

Course Number...so130 - Spring, 2017  
Course Name ..... Cultures of Ancient Civilizations  
Credit Hours..... 3

Instructor..... Carl J. Simonsen M.Div;  
Email: professor@csimonsen.org;  
Phone: 209.257.1742  
Cell: 209.753.7989 (text OK)



Bible Institute  
at  
New Life Christian Center

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

SO130 is an analysis of the cultural settings of the Ancient Near East and Greco-Roman period, including the aspects of social structure, religion, philosophy, art, economics, law and politics. Special attention is given to the integration of this cultural understanding with the biblical text.

#### PREREQUISITE:

Recommended:

#### STATEMENT OF MISSION:

The Mission of the Bible Institute at New Life Christian Center is to be a center for ministry education and training for the Mother Lode Region we serve and the Central Pacific District and to instruct and equip the saints that desire to enhance and increase their ability for service in the Kingdom of God through a Bible College setting in the local church.

This preparation is accomplished in the students' lives through:

- 1) The acquisition of biblical and theological knowledge,
- 2) The pursuit of general studies from a Christian perspective,
- 3) The development of their character and
- 4) The formation of ministry and leadership skills.

This course helps to fulfill this mission by giving the student an understanding of the cultural norms of Biblical times and relating them to the scriptures. This understanding is important as we are trying to understand the scriptures 2000 plus years after they were first written and often without understanding the culture at the time of writing the Biblical student can not get an accurate understanding of the Biblical text they are studying.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the interpretive gap that exists in biblical interpretation
- Discuss the role of history and anthropology in biblical studies
- Illustrate the cultural differences between the world of the Bible and the world today.
- Identify the key geographical features of the Ancient Near East
- Recall some of the major events in the chronology of Biblical history
- Employ historical, cultural, and theological resources to analyze biblical text, while keeping in mind the effects of social structure, religion, philosophy, art, economics, law, and politics on Scripture.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

**Required:** Brisco, Thomas C. *Holman Bible Atlas*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman 2000.

**Required (Optional-Recommended for Audit Students):** deSilva, David A. *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2000.

**Required (Optional-Recommended for Audit Students):** Matthews, Victor H. and Don C. Benjamin. *Social World of Ancient Israel 1250-587 BCE*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1993.

**Required:** Any Bible translation (must be a translation – not a paraphrase, Study Bible version helpful but not required)

**Suggested<sup>1</sup>:** *The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)* copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV® Text Edition: 2011.

**Alternate 1:** *The NIV® Bible (The Holy Bible, New International Version®)* copyright © 2011 by Biblia, Inc, Published by Zondervan

**Alternate 2:** *The HCSB® Bible (The Holy Bible, Holman Christian Standard Version®)* copyright © 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers,

**Optional / Extra:** Arnold, Bill T. and Brent A. Strawn., *The World around the Old Testament The People and Places of the Ancient Near East*. Grand Rapids Mich.: Baker Academic, 2016.

**Optional / Extra:** Nobel, Thomas F. X., Strauss, Barry, Osheim, Duane J., et al. *Western Civilization The Continuing Experiment Vol 1: to 1715*. Boston Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.

**Optional / Extra:** Phillips, Martin R., *Ancient Civilizations*. Nanaimco, Canada.: Hill Tech Ventures Inc., 2015.

**Optional / Extra:** Scarre, Christopher, Fagan, Brian M., *Ancient Civilizations 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.: Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2008.

**Optional / Extra:** Walton, John H., *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament Introducing the conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. Grand Rapids Michigan.: Baker Academic, 2006.

Other readings as supplied in the course notebook.

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<sup>1</sup> Note, Most class handouts, lectures, and notes will be based on the ESV text.

## ONLINE CLASS RESOURCE

Materials provided by the instructor including this syllabus, various charts and forms will be available as ACROBAT pdf files through an online access. To obtain these documents, set your web browser to: [csimonsen.org/bi\\_documents.php](http://csimonsen.org/bi_documents.php). From there, they may be individually selected and downloaded.

## Course information to guide your reading and preparation for the course assignments

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1	Attendance - This class is a three-unit class and scheduled for fourteen three hour class periods during the semester. A student may miss 1 session without penalty. However, for each class session missed after that there will be a reduction of 10% in their attendance points. The student should always make arrangements with another student to obtain classroom notes as exams and quizzes include classroom lecture material.	120
2	Biblical Texts and course Text Book weekly reading assignments are posted on the reading assignment and log sheet (distributed during 1 <sup>st</sup> class). All readings are to be logged when completed as on time or late on the weekly reading log. Recording a reading as late will result in a loss of half of the section's points.  <i><b>Audit Students.</b></i> The text book reading assignment is reduced for you. Keeping current in your reading is very important to enable proper class participation.	120
3	In the Course Note Book are four Study Guides made up of questions covering all of the required reading. a) A Study Guide Question Assignment and Log sheet will be provided that correlates the study questions with the weekly reading. Students are to review these questions as a part of their reading and sign off each of the study question sections as completed on the log sheet. b) Quizzes, Exams, and the Final Exam will utilize some of these questions as a component of their content.	120 total
4	Ad Hoc Assignments will be assigned throughout the semester. Each Ad Hoc assignment will be turned in the week following its assignment. The Ad Hoc work may be a short study, a prayer, an exhortation, a letter or even your artistic talent may be employed. This is an excellent chance to apply the language and hermeneutical skills you have learned or to express in some other creative form the inner meaning of the passage.  <i><b>Audit Students.</b></i> Completion of Ad Hoc Assignments is optional for you. Feel free to participate in the assignment.	30 each 120 total

5	<p>Memory Verse: There will be 5 Memory Verses which will be distributed during the 1<sup>st</sup> class session. Upon memorization of the assigned verse, the student is responsible to have someone else "listen" to confirm memorization and sign the "memorization log sheet." Points for each memorization will be halved if it is not signed off on time.</p> <p>Bonus, If the bonus verse is memorized and signed off, then the total points of the memory verse block is increased by 25%</p> <p>Audit Students: Audit students are free to memorize all the memory assignments <b>but are required to complete the W02, W07, and W12 assignments.</b></p>	20 each 100 total
6	<p>Pop Quizzes: There will be two 30 minute pop quizzes administered at the beginning of class sessions 3, and 8. Each pop quiz is incremental in nature and will focus on course reading, the lectures, and memory work of the previous 2 to 3 class sessions.</p> <p><b>Audit Students:</b> This is a learning vehicle for you. Your participation is required.</p>	60 each 120 total
7	<p>Exam - Incremental: There will be two one hour exams as indicated on the schedule. These exams will be incremental in nature.</p> <p>The first exam will cover class room lectures, notes, and course assignments from the beginning of class through session 5</p> <p>The second exam will cover class room lectures, notes and course assignments from class session 6 through session 11.</p> <p>The Incremental Exams will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer and short essay questions. Additional questions taken directly from the Study Guide will be included.</p> <p><b>Audit Students,</b> This is a learning vehicle for you. Your participation is required.</p>	125 each 250 total
8	<p>Exam - Final: There will be a two hour comprehensive exam at the conclusion of the course. It will be based on lectures, assigned course reading, memory work and related study material including any study sheets or instructor prepared notes.</p> <p>The Final Exam will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions. Additional questions taken directly from the Study Guide will be included.</p> <p><b>Audit Students:</b> This is an optional exercise for you.</p>	250

9	Exegetical Study (Term Project) – Each student will produce an exegetical paper of between 10 and 12 pages in length. Paper topics and requirements will be released in class 4, Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> . Students must register their paper topic by class 7, Mar. 9 <sup>th</sup> and be complete by class 13, May 4 <sup>th</sup> .  <i>Audit Students</i> , This is an optional exercise for you.	250
10	Oral Presentation – Each student will be given the opportunity to present the conclusion of their Exegetical Study. Details of this will be included with the term project topics and requirements to be released in class 4, Feb 16 <sup>th</sup> . Students must elect to participate in the Oral Presentation by April 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2016.	100 Bonus Points
<b>Base Maximum Point Total (excludes Oral Presentation points)</b>		<b>1450</b>

**COURSE GRADING SCALE ( % of Base Maximum Point Total):**

F	D	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
< = 59	60-69	70-72	73-78	79-80	81-83	84-88	89-91	92-94	95-100

**NOTES REGARDING GRADING:**

- 1) Final Scores will not be rounded off, 88.99 will be a "B", etc.
- 2) Exams may be retaken if a poor grade is received. The two scores would then be averaged out and this could bring their score up to a C or B. The student will need to take the initiative contacting the course instructor in order to retake an exam. Please note that other than the retaking of an exam there are no other make-ups or bonus options that will impact grading. Please do the assignments as noted in the Course Syllabus, and the various reading and memorization logs. In all cases it is the student's responsibility to arrange for an exam retake within a week of the return of a graded exam.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES:**

1. **ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE** at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Assignments may either be submitted in paper form, or be eMailed to the instructor's eMail of record but it is the student's responsibility that the eMail arrives prior to the start of class and in a format readable by the instructor<sup>2</sup>. Unexcused late work will receive the reduction of one grade (or 10%) for each day late, including Saturdays. Late work will only be accepted in the case of illness or emergency.  
It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative to call and inform the professor **BEFORE** such a case exists. Arrangements will be made by the course instructor at that time as to when the work will be due because of the mitigating circumstances.
2. If necessary, the course instructor will dismiss any student from class for rude, interruptive or other inappropriate behavior (or dress). This includes sleeping in class or doing homework in class. If noted, the professor will ask the student to leave and the student will receive an absence for that class.
3. **ALL CELL PHONES**, pagers, or any other type of "attention getting devices" are to be turned off before the beginning of class to avoid interfering with class time. If it is critical

<sup>2</sup> Preferred format is \*.doc; Also acceptable are \*.rtf, and \*.pdf

that you be reached then make sure that your device(s) is(are) on a QUIET setting so that the rest of class is not disturbed.

4. **COMPUTER USAGE** during class to aid in note taking and interacting with the course material is encouraged. However this time is NOT to be used for email, chatting, blogging, surfing, gaming or any other activities which might interfere with others participating in class.
5. **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with the Registrar as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of the course requirements
7. **WRITTEN DOCUMENT FORMATTING:** When preparing a written assignment of any nature please conform to basic MLA norms including:
  - a) Use one inch margins on all page borders.
  - b) Use 12pt Times New Roman for the page body font.
  - c) Use standard double spaced lines for all paragraphs.
  - d) Place the page number on every page in the header prefixed by the student's last name.
  - e) The first page of any written assignment should contain:  
Student Name and Student Email,  
The Instructors Name; The course ID and Course name,  
The Due Date for the assignment.

A basic MLA reference document is available on the course material website. The course website is: [http://csimonsen.org/bi\\_documents.php](http://csimonsen.org/bi_documents.php)

A Word format<sup>3</sup> and Acrobat Format "template" file will be available for anyone that would like to use it.

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<sup>3</sup> uSoft 2003 \*.doc

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE Spring 2017 Thursday, 6:00pm to 9:00pm<sup>4</sup>**

Class #	Date	Lecture	In-Class Activity	Assignments Due
1	Feb 02	Introduction		
2	Feb 09	Ancient Near East Palestine Patriarchs to the Exodus		Mem #1
3	Feb 16	Village Politics	Pop Quiz	Ad Hoc #1
4	Feb 23	Village Economics & Diplomacy		Mem #2
5	Mar 02	Village Law and Education Conquest and Settlement David & Solomon		Ad Hoc #2
6	Mar 09	State Politics	Exam	
	Mar 16			
	Mar 23			
7	Mar 30	State Economics Israel & Judah State Diplomacy & Law		Mem #3
8	Apr 06	State Education Judah amid the Cats	Pop Quiz	Ad Hoc #3
9	Apr 13	Exiled through Persia Hellenistic Period Roman Emergence		Mem #4
10	Apr 20	Introduction, Honor and Shame Honor and Shame in the New Testament Patronage and the New Testament		Ad Hoc #4
11	Apr 27	Patronage and grace in the New Testament	Exam	
12	May 04	The Time of Jesus The early Church The Jewish Revolt Kinship		Mem #5
13	May 11	Purity and Pollution Final Exam Pre Review	Project Presentations	Exegetical Project
14	May 18	Final Exam	Final Exam	

<sup>4</sup> Class Start and End time to be reviewed in first class and potentially moved based on Student needs