

North Portland Bible College
BF 103—Bible Lands and Customs
Spring 2018
April 3 to June 15th

Instructor: Alan Cushway B.S., M.Div., Th.M. Certificates in Adult Jewish Learning and Historical Geography of the Holy Land

E-Mail: alanc@npbc.education or pastorcushway@yahoo.com

Phone: Cell # 971-340-8871

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover the relevant history, geography and customs of Israel and their bearing upon the text of Scripture. Brief emphasis will also be given to the nations that occupied Ancient Israel such as Assyria, Babylon etc.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

At the end of the course the learner will be able to:

1. Identify the major physical features of the Land of Israel on a map
2. Demonstrate, through the means of quizzes, a basic knowledge of major customs of the Jewish world and how they may have been used in Scripture.
3. Demonstrate, through the means of a quiz and map work, a knowledge of the primary rivers/lakes, valleys, seas, and mountains of the land of Israel.
4. Identify how these features have played a role in the nations' history and how Scripture utilizes these places in the Biblical Narrative.

READING ASSIGNMENT:

The textbook for this class will be "Manners & Customs in the Bible" by Victor Matthews, Baker Academic, 2006 ISBN 1-56563704-6

Supplemental reading: Periodic articles passed out in class. Also highly recommended for student purchase is J.Carl Laney—Concise Bible Atlas, Hendrickson Pub. 1998 ISBN 1-56563-366-0.

Assignments:

1. Students will complete the reading as described above and turn in a written statement of their completed reading.
2. The student will complete a quiz given in class and a final exam. The final exam will consist of information from the beginning of the class including map work.

Evaluation and Grading Policy:

Letter grades will follow the "Academic Policies" section of the Catalog (pg. 13)

Grades will be weighed based upon the following percentage criteria:

1. Attendance and class participation 200 points
2. Reading Assignments 300 points
3. Quiz and final 500 points (Quiz 200, Final 300)

Late assignment policy

A grace period of 2 (two) days will be given for incomplete assignments that have not been pre-arranged with the instructor and NPBC Administration. Upon completion, students must e-mail or call the instructor by 3:00 PM of the 2nd day. A 5% grade reduction per day will be given for work turned in after the 3:00 pm cut off without prior approval from instructor. **Extensions can be granted with advanced permission or in emergency situations.**

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

The format for all papers will follow the MLA standards listed in the Student Handbook. All work must have a **Bibliography**, and appropriate **source citation**.

Academic Integrity in writing:

All written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and constitutes a serious breach of scholarship standards at North Portland Bible College. When quoting the work of an author or an author's ideas used in papers, all sources must be documented, citing source of the information, author and page of the document.

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Week	Date	Subject	Reading/Assignment
1 General class orientation	April 3	Intro to the Class— Egypt, Assyria and Babylon	None
2 The nations around	April 10	The rise of Persia, Greece and Rome	Matthews pgs. 11-23
3 The Land of Israel #1	April 17	The Land of Israel Part 1	Matthews pgs. 161-186
4 The Land of Israel #2	April 24	The Land of Israel Part 2	Matthews pgs. 161-186
5 Jerusalem	May 1	Jerusalem and developing a Hebraic world view	Matthews pgs.99-104 Matthews pgs.123-130
6 Feasts and Festivals of the Lord	May 8	Biblical world view continued. Introduction to Feasts	Quiz -Class handout
7 Feasts and Festivals continued	May 15	Feasts and festivals continued	Class Handout
8 Groups and personalities in 1st cent. Israel	May 22	Exploring the major groups and personalities in Israel	Matthews pgs.222-231
9 Jesus as a Jew	May 29	Exploring the religious and cultural customs of Jesus day	Matthews pgs. 201-222
10 Jesus as a Jew part 2	June 5	Continued exploration of Jesus day as a Jew	Matthews pgs.146-157
11 Review and Final	June 12	Final exam	Final Exam

BF 103 Supplemental Reading List

1. Concise Bible Atlas, by J. Carl Laney, Hendrickson Pub. 1998 ISBN 1-56563-366-0.
2. The New Manners & Customs of Bible Times by Ralph Gower Moody Press 2005 ISBN10-0-8024-5965
3. Israel, The Land and the People by H. Wayne House Kregel Publishing 1998 ISBN 0-8254-2878-5
4. The Geography of the Bible by Denis Baly, Harper and Row Pub. 1957 Library of Congress Number 56-12061
5. Holman Bible Atlas by Paul Wright, Holman Publishing 2005 ISBN 0-8054-94445-6
6. Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon O'Brien, Intervarsity Press 2012 ISBN 978-0-8308-3782-3
7. The World of Jesus by William Marty, Bethany House Pub. 2013, ISBN 978-0-7642-1083-9
8. Israel's History by Leon Wood, Zondervan Pub. 1970 ISBN 0-310-34770-x
9. Sketches of Jewish Social Life in the Days of Christ by Alfred Edersheim, Eerdmans Pub. Reprint 1978 ISBN 0-0828-8132-7
10. The Feasts of the Lord by Kevin Howard and Marvin Rosenthal, Thomas Nelson Pub. 1997 ISBN 10: 0-78527518-5
11. Our Father Abraham by Marvin Wilson, Eerdmans Pub. 1989 ISBN 0-8028-0423-3
12. Jesus the Jewish Theologian by Brad Young, Hendrickson Pub. 1995 ISBN 1-565630602
13. The New Testament and Rabbinic Judaism by David Daube, Hendrickson Pub. 1956 ISBN 1-56563-141-2
14. Listening to the Language of the Bible by Lois Tverberg, En-Gedi Resource Center 2006 ISBN 0-9749482-0-9
15. Jesus, Rabbi and Lord by Robert Lindsey, Cornerstone Pub. 1990, ISBN0-9623950-0-5
16. Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity by Edwin Yamauchi and Marvin Wilson, multi volume work 2014 ISBN 978-1-61970-460-2
17. Daily Life in Biblical Times by Liora Ravid, Gefen Publishing, 2013 ISBN 978-965-229-609-2
18. Jewish Culture & Customs by Steve Herzig, Friends of Israel, 1997 ISBN 0-915540-31-2
19. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah by Alfred Edersheim, One volume Edition, Hendrickson Pub. 1997 ISBN 0-943575-83-4
20. The Feasts of Israel by Bruce Scott, Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry 1997 ISBN 0-915540-14-2
21. Peoples of the New Testament World by William Simmons, Hendrickson Pub. 2008 ISBN 977-1-56563-877-8

Additional resources

Center for Judeo-Christian Studies. Jcstudies.com

Hebrew4Christians.com

