The New Testament – General Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arterbury Ch8, pp.251-261</li> <li>Hebrews, James, First Peter</li> </ul>

Weeks	Topics	Reading
Week 14	The New Testament – General Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arterbury Ch8, pp.261-272</li> <li>• Jude, the Johannine letters</li> </ul>
Week 15	Conclusion: Overarching Story of the Christian Scriptures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arterbury Conclusion, pp.273-</li> <li>• The Revelation to John</li> </ul>
Week 16	Final Exam, final writing assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and final assignments</li> </ul>