



The Bible Learning University (BLU)

Catalog 2013-2014

Bible Learning University, owned and operated by BibleInteract, Inc.

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A MESSAGE FROM DR. ANNE DAVIS, Dean of the Bible Learning University and Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity Southwest University

Welcome to the Bible Learning University, a subsidiary of BibleInteract, Inc. We are pleased to have you join us on our journey to explore the depth of the Word of God with its foundations in an ancient Hebraic culture.

The original idea for delivering innovative teaching about the Bible came from the faculty of the College of Hebraic Studies in Christianity at Trinity Southwest University. They were experiencing the need for interactive distance learning. I began talking to colleagues in other educational institutions who were overflowing with creative ideas but needed a forum in which to present them, which led to BibleInteract as a vehicle to broadcast their wealth of knowledge and understanding.

Then, an interesting thing happened. Once we recorded a lecture, we did not have to repeat it each year. So we had time for new research, which led to an explosion of new understanding in our respective fields. Today BibleInteract is a growing fellowship of professors and Bible scholars who are interested in putting this creativity into action.

We offer a variety of non-denominational programs that include online courses with an instructor, self-study programs, guided independent study, and online discussions. Our objective is to encourage and equip our students to become leaders in their communities, teachers in our program, and authors and speakers who promote our approach of uncovering a depth of meaning from Scripture.

After reviewing our programs, it is our hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us and assisting us in developing this unique learning environment.

B'shalom

Dr. Anne Davis

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Note: All items in this catalog are subject to change. The current copy on our website (www.bibleInteract.com) will take precedence over any printed edition.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

History

The original idea for the Bible Learning University (BLU) came from the faculty of the College of Hebraic Studies in Christianity at Trinity Southwest University (TSU). They were experiencing the need for interactive distance learning. After developing a program for TSU, the facilitator, Dr. Anne Davis, began talking to colleagues in other educational institutions who were overflowing with creative ideas but only needed a forum. The initial concept of delivering distance education eventually grew to become an independent organization known as BibleInteract, a non-profit corporation that serves a growing number of lay people. Some simply want to learn how to penetrate the depth of Scripture. Others want to apply their learning experiences to a degree program. BibleInteract began developing an online university program called the Bible Learning University, which is recognized by the New Mexico Department of Higher Education as an exempt educational institution. This means we can structure our programs according to biblical principles rather than state requirements. BibleInteract is now a growing fellowship of professors and Bible scholars who not only teach courses at BLU but also offer teachings on our internet TV site, www.bibleinteract.tv. We provide a wide range of Bible study materials including DVD teachings, mini-lectures, course lectures, workbooks, study guides, articles and books.

Educational Philosophy

We believe it is important for every individual to study Scripture for themselves rather than relying on others to tell them what the Bible says. The study of Scripture is a personal journey, and BLU embraces a nontraditional, non-denominational educational approach that provides its students with the tools necessary for studying and searching the Scriptures. We use first century methods rather than hermeneutics which is traditionally taught in seminaries, churches and Bible study groups. We also offer a foundational knowledge of the ancient cultures that first utilized these methods. At BLU each student, together with an Advisor, determines the kind of learning experiences that best fit his/her individual needs, talents and preferences. We believe such self-structured study, with appropriate guidance and assistance, is an opportunity to grow and mature in faith by studying the Bible while, at the same time, allowing the individual to discover his or her own unique calling.

As a non-denominational organization, BLU provides its students with flexible paths of achievement without the constraints of presumption or tradition. Particular focus is placed on methods of searching the Scriptures to uncover depth of meaning as well as the cultural environment of the ancient world. In this way, we perceive the two testaments as one unified message. The teaching of ancient Hebraic perspectives and methods of searching the Scriptures is foundational at BLU.

We are growing in the number of resident and guest teachers who can promote this method as well as conveying the cultural, historical, geographic and linguistic background of ancient Israel. Our teachers can provide an integrated mix of scholarly tools that equip our students with the ability to research the depth of Scripture for themselves. Our goal is to equip students so they can apply this understanding to their own lives, and communicate to others through actions as well as words.

Mission Statement

BLU nurtures, equips and strengthens disciples in a relationship with the Lord Jesus by promoting knowledge and wisdom, reflecting on spiritual matters, and encouraging dialogue and discussion.

To achieve this mission, we promote individualized degree programs in order to accommodate the numerous possible directions in which the Lord is leading His people in ministry and service. For example, many are called to teach, but not all. Some are called to heal, comfort, write, uncover new understanding, preach, or lead a fellowship. The list is endless. For that reason, the required courses are limited so each student can then craft a meaningful and individualized program. After completing required courses, sampling some electives and demonstrating a level of proficiency, the student may apply to become a disciple of the teacher of his or her choice. This discipleship program offers further individualized instruction.

Doctrinal Position

BibleInteract is a trans-denominational consortium of Bible scholars and students who embrace and humbly submit to Scripture as the written, divinely inspired Word of God, and give it authority in all matters upon which it touches. BibleInteract views creedal formulations and statements of faith, although valid for their stated purposes, nevertheless apart from the Bible itself.

ADMINISTRATION

General Administration

BLU is governed by an Academic Committee that is comprised of one member from the BibleInteract board of directors, the Executive Director of BLU, one or more of the deans of the various academic divisions, and one of our volunteers who can offer a lay perspective. The Academic Committee is responsible for establishing and enforcing the general policies and procedures by which the school operates. BLU is a ministry division of BibleInteract, Inc., which is a non-profit, tax-exempt, federally-approved 501(c)(3) religious and educational organization.

Academic Administration

The academic operation of the University is overseen by the Executive Director of the BLU, Dr. Anne Davis, and the Deans of the various Divisions.

Dr. Anne Davis, Dean, Ancients Methods of Searching the Scriptures Division

Dr. Noreen Jacks, Dean, Bible Customs and Manners Division

Dr. Diana Dye, Dean, Advanced Hebraic Studies in Christianity Division

Dr. John Moore, Dean, History & Geography of the Holy Land Division

George Sparks, Dean, Biblical Archaeology Division

Christy Anderson, Dean, Hebraic Nature of the New Testament

Structure of the Divisions

Each Division of the Bible Learning University is founded on a focused area of study. The Dean of each Division, under the supervision of the Academic Committee, is responsible for the development, implementation and direction of the educational programs offered by that Division. Every Division has a faculty consisting of teachers holding qualifying credentials, and each member of the faculty falls into one of the following instructional categories: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer, Instructor, or Visiting Professor. Each category is based on the academic background and training, teaching experiences, research abilities and publication achievements.

Accreditation

The Bible Learning University is not yet accredited by an accrediting authority. However, we are currently exploring accreditation options. Once we select an accrediting authority, it will take 3-5 years to achieve full accreditation.

ADMISSIONS

Free Pre-Application Review

Those interested in the possibility of entering a degree or certification program may fill out the application form on the website of BLU. Someone will then contact the prospective student by phone to discuss interests and goals. Then, together with BLU personnel, you will draft a proposed degree or certification program. The final approval of this draft program will be subject to a formal application, review of transcripts, Transfer Credit, and Credit for Learning Experience. All suggestions of Transfer and Credit for Experience must be verified and evaluated as part of the formal application process.

Formal Application

There is an application fee of \$50. The student is responsible for requesting that official transcripts be sent to BLU. Furthermore, the student may submit a Portfolio that describes learning experiences which may qualify as Credit for Experience. In general, the Portfolio is similar to a resume, but will include any documentation requested by BLU to verify these experiences.

Ordering Transcripts

Only official transcripts sent directly from an educational institution will be accepted. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Transfer Credit

BLU accepts transfer credits from all reputable learning institutions. As part of the formal application process, the student must request that official transcripts be sent to BLU.

Credit for Experience

The Bible Learning University values learning experiences outside of the classroom that are relevant to a student's area of study. Credit for Experience consists of ascertaining the scholastic/academic weight of

a student's relevant learning experiences outside of the classroom, which may include work experience, ministry experience, attending seminars, extensive reading, teaching, publication, travel, volunteer service, and other overall cumulative life experiences. BLU will determine the semester-credit-hour-value toward a degree or certification program (as long as they have not been applied previously in an academic context).

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

The Registrar is responsible for maintaining all records, which includes such things as application, admission, course registrations, tuition, grades and attendance.

Registering for Courses

Students register for individual courses online. Each course may have specific requirements such as prerequisites, textbooks and other instructional material, length of time for completion, etc. Carefully examine each course description before registering.

Registering for Credit

Only those students who have been accepted into a degree or certification program will receive academic credit upon completion of a course.

Registering for Non-Credit

If you are not in a degree or certification program, you may still register for any course pursuant to the catalogue requirements such as prerequisites. However, BI requires all students, whether for credit or non-credit, to adhere to the course schedule and to complete all work and homework assignments. All students, both for credit and non-credit, will receive a grade at the end of the course. Non-credit students will have the option of applying this grade to a BLU degree or certification program at a later time if they wish.

Tuition (Credit and Non-Credit)

Tuition for both credit and non-credit courses is the same, and is listed in the catalogue and the website. The policy of BLU is to keep tuition costs as low as possible in order to make the educational program widely available. Students may add to this tuition fee, if they choose, by making a donation to BLU.

Financial Aid

BLU recognizes and respects personal affairs that have led to difficult financial situations. Therefore, we offer financial aid by reducing the cost of tuition. We insist that all students exhibit a commitment to complete the course, and payment of tuition is a form of commitment. Therefore, all students requesting financial aid are required to pay something, no matter how small the amount, which may be paid in one sum or in monthly installments. The amount will be determined together by the student and BLU.

Grading Policy

Students at different levels of study will be given the same questions and projects. However, grades will be given according to required skill levels. Therefore, BLU conforms to Bloom's Taxonomy for grading different levels as follows:

Degree Program	Category	Example and Key Words (verbs)
B.A. Degrees	Knowledge: Recall data or information	<p>Examples: Recite the main point of a teaching. Quote a verse or part of a verse from memory. Know a list delivered in a lecture.</p> <p>Key Words: defines, describes, identifies, knows labels, lists, matches, names, outlines, recalls, recognizes, reproduces, selects, states</p>
	Comprehension: Understand the meaning, translation, interpolation, and interpretation of instructions and problems. State a problem in one's own words.	<p>Examples: Rewrites the principles of first century methods. Explain in one's own words the steps for analyzing a parable. Translate a descriptive list into a computer spreadsheet.</p> <p>Key Words: comprehends, converts, defends, distinguishes, estimates, explains, extends, generalizes, gives an example, infers, interprets, paraphrases, predicts, rewrites, summarizes, translates</p>
	Application: Use a concept in a new situation or unprompted use of an abstraction. Applies what was learned in the classroom into novel situations in the work place.	<p>Examples: Use a manual to follow instructions for an online course. Apply first century methods to identify linguistic devices.</p> <p>Key Words: applies, changes, computes, constructs, demonstrates, discovers, manipulates, modifies, operates, predicts, prepares, produces, relates, shows, solves, uses</p>
Certification, M.A. Degree	Analysis: Separates material or concepts into component parts so that its organizational structure may be	<p>Examples: Ask incisive questions and plan a method of seeking answers. Recognize logical fallacies in reasoning. Gather</p>

	understood. Distinguishes between facts and inferences.	information from Scripture and select the required tasks for drawing a reasonable conclusion. Key Words: analyzes, breaks down, compares, contrasts, diagrams, deconstructs, differentiates, discriminates, distinguishes, identifies, illustrates, infers, outlines, relates, selects, separates
	Synthesis: Builds a structure or pattern from diverse elements. Put parts together to form a whole, with emphasis on creating a new meaning or structure.	Examples: Write or orally present a well-organized and cohesive essay. Design a plan to perform a specific task. Integrate Bible knowledge with a specific situation to solve a problem. Revise an process to improve an outcome. Key Words: categorizes, combines, compiles, composes, creates, devises, designs, explains, generates, modifies, organizes, plans, rearranges, reconstructs, relates, reorganizes, revises, rewrites, summarizes, tells, writes.
Doctoral Degree	Evaluation: Make judgments about the value of ideas or materials.	Examples: Select the most effective solution. Explain and justify a new interpretation. Support a conclusion with credible evidence. Key Words: appraises, compares, concludes, contrasts, criticizes, critiques, defends, describes, discriminates, evaluates, explains, interprets, justifies, relates, summarizes, supports.

DEGREE AND NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education Program gives students an option of taking any course subject to requirements listed in the catalogue. Upon completion the student will receive a grade and a Certificate of Completion. The Certificate of Completion can be applied as credit to a BLU degree program at a later time if desired.

Certification Program

The purpose of a certification program is to qualify a student to teach in a specific area of biblical studies. Certification requires a minimum of 30 SCH. The student may choose from the following areas of specialization:

- Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures
- Bible Customs and Manners
- Advanced Hebraic Studies in Christianity
- History & Geography of the Holy Land
- Biblical Archaeology

Degree Program

BLU offers undergraduate and graduate level programs with the following degrees (BLU expects to add a doctoral program at some time in the future):

- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Master of Arts (MA)

After sampling a foundation of various subjects, BLU currently offers six major areas of study, each representing a separate, biblically-based discipline. The five Divisions and their areas of specialization are:

- Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures
- Bible Customs and Manners
- Advanced Hebraic Studies in Christianity
- History & Geography of the Holy Land
- Biblical Archaeology
- Hebraic Nature of the New Testament

General Prerequisites

BLU does not offer General Education courses that are required for the BA degree. These general education requirements must be transferred from another institute of higher learning and include:

- 6 SCH English
- 3 SCH Mathematics
- 4 SCH Laboratory Science including 1 SCH of lab work

- 3 SCH Social/Behavioral Science
- 3 SCH Humanities
- 3 SCH Fine Arts

In addition to the General Education requirements, each certification and degree program has its own specific requirements as follows:

- **Certification:** a high school diploma;
- **Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies (BA):** a high school diploma; at least 60 SCH of college coursework (or equivalent) that includes 22 SCH of General Education as described above (or equivalent)
- **Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MA):** a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent).

Length of Degree Programs

The length of a degree program refers to the number of SCH needed for completion of the degree (total SCH before applying transfer and/or portfolio credit). The total number of SCH required for a given degree program may be reduced by the amount of allowable transfer credit from other institutions and/or relevant Credit for Learning Experience as determined by the Academic Committee. [Example: if a BLU degree program is 48 SCH in length, and the student is allowed 12 SCH via relevant transfer credit from another school plus 12 SCH of relevant portfolio (equivalent) credit for professional or life experience, then the length of the BLU degree program will be 24 SCH (or about eight courses that typically earn 3 SCH each). For the undergraduate level, only courses with grades of "C" or better will transfer; at the graduate level, only courses with grades of "B" or better will transfer.

- **Certification** = 30 SCH
- **BA** = 126 SCH (including General Education requirements completed in another institution)
- **MA** = 48 SCH

Personal Degree Program Development

Each student will be assigned an Advisor who is a member of the BLU staff. As you proceed through your degree program, you may contact your Advisor with any questions or concern. The Advisor may elect to pass on course questions to the instructor or Teacher's Assistant. If a course question remains unsolved, you should contact your Advisor.

Certifications

Candidates for Certification offered by BLU must meet the following minimum requirements and are subject to the following University limitations:

1. A minimum of 30 SCH in the area of specialization.
2. Of the minimum 30 SCH, no more than 12 SCH may be earned by extension or credit for learning experience.
3. The student must achieve no less than a 3.00 grade for each BLU class.

Degrees

BLU's courses are offered by faculty members who are qualified in and dedicated to their teaching disciplines. Most courses are delivered on-line with varying degrees of instructor oversight. Members of BLU's faculty occasionally offer lectures, seminars and symposia held at the BLU campus in Albuquerque and other venues.

All incoming students must demonstrate a general knowledge of both the Old and New Testaments as well as basic writing skills. Weakness in any of these areas will necessitate courses in Survey of the Old Testament, Survey of the New Testament, and/or Written Communications.

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies

Total Semester Credit Hours: 126 including 60 SCH of Transfer and/or Credit for Learning Experience, of which 22 SCH must include the General Education requirements listed above. However, a minimum of 30 SCH must be BLU courses. You will be assigned an Advisor who is a member of the BLU staff. Together with your Advisor you will design a draft degree program that you will submit for approval to the University's Academic Committee.

Required Courses:

- Introduction to Biblical Languages
- Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures, Part 1
- Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures, Part 2
- A Window through Ancient Times
- Scenes of Israel from Exile to the Messiah.

Area of specialization: Minimum of 15 SCH from one of the five areas of specialization listed below:

- Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures
- Bible Customs and Manners
- Advanced Hebraic Studies in Christianity
- History & Geography of the Holy Land
- Biblical Archaeology
- Hebraic Nature of the New Testament

Minimum BLU SCH: In order to receive a BA degree from BLU, there is a minimum requirement of 30 SCH of BLU specific classes that include the required courses listed above. The remaining SCH may be fulfilled by additional BLU courses, Transfer Credit, and/or Credit for Learning Experience.

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies

Total SCH: 48 – Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent).

All Master's Degrees are subject to individual evaluation of transcripts listed on the Application for admission and Credit for Experience submitted in a Portfolio. You will be assigned an Advisor who is a member of the BLU staff. Together with your Advisor you will then design a draft degree program that you will submit for approval to the University's Academic Committee.

Required Courses (12 SCH):

- Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures, Part 1
- Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures, Part 2
- Reading Biblical Hebrew, Parts 1 and 2 *or* Reading Biblical Greek, Parts 1 and 2

Area of specialization: Minimum of 18 SCH from one of the five areas of specialization listed below (not including Pre-requisite areas of study listed above):

- Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures (18 SCH *in addition* to Ancient Methods 1 and 2)
- Bible Customs and Manners
- Advanced Hebraic Studies in Christianity
- History & Geography of the Holy Land
- Biblical Archaeology
- Hebraic Nature of the New Testament

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall Semester 2013

Registration ends for Courses with an Instructor
Instruction begins for Courses with an Instructor
Instruction ends for Courses with an Instructor

September 4, Wednesday
September 8, Sunday
December 8, Sunday

Spring Semester 2013

Registration ends for Courses with an Instructor
Instruction begins for Courses with an Instructor
Instruction ends for Courses with an Instructor

January 8, Wednesday
January 12, Sunday
April 13, Sunday

Summer Semester 2013

Registration ends for Courses with an Instructor
Instruction begins for Courses with an Instructor
Instruction ends for Courses with an Instructor

COURSE PROCEDURES

Online Courses with an Instructor

Each online course with an instructor is offered according to a certain schedule. If you fall behind while taking a course, the instructor may, but is not required, to give you an extension. In any case, work must be completed by the ending date of a course. Do your best to adhere to the schedule.

Students will be given password access to an on-line virtual classroom in which they will access lectures, view a calendar of activities and due dates, participate in discussion with the other students, and submit exercises and projects.

The course will be comprised of several sessions. Each session will involve four steps:

Step 1: Review the assigned course material. This can be in any of several forms: Books, CDs, MP3 recordings, DVDs, On-line videos, etc. Recorded media sessions are typically presented in 30-45 minute segments.

Step 2: Participate in the Discussion Forum according to directions in each course.

Step 3: Submit answers to various exercises either in writing or in an oral response.

Step 4: Take a brief quiz at the end of each session (machine scored).

Some courses may require a team project that will be submitted at the end of the class..

Each course is typically 13 to 14 weeks long, and requires homework that must be submitted for grading.

Grades

Discussion Participation	25% (Instructor's judgment)
Quizzes	10% (Machine scored)
Written or Oral Answers to Exercises	65% (Graded by the instructor)
Total:	100%

90% or greater = A

80% = B

70% = C

Courses for Self-Study with an Advisor

If you are in a degree or certification program, you may take Self-Study courses with the assistance and guidance of an Advisor. These courses include lectures on various subjects of Bible study that may be recorded on DVD or CD or may appear in a published book. All Self-Study courses come with a workbook that reinforces the content of the lecture and, equally important, develops various skills for penetrating a depth of thought in Scripture. The student will be required to design, and adhere to, a specific

schedule for staged completion of the course, and will report to the Advisor who will also be available for guidance and questions.

Credit for Practicum Experience

Practicum experience may include, but is not limited to, teaching, leading a group discussion, assistance with course development, and serving as a Teacher's Assistant. The number of credits will be determined by the BLU staff based on the amount of time spent and the value of the work performed. The student will be required to keep a log of activities and time spent for Practicum credit.

Independent Study

Students who have completed foundational courses, and who wish to specialize in a specific area of study, may apply for Independent Study. Such Independent Study requires a statement of purpose and goals, a plan to carry out the goals, and an Advisor to monitor the work.

Group Study

BibleInteract believes that participation in small groups, which are committed to studying the Word of God in a way that is free from doctrinal boundaries and requirements, is invaluable for personal growth. As such, it is our goal to partner, not compete, with churches or organizations that share our Statement of Belief. We encourage individuals to prayerfully consider starting, or joining, groups in their homes, neighborhoods or places of employment. BibleInteract has designed certain studies for such group activity. BibleInteract is committed to helping these Bible study groups with materials, guidance, and visiting teachers. BLU degree students may earn credit for leading such a group.

Teaching Assistants

One of the most important responsibilities that students can assume at BLU is to serve as a Teaching Assistant (TA). BibleInteract TAs help administer courses at the Bible Learning University. Although not a "teacher" in the traditional sense, the TA may be the point of contact who facilitates continued progress throughout each class and encourages and assists students through to completion. The TA is not expected to answer every question that may arise, but should be able to subsequently track down an answer from the staff. The experienced TA will also be a key resource in course improvements and recommendations.

The TA will accumulate credits for each class in which he or she acts as a facilitator. The number of credits will be determined by the overseeing instructor based on the amount of time spent and the value of the work performed.

CATALOG OF COURSES BY DIVISION

Numerous additional courses are in the planning and development stage but are not yet available. Check the website www.BibleInteract.com for availability of courses and when they will be offered.

Searching the Scriptures Division

Dr. Anne Davis, Dean

AM 101: First Century Methods of Searching the Scriptures I (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: BL101Introduction to Biblical Languages

Required Materials: Victor H. Matthews, *Manners & Customs in the Bible*

The goal of this course is to help you learn and practice certain skills so you can penetrate the depth of Scripture. You will combine these skills with learning to think with an ancient Hebraic perspective.

“When I first began to perceive the Hebraic nature of the New Testament,” Dr. Anne Davis explains, “I had to learn how to think like the people of Israel thought at the time of Yeshua and to approach the Holy Writings as they did.” She found this was no easy task “because we are steeped in western traditions that stem originally from an ancient Greco-Roman culture.”

This course is the result of several years of work and study by Dr. Davis to recapture a Hebraic way of thinking and first century methods of searching the Scriptures. “It changed my life,” she shares, “because, with this approach to studying the Scriptures, God began to show me an incredible depth of understanding not only about Him but also about what He is doing in this world.”

AM 102: First Century Methods II (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: AM 101

Required Materials: Robert Young, *Young’s Analytical Concordance to the Bible*

This is an Intermediate course that follows “First Century Methods of Searching the Scriptures Part One. In this course you will be working exclusively in the Hebrew Scriptures. You will continue to grow in your ability to “think with an ancient Hebraic mindset,” and you will become more proficient with skills that uncover the depth of meaning. You will also learn how to see patterns in Scripture and to “let Scripture interpret itself” as the people of the ancient world would have done.

The goal of this course is to help you perceive patterns from the many details you have uncovered. You will then learn how to organize your thoughts in a way that communicates to others what you have discovered.

AM 201: Professional Research Methods (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: Admission by Instructor Approval

Required Materials: None

The practical purpose of the course is to foster the growth of specific skills needed for a professional research project and to lead the student, step-by-step, through the complex process of completing three written exercises: a logical argument that supports a claim or thesis, a review of the academic literature, and an introduction to the thesis, dissertation, or major project.

AM 202: Writing Seminar (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: AM 101 and AM 102

Required Materials: "Writing with Precision" by Jefferson D. Bates

Having already conducted a word-study in Ancient Methods of Searching the Scriptures Part Two, you are now ready to present a pattern from that word-study that will become the topic of your paper. The seminar will take you, step-by-step, through the process of organizing your thoughts before you begin to write. Then, after composing a rough draft, you will use your textbook to self-edit following ten principles for improving clarity and precision. Outstanding papers will be published on the BibleInteract website.

AM203: Independent Study (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: First Century Methods Parts One and Two

Required Materials: None

The purpose of this course is to give you an opportunity to search the Scriptures, using first century methods and your knowledge of the ancient world, in order to explore a topic of your own choice. You will have an Advisor who is experienced in using these skills. Together with your Advisor you will craft a research question and a plan for pursuing the answer. At the end of the project you will present your findings through a written composition or a teaching that will be filmed and produced by BibleInteract. You may select both methods of presentation if you choose, but only one is required.

AM 204, 205, 206, 207: The Book of Genesis, Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 (3 credit hours for each part)

Prerequisites: A foundational knowledge of the Genesis narrative

Required Materials: None

The course is divided into four parts. Each part can be taken separately, but they must be taken in the order of the Genesis narrative because the program develops skills for uncovering depth of meaning that build on each other. The four parts are: (1) *In the Beginning*, (2) *Abraham and Isaac*, (3) *Jacob*, (4) *Joseph*. Each part has eight sessions with significant workbook exercises. The purpose of the course is to demonstrate first century methods of searching the Scriptures in order to uncover a depth of meaning in Genesis. The student will practice these methods in a workbook through written exercises, group discussion and life application. The goal of the course is to enable students to become teachers and

leaders of this program in their own community. Conducting and leading a Bible study group is not a requirement, but will be considered Practicum for additional credit.

AM 208, 209, 210: The Prophet Isaiah: His Writings in a Historical Background, Parts 1, 2, 3 (3 credit hours for each part)

Prerequisites: First Century Methods, Parts 1 and 2

Required Materials: None

The course is divided into three parts. Each part can be taken separately, but they must be taken in the order of the Book of Isaiah. The three parts are: (1) *The Assyrian Threat and God's Judgment*, (2) *Comfort during Exile*, (3) *Instructions to a Remnant*. Each part has eight sessions with significant workbook exercises. The purpose of the course is to demonstrate first century methods of searching the Scriptures in order to uncover a depth of meaning in Isaiah. The student will practice these methods in a workbook through written exercises, group discussion and life application. The goal of the course is to enable students to become teachers and leaders of this program in their own community. Conducting and leading a Bible study group is not a requirement, but will be considered Practicum for additional credit.

AM211: The Law is not a Curse: Paul's Midrash in Galatians (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: First Century Methods Parts One and Two

Required Materials: The book by Dr. Anne Davis, *The Law is not a Curse: Paul's Midrash in Galatians*

To receive credit for this course, you will read through the book and work through all the exercises with a study partner, who may or may not be in a BLU degree program. Dr. Davis will be your Advisor to whom you can turn if you have questions that you have tried and failed to resolve. However, the time with your Advisor should be kept to a minimum. For additional credit to be determined by your Advisor, you will have the option of offering this book and its Workbook to a study group in your community for which you will act as the group leader. The group must have a minimum of three participants plus yourself as group leader. You will keep a journal of time spent with the group and comments about group participation in each session of the group study.

Bible Customs and Manners Division

Dr. Noreen Jacks, Dean

CM 101: A Window Into Bible Times (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: None

Required Materials: Victor H. Matthews, *Manners & Customs in the Bible*

This is an introductory course in customs and manners of ancient Israel. When reading the Bible, it is critical to bridge the cultural and time gaps that exist between our present world and those of the ancients. Modern man is thousands of years removed from the religious rituals, rich traditions, history, linguistics, geography and lifestyle of biblical heroes and villains who fill the pages of the greatest book ever penned by man. The Bible is an engaging collection of 66 books of hope, inspiration and spiritual

challenges. This eight session course will equip the student with a basic background of the manners and customs of Bible times, allowing for deeper study of God's Word through numerous projects, as well as required and recommended reading and viewing.

Advanced Hebraic Studies Division

Dr. Diana Dye, Dean

HS 101: Study to Show Yourself Approved (5 credit hours)

Prerequisites: This course is offered by invitation only after the student has completed an application to participate

Required Materials:

This course is a culmination of over thirty-five years of research and study by Dr. Diana Dye. It is designed to help students unlock patterns in Scripture using a systematic approach. It is not a course in hermeneutics. The nine-part series covers a wide range of subjects, all from a Hebraic perspective. Some of these topics include: the backdrop of the Scriptures such as archaeology, history, geography and culture; the Hebrew Language; the Torah from a perspective of the Halachah (legal rulings), the covenants; the Aggadah (parables); the Jewish liturgy; the Biblical Calendar; the Festival cycle; and literary tools. There will be a limited number of students accepted each time this class is offered. These students will be treated as disciples, and will be expected to become master teachers in their own right.

History and Geography of the Holy Land Division

Dr. John Moore, Dean

Biblical Archaeology Division

Dr. George Sparks, Dean

BA 101: Introduction to Biblical Archaeology (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: None

Required Materials: Randall Price, *The Stones Cry Out: What Archaeology Reveals About the Truth of the Bible*

Video presentations are accompanied by workbook exercises and projects. The course begins with a brief overview of the history of biblical archaeology and then proceeds, through the eyes of archaeologists, to view different periods of the history of ancient Israel. The goal of this course is to related biblical archaeology to the biblical narrative, and thus to make the story of the Bible become living and real.

Biblical Languages Division

BL 101: Introduction to Biblical Languages (2 credit hours)

Prerequisites: High speed internet connection for viewing videos online

Materials: None

All translations are interpretation. This introductory course will not enable you to read the Bible in its original languages. However, you will be able to work with words in both the original Greek New Testament and the Hebrew (Old Testament). You will begin by learning the Greek alphabet, and then you will use an online interlinear Bible to gain a deeper understanding of the original words as they are used in Scripture. Then you will learn the Hebrew alphabet to do the same thing. There will be ample opportunity to view video teachings about how to use this skill of understanding biblical words in their original language.

BL 102: Learning Biblical Hebrew I (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: None

Required Materials: Simon, Resnikoff, Motzkin, *The First Hebrew Primer: The Adult Beginner's Path to Biblical Hebrew*

Rather than emphasizing traditional rules of grammar, this course is built on two principles. First is the sound of the language. You will be listening to the Hebrew, but more important, you will learn to read the Hebrew aloud yourself, although you may not always understand what you are reading. After all, listening and repeating is the way children learn. To master a language you must learn like a child.

Second, instead of memorizing rules of grammar, this course will present visual patterns of various parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, pronouns and adjectives. As you read aloud, you will hear and see these grammatical patterns.

All languages require memorization of vocabulary. However, the course will describe several methods of memorization. You will select the one that works best for you.

Part I of Learning Biblical Hebrew you will begin by teaching you how to read the Hebrew aloud so you can hear the sound of the language. Then you will learn the visual patterns of nouns, adjectives and two verb forms, the perfect and imperfect.

This course is designed for self-study. However, students in a degree program will have an Advisor. Together with the Advisor, the student will craft a schedule for completion of the different sessions. Changes in this schedule will only be approved by the Advisor for good cause. There will be an exam at the end of each session so you can assess your progress.

BL 102: Learning Biblical Hebrew II (3 credit hours)

Prerequisites: BL 101

Required Materials: Simon, Resnikoff, Motzkin, *The First Hebrew Primer: The Adult Beginner's Path to Biblical Hebrew*

To master the skill of reading biblical Hebrew, you must take both courses, Learning Biblical Hebrew I and II. Learning a language requires steady persistence. The more you practice, the more you will learn. Eventually you will begin to think in Hebrew. Compare this goal with the traditional language course that teaches you how to translate, in which case you are still thinking in your native language.

Part Two of Learning Biblical Hebrew focuses largely on verbal variations that carry exquisite nuances of meaning. Hebrew is an artistic language, and much of the artistry is carried by the action words of verbs.

In Part Two, you will also be listening to most of your exercises spoken first by a native Israeli speaker as you read along in your textbook. Then you will read and speak the exercise aloud in Hebrew yourself. During this process of listening and speaking, you will receive a general impression of meaning. Finally, you will be allowed to translate the exercise into English.

Books of the Bible

All of the following courses are currently in the planning and development state.

***BIB 101: Survey of the Old Testament (3 credit hours)**

Prerequisites: None

This is an introductory survey of the narrative of the Old Testament from Abraham through the return from exile and subsequent rule by various nations. This course is excellent for Bible students who are unfamiliar with the Old Testament.

***BIB 102: Survey of the New Testament (3 credit hours)**

Prerequisites: None

This is an introductory survey of the New Testament from the Gospels through the Book of Revelation. It gives an overview of each of the New Testament Books by highlighting the historical setting and the main topics. This is an excellent course for Bible students who are unfamiliar with the New Testament other than traditional theological interpretation.

***BIB 103: Between the Testaments: The Second Temple Period (3 credits)**

Prerequisites: None

This course is a study of the background for the New Testament's political and cultural settings, defining how they impacted the New Testament, its authors and those who first received its messages. The course details the historical happenings between the Book of Malachi and Matthew. The main topics of the course include: a look at the lives of the twelve disciples, the six periods of Jewish history, Greek and Roman political backgrounds, and a maps and charts section.

***OT 201: OT Studies: The Torah**

This is an introductory study of the first five Books of the Bible. The course includes an introduction to the Old Testament, an overall view of early biblical culture, and a detailed discussion of each of the five Books of Moses.

***OT 202: OT Studies: Historical Books**

This is a study of the Historical Books of the Old Testament, from the Book of Joshua through Esther. The background and structure of each book is examined. Each book has a detailed outline examining the historical and political activities of the day.

***OT 301: OT Studies: The Poetical Books**

This course covers the poetical books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. Each chapter begins with a detailed outline of the book, then moves to the descriptions of key chapters, words and verses. Background historical data is given to aid the student in forming a mental timeline of the biblical events. Emphasis is placed on the linguistic artistry of Hebrew poetry.

***OT 302: OT Studies: The Major Prophets**

This course is a study of the Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel. Each book is outlined in detail and then discussed. It gives light to each of the prophet's characteristics and how they complement each other proclaiming the Will of God. Historical data is also given to further shed light on what was happening culturally during that prophet's reign.

***OT 401: OT Studies: Minor Prophets**

This course is a study of the Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. An introduction compares the twelve Minor Prophets and their divisions. The course also gives a detailed outline of each prophet and places the prophet in his historical setting.

NT 101: NT Studies: The Synoptic Gospels: First Century Methods of Searching the Scriptures

Prerequisites:

Required Materials:

This audio course, which comes with a workbook, uses the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) to help you learn first century methods of searching the Scriptures. You will enter the first century world to explore the words of Jesus and how they led to deeper meaning that his listeners would have heard. There are sixteen sessions that will strengthen your ability to see the relationship between the two testaments, starting first with words in the New Testament and then exploring for the deeper meaning in the Hebrew Scriptures.

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NT 201: NT Studies: The Pauline Epistles

This course is a detailed study of the Pauline Epistles, which gives the social and historical and cultural background of each epistle before turning to a linguistic study of the artistry of the biblical text. The course identifies key themes and verses of each book.

***NT 301: NT Studies: General Epistles**

This course is a basic study of the General Epistles which include James, I and II Peter, I, II, III John, and Jude. For each epistle you will learn about the writer and the purpose for which he wrote. The discussion of each epistle begins with an overview of the book in the form of a survey, and then outlines and highlights the progression and order. Finally, the main thrust of each book is discussed.

***NT 401: NT Studies: Revelation**

This course gives an overview of the Book of Revelation. It discusses specific images and symbolism of the book and shows the connection to the Hebrew Scriptures. Some of the topics include: The Seven Letters to the Seven Churches, The Seven Seals, The Two Witnesses, The Woman, Babylon the Great, The Millennium, and The New Heaven and The New Earth.