FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

SYLLABUS

FOR

COURSE NUMBER & NAME: BI 7100 Introduction to Postgraduate Biblical Studies

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An introduction to postgraduate work in biblical studies. The course focuses on tools, resources, and processes that provide a strong foundation for work in biblical studies at the postgraduate level. Students entering in the fall take BI 7100 the prior summer. Students entering in the spring take BI 7100 the prior fall. Students must successfully complete BI 7100 before enrolling in a textual elective seminar. *Offered the last week of every summer and fall semester. Students may register until the end of the 15th day before the end of the class.*

PREREQUISITES: Admission to the ThM or PhD in Biblical Studies

NUMBER HOURS CREDIT: 1

MODE OF DELIVERY: _X_ Online __ On Ground __ Hybrid

*J. David Stark*_____   *Randall C. Bailey* (approval on file)_____
Dr. J. David Stark, Professor   Dr. Randall C. Bailey, Chair
Kearley Graduate School of Theology   Kearley Graduate School of Theology

*Brenda Turner*_____   *Todd Brenneman* (approval on file)_____
Dr. Brenda Turner, Professor   Dr. Todd Brenneman, Dean
Kearley Graduate School of Theology   V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies

Disability Services
Center for Disability Services serves as the central contact point for all students with disabilities at Faulkner University including Alabama Christian College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, Harris College of Business, V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies, College of Health Sciences, Jones School of Law, and all extended campuses. Students are responsible for informing the University of their needs for services and accommodations. Contact Disability Services at 334-386-7185, 1-800-879-9816, x7185, email Nichole Fussell at nfussell@faulkner.edu, or visit https://www.faulkner.edu/academic-resources/center-for-disability-services/.

Student Access to Faculty and Administration
Students may contact the appropriate director, dean, department chair, or the Vice President for Academic Affairs as needed; contact information is posted on the web and available at http://www.faulkner.edu/studentlife/documents/FacultyandAdministration.pdf.

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)
The ACE provides academic support to all Faulkner students in all disciplines. To learn about ACE services, schedule a face-to-face appointment with a tutor, or learn more about TutorMe (24/7 online tutoring) please visit the ACE website www.faulkner.edu/ace. You are welcome to drop by the ACE in Brooks Hall 405. If you have questions after reading the website, please email them to ace@faulkner.edu.

BI 7100 Introduction to Postgraduate Biblical Studies
Kearley Graduate School of Theology at the V. P. Black College of Biblical Studies
J. David Stark, PhD, Professor
Brenda Turner, PhD, Professor

SYLLABUS

I.   PURPOSE:

This course introduces you to postgraduate biblical scholarship through the use of library resources, research tools, and materials needed for effective advanced research and writing. It emphasizes the proper use of primary and secondary sources, appropriate documentation of research projects, and effectively developing scholarly literature and publications. It also introduces you to various strategies for managing the work load you will encounter as you progress through the PhD program.

II.   COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, students will be able to:
  1. Use library and other research resources.
  2. Apply the requirements of SBL style in writing.
  3. Plan how you will integrate appropriate tools and strategies to assist you in completing your program.

III.   COURSE PREMISE, PHILOSOPHY, and METHODOLOGY:

This course reaches its instructional goals by our cooperation together. The *course premise* is that you learn this material best through written assignments, class discussion, assigned readings, class presentations and research that integrate every aspect of your learning process. The *course philosophy* is those of you who participate to the best of your ability in all of these areas will tend to have greater success than those who do not. The *course methodology* involves lectures, reading assignments, discussion forums, and written assignments. The reading assignments will prepare you for participation in class discussions. The written assignments will assist you in integrating your learning experience and developing your scholarly writing skills. As with any scholarly pursuit, each of you should also take personal initiative to go beyond these assignments in seeking other available data that will, when added to the assignments, give the class a breadth and depth not otherwise available.

IV.   CONTENT OUTLINE:
Module 1: Biblical scholarship vision
Module 2: Writing for biblical studies
Module 3: Biblical studies as knowledge work

V.   RESOURCES:
  1. REQUIRED MATERIALS: It is your decision as an independent moral agent whether or not to procure these required materials, or whether to consult them by some other means (e.g., library). If you elect not to procure any materials here

listed as required, you are solely responsible for that decision and any consequences (foreseeable or otherwise) that may follow from it.

    a. Standard resources: Some hardware, software, and writing resources you will need across the whole curriculum at KGST. You should, therefore, ensure that you have ready access to *all* of these tools and resources.

    b. Course-specific resources

       i. Biblical studies as knowledge work

          1. Allen, David. *Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity*. New York: Penguin, 2003. ISBN: 978-0-14-312656-0

          2. Holland, Richard A., and Benjamin K. Forrest. *Good Arguments: Making Your Case in Writing and Public Speaking*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2017. ISBN: 978-0-8010-9779-9

          3. McKeown, Greg. *Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less*. New York: Crown Business, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8041-3739-3

          4. Newport, Cal. *Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World*. New York: Grand Central, 2016. ISBN: 978-1-4555-8669-1

          5. Ostrov, Rick. *Power Reading*. 3rd. ed. North San Juan, CA: Education, 2001. ISBN: 978-0-9601706-1-6

          6. Stark, J. David. *Biblical Studies Toolbox*. Montgomery, AL: J. David Stark, 2021.

          7. Stark, J. David. *How to Budget Your Time: A Guide for Regular, Irregular, and Mixed Schedules*. Montgomery, AL: J. David Stark, 2020.

          8. Turner, Brenda. "Search Operators." Montgomery, AL: Brenda Turner, 2020. This document is posted in and available to you via Canvas.

       ii. Writing style

          1. Guide for Word. Choice of one:

             a. Stark, J. David. *Microsoft Word: The Emerging Biblical Scholar's Step-by-Step Guide for Windows and MacOS*. Montgomery, AL: J. David Stark, 2020.[1]

             b. Gookin, Dan. *Word 2019 for Dummies*. Indianapolis, IN: Wiley, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-119-51406-0. For Windows users.

             c. *Learning Microsoft Word 2016 for Mac*. Udemy. For Mac users.

          2. Strunk, William, Jr., and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. New York: Longman, 2000. ISBN: 978-0-205-30902-3

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[1] This guide will walk you step-by-step through the process of setting up Word to write for SBL style. But much of the guide's content is also available publicly online as well if you would prefer simply to access it there.

V.   SUPPLEMENTARY/SUGGESTED MATERIALS:
1. Any additional texts from this bibliography.
2. Research help from 24/7 Ask-A-Librarian.

VI.   COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION
1. ASSIGNMENTS:
    a. (S/U, COs 1–3[2]) Course requirements quiz: By the end of the first day of class, you must satisfactorily complete the course requirements quiz and certify that you have read and understood (1) the syllabus, (2) standard course information, and (3) any other policy, instruction, or reminder documents to which these items refer. If you do not successfully complete this quiz, subsequent modules will remain locked, you will not be able to complete the exercises they contain, and you will not be able to successfully complete this course.
    b. (60%, COs 1–3) Essay: To foster our interaction and provide you an opportunity to practice writing strong prose according to the conventions of SBL style, you will produce an essay, which you will submit in three parts as described in the course calendar below. Part of our live meeting time Friday will be devoted to discussing this essay. In preparing its sections, please review this assignment's detailed instructions.
    c. (S/U, CO 1) Research practicum: For additional practice with some of the research tools at your disposal, you will complete a 30-minute research practicum after the library seminar and before the second live meeting day. This assignment's details will become available after the library seminar Tuesday and come due at noon on Thursday.
    d. (40%, COs 1–3) Live seminar interaction: Your engagement in the live seminars is an important contributor to your learning in this course. Consequently, the quality of this interaction will contribute to your overall grade in the course. Your interaction will be assessed by its activity (i.e., your engagement in contributing questions and comments to the discussion), directness (i.e., avoidance of monologuing), and how carefully it shows you have assimilated the assigned reading or live seminar presentations.
    e. (S/U, COs 1–3) Live seminar meetings: This course is structured to be substantially asynchronous, meaning that you may pursue it at the time(s) of day that best suit your schedule within the boundaries of the specified deadlines. The exceptions are days and times during which live web conference class meetings will be held as indicated in the course calendar table below. The sessions will allow for approximately a one-half-hour break for lunch. Your attendance is mandatory for the full time each seminar meeting is in session. Absences from these live seminars must

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[2] The abbreviation "CO[s]" refers to "course objective[s]," and the accompanying numbering indicates which assignments produce the learning outcomes identified above under §II.

be made up according to this policy. The percentage of absences not made up will be deducted from your final course grade.

    f.   (S/U, COs 1–3) Course evaluation

2. OTHER INFORMATION: The term's final course grades will be submitted by 12:00 pm, 6 Aug. For further details, see this course's other general information.

VII.   COURSE GRADING

A = 90–100%   B = 80–89% C = 70–79% D = 60–69% F = 59% and below

For more information about grading, please see also this course's expanded grade scale.

ThM students may receive credit for this course with a final grade of "C" but may apply no more than 6 hours credit with a grade of "C" to their graduate requirements. In no case will any PhD-level requirement in which ThM student has earned a grade of less than "B" be applied to the PhD program.

Per the PhD section of the KGST catalog, "No grade lower than a B is accepted in the degree program. Coursework earning a C may not be applied toward the degree, and must be repeated in order to qualify for graduation."

VIII.   COURSE CALENDAR:

Where particular sections of a given resource are cited for readings below, you are expected only to read those sections. Where only an author's name (or name and work title) are noted, you are expected to read the entire piece indicated. The order of the readings indicates what seems the best suggested reading order (e.g., less to more advanced, earlier to later). In some or all cases, it may be beneficial for you to try to begin the reading indicated below before the unit in which that reading is scheduled.

To verify student identity across the curriculum, the university uses Bio-Sig. Before you can progress to the course's first module and any module thereafter, you must complete the Bio-Sig introductory module. This module will introduce you to Bio-Sig, assist you with enrolling in the service, and help you verify that you have successfully enrolled.

Day	Readings and Content	Assignments
Module 0: Pre-reading – By the start of Module 1, you should have worked through the following content. Any familiarity you have at this point with the other readings and content listed below will also be to your advantage.		
Before class formally begins on 29 Jul	Syllabus, standard course information, and other introductory and instruction documents; Ostrov; Holland and Forrest; Strunk and White; your chosen guide for Word; and the	None

Day	Readings and Content	Assignments
	[standard writing resources](#)[3]	
Module 1: Biblical scholarship vision – By the end of this module, you will be able to: ➢ Articulate your vision of your own flourishing as a biblical scholar. ➢ Apply standard conventions for writing in biblical studies to your writing.		
Monday, 29 Jul	McKeown,[4] Turner	Course requirements review quiz
Tuesday	Live seminar meeting (9:00–4:00)	Essay introduction and part 1 (9:00 am), live discussion
Module 2: Writing for biblical studies – By the end of this module, you will be able to: ➢ Discuss (a) bibliography and information management tools and (b) how you plan to use such tools to aid your research. ➢ Discuss (a) biblical studies software and (b) how you plan to use such software to aid your research. ➢ Apply standard conventions for writing in biblical studies to your writing.		
Wednesday	Allen[5]	Essay introduction, part 1, and part 2
Thursday	Newport, Stark (*Budget*)[6]	Research practicum (12:00 pm)
Module 3: Biblical studies as knowledge work – By the end of this module, you will be able to: ➢ Articulate a coherent plan for what knowledge work strategies you will use to assist you in successfully completing your program. ➢ Apply standard conventions for writing in biblical studies to your writing.		
Friday, 2 Aug	Live seminar meeting (10:00–4:00)	Essay introduction, parts 1–3, and conclusion (10:00 am); live discussion; course evaluation

IX.   INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: J. David Stark   Email: dstark@faulkner.edu
Office Location: Online and [Harris Parker 240](#)   Phone: 334-386-7369
Office Hours: By appointment request via Google Calendar or [Youcanbook.me](#). Due to how my schedule typically fills up, you will often find it necessary to schedule live meetings at least one week in advance.
Response Time to Grading: See my [standard course information](#).
Response Time to Emwails: See my [standard course information](#).

Name: Brenda Turner   Email: bturner@faulkner.edu
Office Location: Online and [Harris Parker 244](#)   Phone: 334-386-7429

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[3] You are not expected to read all these standard writing resources word for word. But you are expected to read them all carefully enough so that you have a good working knowledge of what they contain and how to use them. From this list, you should begin with Stark, *Secrets of SBL Style* (and its short companion reference, "Checklist"), which will explain how the other resources relate.
[4] This content is largely preparatory for the full essay you will submit in module 3.
[5] This content is largely preparatory for the full essay you will submit in module 3.
[6] This content is largely preparatory for the full essay you will submit in module 3.

Office Hours: By appointment request via Google Calendar.
Response Time to Grading: Not applicable.
Response Time to Emails: The instructor will make every attempt to respond to student emails within 24 business hours.
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X.   ACADEMIC POLICIES

You are expected to comply with all applicable policies and procedures as outlined in this course and its materials, the *University Catalog*, the *Graduate Catalog*, the student handbook, and the online student handbook supplement. You are also expected to comply with my general guidelines and expectations and other instructional policies, including those about academic bibliography, assignment lengths, late assignments, and plagiarism.