

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form.

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI-4404 Applying Scripture in the Contemporary World, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course will address contemporary issues impacting the church through the analysis of biblical texts. Emphasis is placed on the development of action plans to address identified concerns. *There are no prerequisites required for this course.*

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Clearly articulate some of the major contemporary global issues facing the Christianity today and how the Scripture can be applied to help the Church minister in the contemporary social/historical context
2. Engage numerous contemporary topics from a Christian standpoint relying on Scripture to inform their discussion
3. Determine the exegetical principles prudent for a modern hermeneutic of Scripture as relevant and informative for the contemporary world
4. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the historical/cultural influence Christianity has had upon society and how this influence can be exerted again

Required Materials

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

Assignments

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: reading and discussion boards. Class Participation accounts for 30% of the final course grade.
 - a. **Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, audio/video reviews, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly expectations prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course.
 - b. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. For each graded discussion, you will submit your initial thread to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT). Then read and respond to at least to fellow classmates' initial responses by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT). Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the Documents section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed.

2. **ASSIGNMENTS:**

- **Assignment 1: The Three Historical Horizons/Contexts**

Historical tradition is critical to understanding how Scripture has been applied in its historical/cultural setting, and how is applied today. This paper will consist of three parts:

Part I: The Author and the Audience (Ch. 1)

Part II: A Living Tradition (Ch. 4)

Part III: Reading within a Tradition (Ch. 6)

This paper should be 4-6 pages double-spaced (MLA Style).

This assignment will be submitted on Blackboard.

- **Assignment 2: A Letter from Rome**

During the first century Roman persecution of the early church, there were many saints that died at the hand of the Roman government such as Polycarp. Your assignment is to write a series of three letters.

Letter 1: You will write a letter (1-2 pages double-spaced) as if you were Polycarp (or another early believer).

Letter 2: You will write a letter (1-2 pages double-spaced) as if you were a Roman persecutor who watched the death and martyrdom of Polycarp and many other Christians in the arena.

Letter 3: For the third and final letter (1-2 pages double-spaced), you will write as though you are a first-century Christian under Roman persecution.

This assignment will be submitted on Blackboard.

- **Assignment 3: Seven Revolutions Paper**

In the text, the authors present seven revolutions of the Church and how they impacted the Roman empire.

Select three out of seven of the “Revolutions” and complete the following:

- Summarize each revolution –
- What specific needs/problems did the revolution address?
- Analyze the interaction between the historical and the biblical in the development and implementation of each revolution

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- How did Christianity/the gospel directly oppose Rome in terms of the specific topic(s) related to the revolution?
- What (if any) connection to the modern world do you see in these issues, topics, etc. of Rome, and the corresponding revolutions in the first-century Church?
- How can the modern/contemporary church (through application of Scripture) carry out these revolutions again?

This paper should be 2-3 pages double-spaced (MLA Style).

This assignment will be submitted on Blackboard.

- **Assignment 4: The Church and Homosexuality**

Homosexuality is perhaps the most difficult societal issue facing believers today with political, social and even “religious” voices pushing ecclesial acceptance of homosexuality and social acceptance of gay marriage.

Read Alex D. Montoya, “The Church’s Response to Homosexuality” and write a response.

This paper should be 2-3 pages double-spaced (MLA Style).

This assignment will be submitted on Blackboard.

- **Assignment 5: Faith & Reason**

Faith and reason have for centuries been thought to be on opposite ends. But is this truly the case? You are to read K. Scott Olphint’s article, “Using Reason By Faith,” and answer questions provided by the professor.

This paper should be 3-4 pages double-spaced (MLA Style).

This assignment will be submitted on Blackboard.

- **Assignment 6: Information and Communication Technology: A Case Study**

More and more the world is becoming centered on the ever changing technology landscape. As a result of the ever increasing tech-focused world, many in the Church have argued for further integration and collaboration of the church and the virtual world via online church, social media, etc., as a tool for evangelism, church growth and development.

In this assignment, you will read a *case study* by Christian A. Bolu and answer the questions provided by the professor.

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This paper should be 3-4 pages double spaced.

This assignment will be submitted on Blackboard.

- **Assignment 7: Global Hermeneutics Luke 2:1-20 – Three Readings**

In this assignment you will be asked to read chapters of the text and compare and contrast the three scholars (Elsa Tamez, Justin Ukpong, and Seiichi Yagi, respectively) and their hermeneutical viewpoints on Luke chapter 2.

This paper should be 5-6 pages double spaced.

This assignment will be submitted on Blackboard.

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Class Participation	30%
Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	5%
Assignment 3	5%
Assignment 4	15%
Assignment 5	10%
Assignment 6	5%
Assignment 7	15%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63- 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

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