

Application for a New Course v10.5

Course ID <i>Subject and Number</i>	BIBL630
Date APPROVED	
Date DENIED	

I. Systems and Catalog Information Complete each item.

1	Course Developer	Melinda Thompson
2	Course Teacher	Melinda Thompson
3	Course Title	Biblical Theology
4	Course Abbreviation (if title is over 30 characters)	not needed
5	College	College of Biblical Studies
6	Department	Graduate School of Theology
7	Number of Credit Hours	3
8	Is the course Fixed Credit or Variable Credit?	fixed
9	Is the course repeatable?	no
10	Maximum number of times course may be repeated	n/a
11	Maximum number of hours credit	3
12	Explanation for variable credit	n/a
13a	Course contact hours - LEC	
13b	Course contact hours - Lab	
13c	Course contact hours - Practicum	
13d	Course contact hours - Seminar	
13e	Course contact hours - Studio	
13f	Course contact hours - Online	3
13g	Course contact hours - Colloquium	
13h	Course contact hours – Field Experience	
13j	Course contact hours - Internship	
13k	Course contact hours - Research	
13m	Course contact hours - Workshop	
13n	Course contact hours – Other (specify)	
14	Instructor Workload	3
15	Grade Mode (check all appropriate):	☐ x Standard ☐ Credit/No Credit (undergrad only)
16	Maximum Enrollment	30
17	Catalog Description (50 words or less)	Introduction to the theological issues which are essential to the study of both Old and New Testaments as a single, unified Bible. An overview of history, methodology, and considerations of canon are provided. Special

		attention will be given to the role of biblical theology in congregational ministry (teaching, preaching). [49 words]
18	List any prerequisites (course/s, test scores, class standing, major, etc.)	none
19	List any co-requisites	n/a
20	If the course is cross listed, specify the Course ID(s) MUST have signature in Section V off all Department Chairs	n/a
21	Does this course have any special student costs? Yes/No <i>Attach a <u>completed</u> "Request to Add or Change Course Fees" form. Describe in section IV-F.</i>	No
22a	How often will it be offered? Fall	every other year
22b	How often will it be offered? Spring	0
22c	How often will it be offered? Summer	0
23	Frequency? All, odd, or even years?	Odd years
24	First semester this course will be offered <i>New courses may not be taught under their approved course ID until they appear in the catalog, therefore, no earlier than the coming fall.</i>	scheduled for Fall 2015
25	List course/s that should be deleted, include the last semester for course/s being deleted <i>A course cannot be deleted when it is a requirement in a degree plan in any department.</i>	n/a
26	Is this course required for a degree/s? Yes/No <i>If "Yes," attach a revised degree plan(s) reflecting the placement of the new course.</i>	No – elective only
27	Should the addition of this course be retroactively applied to the degree plan it supports? Yes/no and explain	n/a
28	Has this course been offered as a Special Topics course? Yes/No <i>If "Yes," specify the Course ID and enrollment for each term it was taught.</i> <i>(Note: New courses are NOT required to be taught as Special Topics courses prior to being approved. However, courses may be taught once as Special Topics before it is proposed. See the Course Descriptions section of the Catalog for details.)</i>	Yes – BIBL640, taught spring 2012 enrollment = 18 students
29	List any courses in which content overlaps the proposed course.	Possibly BIBL611 OT Theology or BIBL621 NT Theology, though this course focuses on the

	(Course ID and Name) <i>Attach statement from instructor/dept chair of existing course justifying the new offering in Section IV-D.</i>	Bible as a whole.
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II. Curriculum

1	Degree Plan Explanation of how this course affects degree requirements.	Elective only.
2	Justification State the justification for adding this course to the current curriculum. Represent the need.	Additional Bible elective, especially to support the growing demand for BIBL courses online.

III. Course Design

1. Audience and Course Goal

1	Describe the intended audience, including prerequisite skills.	Any GST student. Basic bible knowledge assumed. Passing BIBL610 and BIBL620 is helpful but not required.
2	State the overarching course goal(s) in performance terms.	See course competencies below.

2. Competencies and Measurements

	Competency	Measurement
1	Comprehends the full range of biblical materials.	discussion forums themes compilation biblical synopsis synthesis paper
2	Exhibits theological discernment in the identification, evaluation, and synthesis of fundamental biblical themes.	discussion forums themes compilation biblical synopsis synthesis paper
3	Comprehends the major theological <i>loci</i> of the Christian tradition and their interconnectedness with Christian faith and practice.	discussion forums themes compilation ministry application synthesis paper
4	Analyzes and evaluates theological claims, formulations, and expressions in terms of their biblical, historical, philosophical, scientific, moral, and experiential dimensions.	discussion forums themes compilation ministry application synthesis paper
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3. Text and Resources

1. Give the full publication information of the textbook/s and other required resources and outside readings.
2. For **combined undergraduate/graduate** courses, make two lists:
 - a. full publication information; label **Undergraduate**.
 - b. full publication information; label **Graduate**. Indicate number of pages required.

The following textbooks are *required* for course participation:

- David L. Baker, *Two Testaments, One Bible: The Theological Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. 3rd edition. InterVarsity Press, 2010.
- Craig Bartholomew, et al., *Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation*. Zondervan, 2004.
- Craig A. Evans and Emanuel Tov, eds., *Exploring the Origins of the Bible: Canon Formation in Historical, Literary, and Theological Perspective*. Acadia Studies in Bible and Theology. Baker Academic, 2008.
- Scott J. Hafemann and Paul R. House, eds., *Central Themes in Biblical Theology: Mapping Unity in Diversity*. Baker Academic, 2007.
- James K. Mead, *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods, and Themes*. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.

V. Preliminary Approvals

All supporting documentation has been assembled and attached to this application. I believe this course is ready to be presented to appropriate councils. We have a plan to fund this new course.

Course Number and Name BIBL 630 Biblical Theology

Primary Department

Jesse Sensing
Department Chair

11-11-14
Date

[Signature]
Dean of the College

11-11-14
Date

Cross-listing Department *Add more lines if multiple departments are cross-listing*

Department Chair

Date

Dean of the College

Date

Cross-listing Department *Add more lines if multiple departments are cross-listing*

Department Chair

Date

Dean of the College

Date

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 11, 2014
TO: Dr. Mindi Thompson
FROM: Mark McCallon, Associate Dean for Library Services
RE: Course Application for BIBL 630 – Biblical Theology

After reviewing the course application and consulting with Craig Churchill, Theological Librarian, the library is able to support the proposed course. Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate the syllabus and course proposal.

September 15, 2014

Dr. Melinda Thompson
314 Biblical Studies Building
Office: (325) 674-3706
melinda.thompson@acu.edu

Re: Review of BIBL 640.01: Biblical Theology

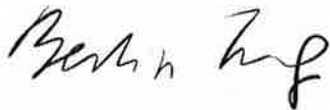
Dear Dr. Thompson,

Thank you for the submission of BIBL 640.01: Biblical Theology. I reviewed the syllabus based on the [ACU Syllabus Guidelines](#). This is an exceptionally well-developed syllabus in which you have aligned mission of your school, the student learning outcomes, competencies, instructional strategies and resources. Your syllabus meets the university guidelines.

Here are two minor things I noticed, and would like to bring to your attention:

- The semester information is listed as "Spring semester, 2012". I wonder if that can be changed to the future semester in which it will be offered.
- I noticed that the course will be offered in OpenClass through www.pearsonopenclass.com. I am not sure if that is supported by IT, which supports OpenClass through the URL that is integrated with MyACU: (www.acu.edu/openclass). Using www.pearsonopenclass.com, will you be handling the enrollment yourself? Or is it a temporary solution while the university chooses a new learning management system?

Again, this is an outstanding syllabus. We would like to thank you for allowing the Adams Center team to review your course application. Congratulations on having developed such an exemplary syllabus.



BIBL630.W1 – Biblical Theology
Graduate School of Theology
Abilene Christian University
(term, year)

Melinda (Mindi) Thompson, Ph.D.
314 Biblical Studies Building
Office: (325) 674-3706
melinda.thompson@acu.edu

3 credit hours, no prerequisites.

This course is conducted entirely online via the OpenClass course management system:

<http://www.pearsonopenclass.com>. While priority is given to GST students studying at a distance, the class is open to residential/commuter students on a space-available basis.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the theological issues which are essential to the study of both Old and New Testaments as a single, unified Bible. An overview of biblical theology's history and methodology will be provided, as well as considerations of canon. Special attention will be given to the role of biblical theology in congregational ministry (teaching, preaching).

OUTCOMES

In keeping with the stated mission of the Graduate School of Theology at ACU ("to equip men and women for effective missional leadership for ministry in all its forms and to provide strong academic foundations for theological inquiry"), this course fulfills the following GST program outcomes:

SLOs	Competencies	Measures
GST Program Outcome #1 – Students will have knowledge of the content and theological shape of the Christian Scriptures.	• Comprehends the full range of biblical materials. • Exhibits theological discernment in the identification, evaluation, and synthesis of fundamental biblical themes.	• discussion forums • themes compilation • biblical synopsis • synthesis paper
GST Program Outcome #2 – Students will have knowledge of the major theological content, structures, and procedures of the Christian tradition.	• Comprehends the major theological <i>loci</i> of the Christian tradition and their interconnectedness with Christian faith and practice. • Analyzes and evaluates theological claims, formulations, and expressions in terms of their biblical, historical, philosophical, scientific, moral, and experiential dimensions.	• discussion forums • themes compilation • ministry application • synthesis paper

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must fulfill the following requirements in order to receive a passing grade:

- 1) **Discussion Forums:** Students will participate in discussion forums focused on assigned reading. These discussions require appropriate interaction not only with course material but also with other students in the course. If a large number of students register for the course, multiple discussion groups will be created to better facilitate this interaction. Assigned readings and

deadlines are noted in the course schedule. Specific requirements for discussion forum participation will be posted to the course site.

- 2) Biblical Synopsis: Students will create a synopsis of the overarching storyline contained in both Old and New Testaments. This synopsis will be utilized in the synthesis paper.
- 3) Themes Compilation: Students will compile a list of various themes pertaining to biblical theology. This list or portions of it will be used to organize the synthesis paper.
- 4) Ministry Application: Students will submit a short (5-10 page) paper which outlines the student's current ministry context and reflects upon how biblical theology informs that context. The paper must include the student's own observations as well as theological reflection and practical application. The due date for this paper is noted in the course schedule.
- 5) Synthesis Paper: Students will submit a long (15-20 page) paper which provides a definition for biblical theology and applies that definition to Scripture. The paper will make use of both the biblical synopsis and themes compilation assignments. The due date for this paper is noted in the course schedule.

GRADING

Course grades will be based on the following:

- 1) Discussion Forums – 50% of the total grade
- 2) Biblical Synopsis – 5% of the total grade
- 3) Themes Compilation – 5% of the total grade
- 4) Ministry Application – 15% of the total grade
- 5) Synthesis Paper – 25% of the total grade

The grading scale and standards utilized in this course are provided below.

A = 90-100	Excellent – covers full range of material, displays depth of comprehension, relies heavily on primary sources, relates material to inter-disciplinary areas. Writing is perfect or nearly perfect in grammar, spelling, and usage.
B = 80-89	Good – but not superior, reflects comprehension of most crucial aspects of material only, scattered reflection, some reliance on primary sources, shows some inter-disciplinary sensitivity. Very few grammar, spelling, or usage errors.
C = 70-79	Decent – competent in most aspects but with significant lapses, no clear focus or overly simplistic focus, deficient comments with few/no sources, questionable inter-disciplinary application. Multiple grammar, spelling, or usage errors.
D = 60-69	Uh-Oh – some effort shown but overwhelmed by flaws in thinking, incompetent use of sources, unrealistic or underdeveloped application. Major mistakes in grammar, spelling, or usage.
F = <59	No – don't make me go here.

TEXTBOOKS

The following textbooks are *required* for course participation:

- David L. Baker, *Two Testaments, One Bible: The Theological Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. 3rd edition. InterVarsity Press, 2010.
- Craig Bartholomew, et al., *Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation*. Zondervan, 2004.

- Craig A. Evans and Emanuel Tov, eds., *Exploring the Origins of the Bible: Canon Formation in Historical, Literary, and Theological Perspective*. Acadia Studies in Bible and Theology. Baker Academic, 2008.
- Scott J. Hafemann and Paul R. House, eds., *Central Themes in Biblical Theology: Mapping Unity in Diversity*. Baker Academic, 2007.
- James K. Mead, *Biblical Theology: Issues, Methods, and Themes*. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2007.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- 1) Contact Expectations: Dr. Thompson may be reached most readily via email (preferred method of communication) or by telephone during regular office hours (Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM). Questions about the course which would benefit the entire class should be posted to the "Huh?" forum in the course site so that everyone can view the conversation.
- 2) Participation: The highly interactive nature of an online course makes regular, timely participation a must. Students should check the course site regularly for any course announcements, feedback, or other pertinent information in addition to the time spent completing assignments. Students who will not have access to the class site for any given week of the semester should contact the instructor *in advance* to notify her of their absence. Students whose participation is limited due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances should notify the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements to complete assignments after the deadline.
- 3) Inclusive Language: Every attempt will be made to use inclusive language, as this concern influences not only classroom assignments but also our interpretation of the Bible. Students who persist in utilizing non-gender inclusive language after the instructor's correction will receive a reduction in grade. While citation from an inclusive language translation of the Bible (NRSV, TNIV, etc.) is preferred, students will not be penalized for citation from a non-gender inclusive text.
- 4) Course Deadlines: Students must turn in all assigned materials, including papers, on *or before* the date they are due. Postponement is allowed only for serious unforeseen circumstances with *prior* approval of the instructor. Papers submitted after the due date without prior approval will be docked two percentage points for every day they are late. Other course assignments submitted after the due date will receive partial credit.
- 5) Special Needs Policy: ACU complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodation for qualified students with a disability. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodation, please contact the ACU Student Disability Services Office (a part of the Alpha Scholars Program). In order to receive accommodation, you must be registered with Disability Services and you must complete a specific request for each class in which you need accommodation. Call (325)674-2667 for an appointment with the Director of Disability Services.
- 6) Academic Integrity Policy: Definitions and consequences are posted at <http://www.acu.edu/academics/provost/documents/AcademicIntegrityPolicy.pdf>
- 7) Subject to Change Clause: This syllabus, course calendar, and other attending documents are subject to change during the course. Every attempt will be made to notify students promptly when changes are made. Students are encouraged to check the course site regularly for announcements.
- 8) GST Classroom Virtues: The GST invites students to participate in a process of theological and spiritual formation. Knowing how to think theologically comes by habit and by imitation, not simply by acquiring isolated facts. The assumption here is that books alone are insufficient for addressing difficulties of life and forming people into the image and likeness of God. Ultimately, we strive to form communities of inquiry, inviting you to inhabit a shared world of learning. Within such an environment, the goal is to cultivate critical skills of reflection, spiritual disciplines, interact authentically with one another, and learn

to function as a community of inquiry. A large part of this involves connecting areas of life rather than pitting them against one another. Prayer, study, and other dimensions of life are all integral to the process of formation. Consequently, we invite you to participate in a set of practices; nurtured within this context, you pursue “intellectual, moral, spiritual excellence” the result of which is the formation of the whole person.

- a. **Desire for truth in the context of love**—the aptitude to discern whether belief-forming processes, practices, and people yield true beliefs over false ones. People motivated by this desire will be more likely to conduct thorough inquiries, scrutinize evidence carefully, investigate numerous fields of study, and consider alternative explanations while respecting and caring for others.
- b. **Humility**—the capacity to recognize reliable sources of informed judgment while recognizing the limits of our knowledge and the fallibility of our judgments. This is not created in isolation but takes into account feedback and correction from other sources of informed judgment.
- c. **Honesty**—the capacity to tackle difficult questions without seeking simple answers. Ignoring complex and difficult questions only solidifies vices such as intellectual dishonesty, close-mindedness, and rash judgments. These vices preclude the possibility of refining our thinking and of participating in conversations with others.
- d. **Openness**—the desire to engage in an open-ended search for knowledge of God, including receptivity to different ideas, experiences, and people. Listening becomes a discipline that acknowledges the other and respects diversity. The art of being a student and a teacher is an ongoing process that necessitates hospitality, patience, and love.
- e. **Courage**—the ability to articulate one’s position while considering other perspectives. The aptitude to express convictions involves risk yet fosters opportunities for meaningful dialog. Responding to objections entails tenacity but should not be confused with close-mindedness.
- f. **Wisdom**—the capacity to offer a synthetic discernment of knowledge on behalf of the community. The aim is not merely the dissemination of information but a pastoral implementation of faith for the building up of the community. It solidifies various pieces of data, practices, and experiences and aptly applies knowledge and faith to particular situations.
- g. **Stewardship**—the commitment to one’s accountability to the gifts and responsibilities that one brings to the classroom. Classroom engagement includes proactively participating in the course goals, seeking mastery of course competencies, and collaborating with faculty and fellow students in the development of a learning environment. Committing oneself to spiritual and intellectual well-being and growth is a faithful response to the opportunities graduate education affords.
- h. **Hopefulness**—the receptivity to the future possibilities of God. The cultivation of thankfulness for our heritages and expectation for our future ministries engenders a guard against cynicism and a spirit of perseverance during times of stress and disorientation.
- i. **Prayerfulness**—the making of space to commune with God. The task of learning and teaching so that we are formed into the image of Christ through the Spirit involves our consistent reliance on God’s sanctifying work.

COURSE SCHEDULE

MODULE/TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Module #1: Introducing Biblical Theology	• Mead discussion • Biblical Synopsis draft due
Module #2: Canon Considerations, part 1	• Evans & Tov discussion

Module #3: Biblical Theology Themes	• Hafemann & House discussion • Themes Compilation due • Biblical Synopsis final form due
<i>Spring Break</i>	
Module #4: Canon Considerations, part 2	• Baker discussion • select theme(s) for Synthesis Paper
Module #5: Biblical Theology in Practice	• Bartholomew discussion • Ministry Application Paper due
Wrap Up, Course Evaluation	• Synthesis Paper due