

1.217 - Technological Tools for Biblical Studies

January 2010 (1.5 cr)

LTSG - Mark GV Hoffman

RATIONALE

This course will: a) explore and evaluate a variety of technologies that are useful in biblical studies including Internet resources and Bible software and then b) practice application of these resources. In particular, we will learn the best ways for conducting original language research (including Hebrew for those who do not know it) and for creating personal resources to help in preaching and teaching.

OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be expected to:

1. Be familiar with original language Bible digital resources and use them to develop personal resources in order to prepare for a) writing sermons and/or b) composing Bible studies
2. Have reviewed a variety of digital biblical resources and be able to make recommendations to non-specialists interested in conducting their own Bible research
3. Be familiar with available online Bible study options, have participated in such a study, and be prepared to create their own such studies for use in a congregational setting

STRATEGIES

1. In order to achieve the first outcome, we will be surveying a variety of digital Bible resources. (BibleWorks8 will be a key resource which will receive special attention.) We will also be gaining familiarity with such resources by working through exercises which will develop skills and produce resources that are typically needed for sermon preparation or Bible study composition. (E.g., we may learn how to a) use BW8 to create a personal, annotated Bible; b) collate texts and secondary resources needed for studying a text; etc.) As part of this aspect of the course, students will be taught some very basic elements of biblical Hebrew in order to use original language resources for Old Testament study.
2. In order to achieve the second outcome, students will survey and evaluate a range of software programs, especially free or low-cost ones, which are intended for non-specialists. (Included in this list are programs like BibleWorks8, Logos4, Accordance8, e-Sword, Online Bible, LaParola, QuickVerse; programs intended for mobile devices from such companies as Logos, OliveTree, or Laridian; online sites such as Bible Gateway, NET Bible, CrossWalk.) Faced with a specific question or task, students should know where to look and how to develop responses.
3. In order to achieve the third outcome, students will investigate a number of online formats which can be used for Bible study. These might include blogs, wikis, nings, Google Wave, YouVersion, and other sites or resources.

ASSESSMENT

To assess success in reaching the desired outcomes, students will be evaluated in the following ways. (More detailed rubrics for the assignments will be provided in class.)

1. Collation project: Students will choose a pericope that will be their focus text for the course. Work on this text will include:
 - a. Text and Word Study: Students will collate texts and resources for the selected text. This includes creating a parallel version resource, conducting word studies, and evaluating other pertinent materials. (DUE: Thursday, January 14)

- b. Bible Study Resources Collection: Students will collect and evaluate a variety of resources that would be useful in a typical Bible study: texts, maps, graphics, photos, charts, Bible dictionary entries, Internet links, etc. Students will also choose a format in which to organize these resources: handout, PowerPoint, blog, wiki, GoogleWave, etc. (Note: students are not expected to compose a full Bible study. Rather, the focus is on demonstrating the ability to collect, organize, evaluate, and present resources that would be used in such a study.) (DUE: Friday, January 15)
2. Students will write two brief reviews (250 words max. each) of digital resources. These will be generated in response to typical and specific needs in biblical research. One of the resources will be a Bible software program and the other an online or mobile resource. (DUE: Monday, January 18)
3. Students will write a brief response (750 words max.) to their experience of participating in an online Bible study. Included in this response should be a description of pros/cons of online Bible study along with a recommendation for how they would intend to conduct an online Bible study. (DUE: Tuesday, January 19)
4. Participation: Students will be evaluated on the amount and quality of their participation in online and classroom work. (Online works begins January 2 and finishes on the 22nd. In-class sessions meet Monday, January 12-Friday, January 15.)

GRADING:

Grading will be based on the following factors:

- 1a-Text and Word Study: 25%
- 1b-Bible Study Resources Collection: 20%
- 2-Brief Resources Reviews: 15%
- 3-Online Bible Study Review: 20%
- Class and Online Participation: 20% - throughout course

Grading scale (note the modified scale):

- 93%-100%: A (excellent)
- 80%-92%: B (good-very good)
- 70%-79%: C (sufficient)
- Below 70%: F (fail)
- 70% or higher is a Passing grade

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg - January 2010
1.217 - Technological Tools for Biblical Studies (1.5 credits)

Dr. Mark GV Hoffman

Descriptive Report for
STUDENT NAME

As stated in the syllabus, this course will: a) explore and evaluate a variety of technologies that are useful in biblical studies including Internet resources and Bible software and then b) practice application of these resources. In particular, we will learn the best ways for conducting original language research and for creating personal resources to help in preaching and teaching. As outcomes for the course, students will be expected to:

1. Be familiar with original language Bible digital resources and use them to develop personal resources in order to prepare for a) writing sermons and/or b) composing Bible studies
2. Have reviewed a variety of digital biblical resources and be able to make recommendations to non-specialists interested in conducting their own Bible research
3. Be familiar with available online Bible study options, have participated in such a study, and be prepared to create their own such studies for use in a congregational setting

The assessments and their values in determining a final grade are as follows:

1. Collation project:
 - a. **Text and word study: 25%** - Collate texts and resources for a selected text (Outcome 1)
 - b. **Bible study resources collection: 20%** - Collect and evaluate a variety of resources that would be useful in a typical Bible study (Outcome 1)
2. **Brief reviews of digital resources: 15%** - One of the resources will be a Bible software program and the other an online or mobile resource (Outcome 2)
3. **Brief response regarding online Bible study: 20%** - Description of pros/cons of online Bible study along with a recommendation for conducting an online Bible study (Outcome 3)
4. **Classroom and online participation: 20%** - Reflecting amount and quality of contributions to course learning (Outcomes 1-3)

A grade of at least 70% is needed to pass. (Grading scale: A = 93-100%; B = 80-92%; C = 70-79%)

ASSESSMENTS

1a-Text and word study:	of 25 points
1b-Bible study resources collection:	of 20 points
2-Brief reviews of digital resources:	of 15 points
3-Brief response, online Bible study:	of 20 points
4-Classroom and online participation:	of 20 points
TOTAL:	of 100 points

GRADE: