

# Course Prospectus

## For THL 110B Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course II

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### Overview

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THL 110B is the second semester segment of the academic version of the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. This course continues your introduction to the Bible, its message, and its implication for successful Christian life in today's world.

Many people ask: Who wrote the Bible? Why was it written? How should we read the Bible? Is the Bible true? Is the Bible an instruction book for human life? What does it say about our future? Does the Bible explain the purpose of human life? Is there life after death or is our physical life all there is?

The purpose of THL110AB is to equip you with tools and experiences to answer these questions and to allow you to explore the word of God through detailed study of the biblical text within its historic contexts and its use in modern worldwide contexts.

The Bible, composed of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament in seven distinct parts, provides examples, admonitions and instructions that reveal a way of life for modern humankind. The writing of the Bible took place over sixteen centuries and is the work of over forty divinely inspired human authors. The Bible is the source of truth, the standard for meaningful life, the revelation of Jesus Christ, and the key to true values, freedom, and liberty.

Upon completion of this course, both parts THL 110a and THL 110b, you should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of biblical history, theology, and biblical prophecy. I hope you enjoy the course. If you have questions, be sure to ask.

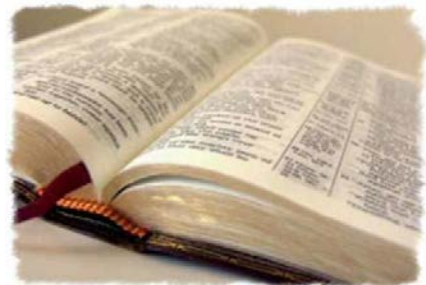
You should begin your study by completing an Icebreaker Assignment introducing yourself to members of the class by clicking on Discussions (located in the upper right part of this screen). **Caution:** enter your autobiography in the Comments box--please do not start a new discussion.

#### COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION FOR THIS COURSE

This course serves as an introduction to the Bible, its message, and its implication for successful Christian life in today's world. Topics include: the nature of God, God's plan for humankind, biblical prophecy, the Kingdom of God, the new covenant, law and grace in the lives of Christians, the meaning of true conversion, practical Christian living and how to recognize God's Church today. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of biblical history, theology, and biblical prophecy.

#### PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

THL 110A.



The Word of God Is the Foundation of Knowledge.

**COURSE CREDIT**

Two (2) semester hours.

## **Instructional objectives**

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On successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate that the Word of God is the foundation of knowledge;
2. Identify the characteristics of the end-time as described in the Bible and demonstrate how those characteristics apply to the times in which we live;
3. Demonstrate the significance of biblical prophecy and generate an outline of the pattern of end-time events as reported in the Bible;
4. Discriminate between the physical and spiritual promises made to Abraham's descendants in both nature and scope and state the literal and prophetic identity of the recipients of those promises;
5. Demonstrate a general understanding of who and what God is as revealed in the Bible employing both the Old and New Testament scriptures;
6. State what the Bible reveals about man's design and creation, his ultimate destiny as it relates to God's master plan, and the reward of the saved;
7. Generate an explanation of humanity's rejection of the instruction of God, how it influenced the direction of human civilization and the ultimate consequences;
8. Demonstrate from the Bible the nature of the Kingdom of God, how human beings can enter into it and their role in its administration;
9. Identify in the Bible the gospel that Jesus Christ preached during His earthly ministry and demonstrate where and when it originated and what it emphasized;
10. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the teaching of Jesus Christ regarding the relationship between commandment-keeping and inheriting eternal life through salvation;
11. Identify and state the basic elements of the biblical doctrine of conversion and generate an explanation of the doctrine; and
12. State the defining characteristics of the Church of God in the twenty-first century as a direct continuation of original Apostolic Christianity as revealed in the Scriptures and demonstrate the modern-day identity of that church.

## **Faculty**

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While you will encounter a number of lecturers in this course, the instructor of record is Dr. Michael P. Germano assisted by W. Wyatt Ciesielka as the supporting instructor. Michelle Bottella serves as the instructional associate. To contact them on course details and issues please use Populi email in the E-Learning system (Populi) or the addresses below.



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## **Students with disabilities**

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities have a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students having a disability requiring an accommodation should inform the instructor by email (on the "Course Info" page click on the instructor's name and then select "Send Email").

## **Technology access**

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This course requires web access and the student has to have an established e-mail account. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. One can download the reader free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

## **Course evaluation**

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Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by e-mail is helpful. Our goal in this course is to facilitate the successful achievement of all instructional objectives by all students. We want to make e-learning courses as effective as we can. At the end of the course students have the opportunity of assessing the course. By completing the assessment you can earn 30 points toward your final grade. We may also ask some other questions concerning a student's experience in distance learning to help us improve our program. We appreciate students letting us know how we can improve our products and services for them and other distance learners.

## **Textbooks**

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In this course there are no required textbooks but students must have access to a Bible. In the lessons we have provided you with links to electronic copies of various booklets and articles that are either required or optional reading. There is no cost for the electronic copies of the booklets and articles.

The theology faculty recommends a New King James edition of the Bible (NKJ). There are many editions available, but for student use we suggest the NKJV Study Bible: Second Edition in either the regular or large print editions.

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- The regular edition is available in Bonded Black leather (ISBN 0718020804) at Christian Books through the University Bookstore for about \$47 plus sales tax and shipping charges (the normal retail cost is about \$70).
- The large print edition NKJV Study Bible: Large Print Edition, Black Bonded Leather Thumb-Indexed in Bonded Black leather (ISBN 9781418542108) sells for about \$55 plus sales tax at Christian Books through the University Bookstore (normal retail is about \$90).

Commentaries generally can help you with a writing assignment. We have found three that have proven useful. You might consider adding them to your library over time. The prices below are approximate. They are:

*New Bible Commentary* edited by G. J. Wenham, J.A. Motyer, D.A. Carlson and R.T. France. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1994. ISBN: 978-0-8308-1442-8. Amazon: \$29.70. Christian Books: \$29.49.

*The Expositor's Bible Commentary* edited by Frank E. Gaebelin (general editor) and J. D. Douglas (associate editor). New Testament Set, 5 volumes. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN 0310365686. Amazon: \$153.94. Christian Books: \$117.99.

*Jamieson, Fausset & Brown's Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1961. ISBN 9780310265702. Amazon: \$23.00. Christian Books: \$19.49.

The above commentaries are commercial publications. They represent the views and ideas of their authors, editors, and publishers. Living University does not endorse commentaries nor does it vouch for their accuracy. We simply employ them in helping students master the content of the course.

As a Bible student, one needs to consult Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and biblically related magazine or journal articles for information. When doing this a student has to sort out the wheat from the chaff. That is, the student must have sufficient grounding in the Bible to sort out the correct from the incorrect, the plausible from the implausible. This is a critical thinking skill, one we want students to develop further in this course and in all LU courses.

## **Withdrawing from or dropping this course**

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It is the responsibility of a student to drop a course if he or she cannot meet the requirements of the course. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing from it risks receiving a punitive grade for that course.

Withdrawal requests may be conveyed in any manner to the course professor, Registrar, or Vice President of Academic Affairs. This action is sufficient for ensuring any refund owed you. Please note the following:

- If a student drops a course on or before the "Last day to withdraw from a course without a grade penalty" as published in the University Academic Calendar, even if his or her work is not of a passing grade, then a "W" is recorded.
- If a course is dropped after that date, but before the last 21 calendar days of the semester, then the instructor determines the grade. The faculty member will at this time record a grade of "W" if passing (not computed in GPA) or "WF" if failing (computed in GPA).

- Students who drop a course, yet remain in one or more other courses during the last 18 calendar days of the semester, will receive a grade of "WF."
- Students who completely withdraw from the University at any time during the semester may be given a grade of "W" on all courses.

If students do not initiate the withdrawal process, the instructor is required to initiate the administrative process and to record a grade of "W" or "WF" for the course depending on the date the faculty member drops the student from the course. Students who register for a course as an audit, but then withdraw will be assigned a grade of "W" for the course.

### **Attendance in this online course**

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One of the most vital aspects of the college and university experience is attendance and punctuality in the learning environment. Regularity of attendance is necessary, whether in an online course or in an on-campus course, for students to derive maximum benefit from a course and to maintain a satisfactory academic record. We have noticed that students who fall behind in their coursework typically drop out. Therefore, we highly encourage you to complete your assignments on time as we want you to succeed. Remember Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you go."

Please be aware that all students who fall behind in an online course and do not complete twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total assignments and other required activities for a course, on or before "Last day to withdraw from a course" as set forth in the University Academic Calendar, will receive a grade of "W" for it. After that date, the grade will be a "WF" and counted in a student's GPA. Moreover, an instructor may drop a student from a course whenever the instructor concludes that a student's class attendance or punctuality endangers the student's success or places other students at risk.

### **Icebreaker assignment**

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To officially begin this course you must complete an icebreaker assignment by which you introduce yourself to your classmates through posting a short autobiography on the course Discussion Forum. A student can earn 30 points by posting the Icebreaker assignment on time. These points could make the difference between an A or a B, or passing or not passing this course.

- The icebreaker assignment must be submitted not later than Wednesday, August 24.
- Post your biography as a reply to the "Icebreaker" topic on the lesson "Welcome and Overview" Discussion Forum.
- Please read and comment on at least two other bios by the due date in order to get credit.
- Full credit for this assignment will only be given if all three of the above requirements are met.

Do NOT create a NEW discussion. Simply tell the class about yourself and your goals. This is not the place for a profession of faith, or the details your conversion experience, or problems you have had with previous fellowships, as that information is more of a private nature. Here you inform your classmates what you would like them to know about you. As we have people from all over the world enrolled in this course each autobiography will help us know, understand and appreciate each other. This assignment is worth 30 points.

## **Course requirements and grades**

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### **DUE DATES AND EXTENSIONS**

Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

### **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

Refer to "Course outline and assignments" section for information about reading assignments. Final reading assignments are located on the lessons pages at the course website.

### **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

There is only one writing assignment in this course, on the topic "What I Learned in this Course."

### **DISCUSSION FORUM**

For each lesson there is a discussion forum where we ask you to post your thoughts and insights on the discussion topic. You are invited to comment on the postings of others. This is your opportunity to participate in interactive dialog.

### **STUDY TIPS**

Distance learning emphasizes self-motivation. The instructor functions as a facilitator with the student as the driving force in mastering course content. Students are encouraged not to put off completing their readings and assignments. While there are many different learning styles, the following strategy should serve the needs of most students.

- Look over assigned readings.
- Read the assigned readings making notes before viewing the assigned lecture.
- Define terms in the assignment. The three exams will specifically test basic terminology. Students should develop their biblical and theology vocabulary as they proceed assignment by assignment.
- As students view lectures, they should complete their notes.
- Complete the answers for the lesson writing assignment.
- Each week students should review notes, geographical terms and locations, and the words they defined.
- If a student has a question, ask. Questions should arise in the teaching-learning process. By bringing questions to our attention, students not only acquire assistance but they also maintain the interaction necessary in higher education. To submit a question just click on the instructor's name on the "Course Info" page and send your question by email through the Populi system.

### **LECTURES**

This course includes linked lectures in the lessons which you can view online or download. Some of the lectures are unique to this course and others are sermons and Tomorrow's World television programs. We selected these sermons and programs as they are not only on point to the content of the lessons but also conserve precious time and resources (we are, as they say, leveraging assets).

### **QUIZZES AND EXAMINATIONS**

Each of the twelve lessons has an associated online quiz of not more than 20 questions. They are open book quizzes, but under no circumstances are students to print the quiz. An open book quiz is not a workbook exercise. It is a test where the student can consult his or her notes and books. Students have sixty minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes are multiple-choice questions covering lectures, readings, vocabulary words, and geographical terms and places.

The three exams are closed book and you will need a proctor.

### **Terms and phrases**

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Each assignment includes a set of terms and phrases for you to learn. This exercise is to help you develop and expand your biblical and theological vocabulary as you proceed through the twelve assignments and to help you focus on the context of the content you are reading. Quizzes and the three exams will specifically test your mastery of the basic terminology of this course. Many students find looking over vocabulary words just as they go to bed at night and as they arise in the morning helps commit them to memory. Be sure to review your definitions before an examination.

For some terms and phrases, we provide a scriptural link. The NKJ, the New King James Version, is our default for scriptural text. When alternate scriptures appear we provide the appropriate link as NASB, KJV, RSV, NIV, and the like.

### **Grading**

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A course grade will be determined based on the number of points a student has earned over the semester as follows:

Icebreaker Assignment (30 points)

Exams (three, each worth 80 points, for a total of 240 points; online, closed book)

Quizzes (twelve, each worth 40 points, for a total of 480 points; online, open book]

Discussion Forums (twelve, each worth 15 points, for a total of 180 points)

“What I Learned” Essay (one, worth 40 points)

Course Evaluation (30 points)

TOTAL 1,000 points

Grades are in the traditional American style of an A, B, C, D, or F. In distance learning, we believe that the measure of mastery of course subject matter is completion of 80% of the objectives for a course. That means that we want students to earn at least 800 points in this course. If they do not do so then they have not achieved the level of the mastery we would like them to have.

We want this course to be competency-based and so it is possible for the entire class to receive an A or a B. There is no artificial curving of scores in the assignment of grades (if you do not know what that means, do not worry about it). Mastery of the material is what one's goal should be.

Grades, assigned by points, are as follows:

A	900 and over
B	800-899 points
C	700-799 points
D	600-699 points
F	Below 600 points

## Academic irregularity

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Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any assignment or examination. An academic irregularity not only includes cheating but also includes plagiarism (taking another's ideas and/or words and presenting them as if they were the writer's own) and the submitting of the same paper in separate courses without prior consent from the faculty members concerned.

In cases of suspected academic irregularity, faculty members may refuse to grade such papers, completely or in part, or examinations, and to record each of them as a failure.

If an academic irregularity is sufficiently serious, the University may take one or more of, but not limited to, the following actions:

1. Drop the student from the course with a grade of F;
2. Place the student on academic probation; and/or
3. Dismiss the student from the University.

## Course calendar

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<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Readings and viewing assignments are integrated in the lessons</i>
<b>Lesson 13 Remember the Sabbath Day</b>	
Topic 1 The Sabbath Is a Sign	
Topic 2 The Teaching of Jesus and the Apostolic Church	
Topic 3 How Should We Keep the Sabbath?	
Topic 4 Lessons from the Sabbath	
<b>Lesson 14 Passover Season: God's People Made innocent!</b>	
Topic 1 The Passover Symbols	
Topic 2 The Days of Unleavened Bread	
Topic 3 Christ's Final Passover	
Topic 4 Understanding Justification	
<b>Lesson 15 Pentecost Season: God's People Made Holy</b>	
Topic 1 Understanding Firstfruits	
Topic 2 The Old and New Covenants	
Topic 3 The Power of God's Spirit	
Topic 4 Being a Holy People	
<b>Lesson 16 The Fall Festivals: God's People Enter Into Glory!</b>	

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Topic 1 Blowing of Trumpets—A Memorial  
Topic 2 The day of Atonement  
Topic 3 The Feast of Tabernacles  
Topic 4 The Last Great Day

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**EXAM 1 Covering Lessons 13-16 (80 points). Time for completion: 1.5 hours (90 minutes).**

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**Lesson 17 Tithing: God's Financial Plan For you**

Topic 1 How Important Is Tithing Today?  
Topic 2 How Did Ancient Israel Pay Tithes?  
Topic 3 To Whom Should Tithes Be Paid?  
Topic 4 Learning To Be a Giver

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**Lesson 18 Health and Healing**

Topic 1 The Bible Approach to Health and Healing  
Topic 2 God's Laws of Health  
Topic 3 Healing in the Days of Christ and the Apostles  
Topic 4 Healing and the Church Today

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**Lesson 19 Building a Godly Marriage**

Topic 1 The Purpose of **Marriage**  
Topic 2 God Made Them Male and Female  
Topic 3 Laying the Groundwork for a Happy Marriage  
Topic 4 Resolving Differences and Growing Together

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**Lesson 20 Building a Godly Family**

Topic 1 A Biblical View of Children and Parenting  
Topic 2 The Role of Love and Discipline  
Topic 3 Teaching Right Values  
Topic 4 Leading Our Children to God

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**EXAM 2 Covering Lessons 17-20 (80 points). Time for completion: 1.5 hours (90 minutes).**

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**Lesson 21 Understanding the Original Christianity**

Topic 1 True Christianity Reflects the Practices of Jesus Christ  
Topic 2 True Christianity Has a Mission  
Topic 3 True Christianity Has Power  
Topic 4 True Christianity Is a Way of Life

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**Lesson 22 Understanding the Power of Prayer**

Topic 1 Understanding Christ's Instructions  
Topic 2 Examples of Answered Prayer  
Topic 3 Keys to Answered Prayer  
Topic 4 Learning to Build a Relationship with God

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**Lesson 23 Build Living Faith?**

Topic 1 The Importance of Spiritual Growth  
Topic 2 Bible Study: A Vital Tool  
Topic 3 The Importance of Meditation  
Topic 4 Fasting: A Vital Tool

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**Lesson 24 Build Living Faith**

Topic 1 What Is Faith?  
Topic 2 Heroes of Faith  
Topic 3 What Christ Taught About Faith  
Topic 4 Truly Knowing God

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**EXAM 3 Covering Lessons 21-24 (80 points). Time for completion: 1.5 hours (90 minutes).**

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