

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.

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI-2260 Historical Geography of Ancient Israel, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course is a survey of the principal physical features of the land of Israel, and a review of the historical geography of Israel for all the important periods in the Old and New Testaments, with attention to the relationship between Israel's geography and her history.

Course Objectives

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

1. Identify the major mountains, rivers, valleys, and other prominent geographical features in Israel and locate them on a map
2. State the major characteristics of all the regions of the land and arrange those areas geographically
3. Identify the major cities throughout Israel's history, and relate the historical importance of those key sites to the historical development of Israel
4. Evaluate selected problems in the Bible where geography plays an important role and explain the relationship between geography and any proposed solution to the problem

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

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

Assignments

Class Participation: Active participation is expected in this online course. Participation includes two main areas: discussion boards and reading.

- a. **Discussion Boards:** You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion board. Students must make an initial post that indicates a familiarity with the assigned text(s) and critical thought on the subject and the question at hand. This initial post is due each week by Friday, 11:59 pm CT. Students must make two additional posts on fellow student's postings by Monday, 11:59 pm.
- b. **Reading Course Expectations:** The completion of the course reading, online articles, etc. is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the weekly reading assignments prior to your discussion boards each week so you are able to discuss the concepts with others in the course. Because of the wide breadth of geographical matters we will cover in this course, it is crucial for students to remain current in their reading. There are three (3) specific types of required reading assignments.
 - Class Notes: For the first three (3) lessons an online set of Class Notes will be posted. They will be accompanied by video presentations within Google Earth. For the final five (5) lessons the Google Earth videos and textbook reading will replace the Class Notes.
 - Textbook: *The New Moody Bible Atlas* is intended to help complement the Class Notes for the first three (3) lessons and then to serve as your primary textbook for the final five

(5) lessons. For each lesson, specific sections will be assigned that are designed to give you insight into the geographical regions—or historical periods—being covered.

- Online videos and other materials: There will be at least one (1) online video each lesson to help introduce the material being presented in the Class Notes and specific assignments for that lesson. In addition, there will be videos for the course included in the Google Earth.kmz files.

Paper Assignments: Five (5) 500-750 word papers are required for this course. These assignments should be completed in double-spaced, MLA format unless specifically noted. You will be using *The New Moody Bible Atlas* and the Bible to complete these papers.

- **Paper #1**

Submit a 500-750 word paper on the following: Using *The New Moody Bible Atlas* (p. 123), study carefully the map showing division of the land among the tribes then note the buffer between the rival tribes of Judah and Ephraim. Trace the history of their rivalry in the provided passages.

In light of these passages respond to the following questions in your paper:

1. Why do you think Benjamin and Dan were assigned the land between Judah and Ephraim?
2. Why was the first king of Israel from the tribe of Benjamin?

- **Paper #2**

The purpose for this study is to help you evaluate the specific historical and geographical means God used to enrich David and Solomon.

Submit a 500-750 word paper on the following: Using your textbook, read 2 Samuel 8:1-18 and note the kingdoms and cities subdued by David. Then read 1 Kings and identify the various sources of income for Solomon. What are the different means used by God to enrich David and Solomon?

- **Paper #3**

Submit a 500-750 word paper on the following topic: Using your textbook, trace the Assyrian invasions of Israel in 2 Kings. In a section dealing with the rising threat posed by Assyria, why did the biblical writer stop to record the attack by the kings of Aram (Syria) and Israel against King Ahaz of Judah (2 Kings 16:5-6)? In light of these verses, how would you interpret Isaiah 9:1-7?

- **Paper #4**

Submit a 500-750 word paper on the following topic: Look at *The New Moody Atlas* map of Jerusalem (p. 221) as you read Nehemiah. Do you think Nehemiah rebuilt the entire city of Jerusalem, or just the smaller portion on the eastern side? On what facts do you base your conclusions?

- **Paper #5**

Submit a 500-750 word paper on the following issue: Look at *The New Moody Atlas* map (p. 244-245) and read Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; and Luke 8:26-39. Harmonize these passages and identify where you believe this miracle took place, paying particular attention to the details in the text. Defend your answer.

Major Course Project: The purpose of this project is to provide a more critical and extended study of a particular area of historical geography that you will study independent of other assignments or course progression. It is to show research and understanding of historical geography as it applies to biblical writings, events, history, or location.

Select one (1) of the following project options:

- Choose a particular geographical area of the Bible and trace the historical incidents that occurred in that area. Include maps and diagrams to illustrate the history.
- Choose a particular city in Israel and trace its history. Show how its geographical location influenced its historical development. Include any maps and charts that can illustrate that history.
- Take any book of the Bible and study its geographical imagery. Explain the historical basis for each image and the point of reference taken by the author.
- Take a particular period of biblical history and explain geographically what was taking place during that period.

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Class Participation: Discussion Boards – 15% Reading Reports – 10%	25%
Paper Assignments	40%
Major Course Project	35%
	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%

Course Copyright Statement

Copyright © 2015 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, the materials and services on this website are for your personal and non-commercial use, and you may not modify, copy, distribute, transmit, display, perform, reproduce, publish, license, create derivative works from, transfer, or sell any information, software, products or services

obtained from the website without the written permission from Moody Distance Learning, Moody Bible Institute, 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60610.

ADA Compliance Statement

Moody Bible Institute complies with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by providing appropriate accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. We value diversity and inclusion and recognize disability as an aspect of diversity. Our shared goal is to create learning environments that are accessible, equitable, and inclusive. If you anticipate barriers related to the format, requirements, or assessment of this course, you are invited to address the professor with your concerns; additionally, you are encouraged to contact Gayla Gates, our disability services provider, at the Student Resource Center to discuss possible environmental modifications or adaptations. Please note, accommodations are not retroactive, therefore we encourage you to contact our service provider within the first two weeks of the semester. Contact Gayla Gates at ggates@moody.edu or 312-329-2177.