

# Course Prospectus

## For THL 110A Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course

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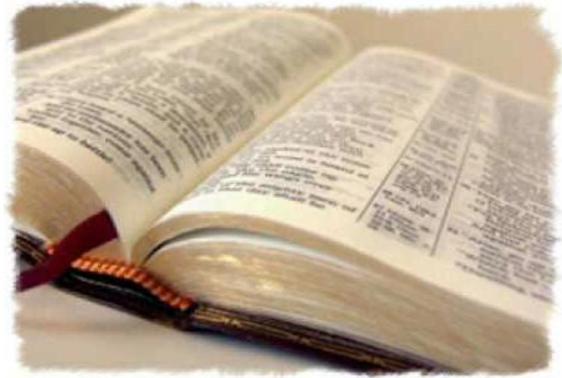
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## Overview

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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 this course is to give you 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 Word of God Is the Foundation of Knowledge.*

The word of God, the Hebrew Scriptures and its apostolic complement known as the New Testament, is the foundation of knowledge. God's Word, the Holy Bible, is the account of God's action in the world and his purpose with all creation. 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.

### COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

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

There are no Prerequisites or Corequisites for this course.

### COURSE CREDIT

Two (2) semester hours.

## Instructional Objectives

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

- Demonstrate that the Word of God is the foundation of knowledge;
- 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;
- Demonstrate the significance of biblical prophecy and generate an outline of the pattern of end-time events as reported in the Bible;
- 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;

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- Demonstrate a general understanding of who and what God is as revealed in the Bible employing both the Old and New Testament scriptures;
- 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;
- Generate an explanation of humanity's rejection of the instruction of God, how it influenced the direction of human civilization and the ultimate consequences;
- Demonstrate from the Bible the nature of the Kingdom of God, how human beings can enter into it and their role in its administration;
- 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;
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the teaching of Jesus Christ regarding the relationship between commandment-keeping and inheriting eternal life through salvation;
- Identify and state the basic elements of the biblical doctrine of conversion and generate an explanation of the doctrine; and
- 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.

### Your Instructor

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While you will encounter a number of lecturers in this course, the instructor of record is W. Wyatt Ciesielka, assisted by Michelle R. Broussard (LU's Assistant Registrar) who serves as an instructional associate. To contact them on course details and issues please use the email feature in the E-Learning system (Populi) or the addresses below.



W. Wyatt Ciesielka  
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Michelle R. Broussard  
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**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, recorded by a variety of lecturers, and others are Living Church of God 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).

## Course Protocols

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### Technology access

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>.

### Students with disabilities

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").

### Attendance in this online course

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.

### Withdrawing from or dropping this course

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.

## **Terms and phrases**

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.

## **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.
- 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.

## **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.

- The regular edition is available in Bonded Black leather (ISBN 0718020804) at Amazon through the University Bookstore for about \$50 plus sales tax and shipping charges.
- The large print edition NKJV Study Bible: Large Print Edition, Black, in Bonded Black leather (ISBN 9781418542108) sells for about \$52 plus sales tax at Amazon through the University Bookstore.

## Course Requirements

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### Due dates and extensions

Submit all assignments on or before the due dates. Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

### Icebreaker assignment

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 thread titled Icebreaker. 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 the eighth day of class.
- Post your biography as a reply to the "Icebreaker" topic on the lesson "Welcome and Overview" discussion thread.
- 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.

### Reading assignments

Reading assignments are integrated into the twelve (12) lessons. For lessons and topics, see Course Outline in this document.

### Topic study and practice exercises

There are four Topic Study and Practice Exercises for each lesson. These are simple homework-type assignments which will help you prepare for the lesson quiz. Each contains typically between 10-12 multiple choice, multiple answer, true and false, or matching questions. You can repeat an exercise as often as you like, until you feel comfortable with the material; however, we simply request that you complete each exercise once. Your highest grade will be recorded. These exercises are located on the Tests webpage. Remember to do all FOUR exercises in each lesson BEFORE you take the lesson quiz.

### Discussion forum

For each lesson there is a discussion question posed by the instructor which requires your response. Each student's original post should utilize at least ONE citation from course material (required or supplemental) to support their response. These initial posts should be a minimum of 250 words, not to exceed 500 words. In addition, students are required to submit a minimum of one reply post to a fellow student's original post on each discussion thread. This is your opportunity to participate in interactive dialog. While there is no minimum word requirement for reply posts, reply content should be substantive. Please do limit the number of your reply posts to two per forum. These assignments will be graded according to a grading rubric. Be sure to download the rubric when the course begins, as this will help you to understand the standards expected and measured in grading these assignments.

### Writing assignments

There is only one writing assignment in this course: the "What I Learned Essay." This writing assignment should follow the MLA style as set forth in *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide* by Lester and

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Lester. Please cite your sources and use quotation marks where needed. To submit your essay, select the appropriate assignment from the Assignments tab to go to the Assignment Submission page. Use the Attach a File feature below the textbox to upload your WORD document. Please do not use the textbox to "post" your assignment: the textbox is used for student/instructor communication only.

### 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.

There are three **closed book** exams in this course of not more than 40 questions to be taken online, and **you will need a proctor for one of them**. A proctored exam is one that is overseen by an impartial individual (called a proctor) who monitors or supervises a student while he or she is taking the exam. The proctor ensured the security and integrity of the exam process of all involve. More information on your proctoring options is available in the course syllabus. Be sure to download the syllabus from the course Info webpage when the semester begins.

### Course evaluation

Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by email 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.

### 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 100 points, for a total of 300 points; online, closed book and closed-notes; for the first exam, you will need a proctor)

Quizzes (twelve, each worth 25 points, for a total of 300 points; online, open book]

Discussion Forums (twelve, each worth 25 points, for a total of 300 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.

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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 or examinations, completely or in part, 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 Outline

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*Lesson*

*Readings and viewing assignments are integrated in the lessons*

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#### **Lesson 1 The Bible: A Book for Today!**

- Topic 1 The Bible: A Book for Today!
  - Topic 2 Man's Search for God, or God's Revelation to Man?
  - Topic 3 Is the Old Testament Relevant for Today?
  - Topic 4 The Information Book
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#### **Lesson 2 Why Keep the Ten Commandments?**

- Topic 1 What Did Jesus Christ Teach About Law and Grace?
  - Topic 2 Did James, Peter and John Teach the Necessity of Obedience?
  - Topic 3 Paul's Teaching About the Law
  - Topic 4 The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
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#### **Lesson 3 Can You Understand Bible Prophecy?**

- Topic 1 You Can Understand Prophecy
  - Topic 2 Keys to Understanding Prophecy
  - Topic 3 The Book of Revelation Unveiled
  - Topic 4 Revelation Unveils the Future
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#### **Lesson 4 Revealed: The Master Key to Bible Prophecy!**

- Topic 1 The Calling of Abraham
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- Topic 2 Physical and Spiritual Promises
- Topic 3 The Birthright Blessings and the Scepter Promise
- Topic 4 What's Ahead for the Modern House of Israel?

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**EXAM 1 Covering Lessons 1-4 (100 points). Time for completion: 1.0 hours (60 minutes). [PROCTORED]**

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### **Lesson 5 What Is God Really Like?**

- Topic 1 The Bible Reveals the Nature of God
- Topic 2 Holy Spirit "Third Person" of a "Trinity"?
- Topic 3 The Pre-Existence of Jesus Christ
- Topic 4 Attributes of God

### **Lesson 6 Why Were You Born?**

- Topic 1 Are You an Immortal Soul?
- Topic 2 Heaven, Hell and What Happens After Death
- Topic 3 What Happened to Elijah and the Thief on the Cross?
- Topic 4 What is Man's Destiny?

### **Lesson 7 The Real Origin of Civilization**

- Topic 1 A Choice Sets the Stage for Mankind's Future
- Topic 2 God's Judgment on the Pre-Flood World
- Topic 3 Nimrod and the Tower of Babel
- Topic 4 Man Develops Religious Customs

### **Lesson 8 What is the Kingdom of God?**

- Topic 1 Will Christ Set Up a Literal Kingdom?
- Topic 2 Entering the Kingdom of God
- Topic 3 Characteristics of the Kingdom
- Topic 4 How Will the Kingdom of God Function?

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**EXAM 2 Covering Lessons 5-8 (100 points). Time for completion: 1.0 hours (60 minutes).**

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### **Lesson 9 What is the True Gospel?**

- Topic 1 The Gospel Jesus Christ Preached
- Topic 2 The Gospel in the Old Testament
- Topic 3 The Gospel Paul Preached
- Topic 4 What Does the Gospel Include?

### **Lesson 10 What Is Real Conversion?**

- Topic 1 Faith for Salvation
- Topic 2 What is Real Repentance?
- Topic 3 Water Baptism
- Topic 4 Conversion and Salvation

### **Lesson 11 Are We Living in the Last Days?**

- Topic 1 Is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Unique
- Topic 2 God's 7,000-Year Plan
- Topic 3 Jerusalem: Focal Point of God's Attention
- Topic 4 Jerusalem: End-Time Flashpoint

### **Lesson 12 Where Is the Church Jesus Built?**

- Topic 1 The Origin of the Church
- Topic 2 The Purpose of the Church
- Topic 3 Is the Church Supposed to be Organized?
- Topic 4 Identifying the True Church

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**EXAM 3 Covering Lessons 9-12 (100 points). Time for completion: 1.0 hours (60 minutes).**

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