

SYLLABUS

Mid-Atlantic Christian University

Fall 2011

COURSE: Senior Seminar in Bible (GB 402)

MEETING TIME & DATES: T 10:30 – 11:50 a.m.

CREDITS: 2 semester credit hours

INSTRUCTOR: Kevin W. Larsen, Ph.D.

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UNIVERSITY MISSION: Mid-Atlantic Christian University is an undergraduate institution of Christian higher education whose mission is to impact the world by transforming ordinary people into extraordinary Christian leaders.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: A senior course designed to draw together the various courses and experiences that students have had which relate to Bible study and preparation to communicate the Biblical truth.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. use Bible study tools properly to ascertain meaning of a biblical passage.
2. apply research to a contemporary issue or problem.
3. express a desire for continued life-long learning in biblical and theological studies.

TEXTBOOKS:

Piper, John and D. A. Carson. *The Pastor as Scholar & the Scholar as Pastor: Reflections on Life and Ministry*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011. (ISBN: 978-1433526473)

The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies. Edited by Patrick H. Alexander, John F. Kutsko, James D. Ernest, Shirley A. Decker-Lucke, and David L. Petersen. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999. (ISBN: 978-1565634879)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading Requirements:
 - a. Students will write critical reviews of two recent, English-language, exegetical articles on the passage chosen for the major project. The review is to be at least 2 full pages, typed. A brief oral presentation will be made in class. These reviews should answer the following questions:
 1. The main purpose of this article is:
 2. The key question that the author is addressing is:
 3. The most important information in this article is:
 4. The main inferences/conclusions in this article are:
 5. The key concept(s) we need to understand in this article is (are):
 6. The main assumption(s) underlying the author's thinking is (are):Please submit a copy of each article to the instructor with your review. [Course Objective 1]
 - b. Students will complete a set of reflections questions on Piper & Carson's book. Questions will be provided by instructor. [Course Objective 3]
2. Major Project. [Course Objectives 1,2]

Each student is to pick a pericope from a passage in the New Testament and write a project paper consisting of two parts: (1) a verse-by-verse exegesis of the passage, (2) a manuscript of an expository sermon/lesson.

Each student will present their project orally to the class. After the student makes the presentation and the instructor has had an opportunity to read and respond to the paper, the student will rewrite the paper, taking into consideration the suggestions from the instructor. The student will then resubmit as the final paper the rewrite of the exegetical portion and the sermon/lesson. (Include the original paper submitted to the instructor.)

Student participation in discussing other projects will be an element of the grade.

Guidelines will be provided as to the format for the project.

3. Students are to write a one to two page Self-Directed Plan for Bible-reading and study. This plan should address how one plans to read and study the Bible after leaving college. The student should try to anticipate what obstacles may interfere in carrying out the plan. The paper should be typed and double-spaced. The paper is due at the submission of the final version of the major project. [Course objective 3]

GRADING: The student's final grade will be determined by performance in the following areas:

1. Major Project (65%)+
2. Critical Article Reviews (30%)+
3. Self-Directed Plan (5%)+

+ Categories marked with a "+" receive a letter grade. See the chart under "Larsen Policies" for numerical conversion.

Letter grades will be determined on the following scale:

Letter Grade	Scale	Description	Quality Points
A+	99-100		4.000
A	96-98	Excellent	4.000
A-	94-95		3.667
B+	92-93		3.333
B	88-91	Good	3.000
B-	86-87		2.667
C+	84-85		2.333
C	80-83	Satisfactory	2.000
C-	78-79		1.667
D+	76-77		1.333
D	72-75	Inferior but passing	1.000
D-	70-71		0.667
F	Below 70	Failing	0.000

ATTENDANCE: Class absences and tardies will be handled as follows:

- Because of the truncated nature of this course no absences will be allowed.
- For each absence the student's final grade will be reduced by 1 full letter grade.
- 3 tardies (less than 15 min late or leaving early) equal 1 hour of absence. (A student is tardy once prayer has been said to open class.)
- When a student has accumulated more than four (4) hours of absences for whatever reason, the student will be dropped from the course with a grade of F.

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT SERVICES:

Students with disabilities: Any student in this course who has an identified disability that might prevent her/him from fully demonstrating her/his abilities should meet with the Director of the Learning Enhancement Services Office as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure his/her full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.

Support services are available in the Learning Resource Center for persons desiring additional assistance in the course.

INSTRUCTOR/STUDENT COVENANT:

As instructor of this course, I covenant with each student that I will model Christ-like behavior, value and respect each student as a child of God, come to class prepared, begin and end class on time, make appropriate assignments and grade them fairly, and be available for consultation outside of class. In return, I expect each student to model Christ-like behavior, show proper respect to me as the instructor, come to class prepared, arrive and leave class on time, and submit assignments and participate in ways that demonstrate your integrity.

DR. LARSEN'S POLICIES

“Using Technology during class time” - Please turn the blasted things off and keep them off. If you are on call for some important reason, put the device on vibrate and leave the room before talking. Under no conditions should the class hear a cell phone go off. Laptop computers should never be on-line during class time. Nor should any video games or other distracting technological devices be in use during class time. That includes the breaks.

“Classroom Decorum” – Mid-Atlantic Christian University expects all students to behave in a Christian manner in and out of the classroom. In this course, part of what that means is that every student is expected to display courtesy, dress modestly, listen attentively, take notes appropriately, complete assignments honestly, and—in general—behave maturely. Violations of this policy can result in a warning, a grade demotion, failure of this course, and/or referral to the VPAA’s Office for further action.

"Study Time" - The accepted principle for college work is that a student should spend up to two hours in outside study for every one hour of class time. Therefore, you should expect to spend up to two hours per week reading, doing study questions, etc. for each hour of credit (up to 6 hours for a 3-credit class).

"Written Work" - All work is to be the original work of the student, except for clearly documented research material. Unless otherwise stated, all work is to be typed and conform to proper form and style as outlined in *The SBL Handbook of Style* and supplemented by *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *A Manual for Writers 7th* ed. by Kate Turabian. If the paper is done on a computer the student must follow the style for footnotes. If a typewriter is being used then endnotes are to be used. Footnotes should be on the bottom of the page where used.

Once the final paper is submitted, it will have to meet the following minimal, formal standards to be acceptable for grading. If it does not meet the standards, it will be returned for rewriting and revision until the requirements are met--at a one (1) letter grade penalty for each return. The student will be given one (1) week after the return of the paper to make the necessary corrections. After 1 week the "Late Work" policy will go into effect.

- a. If more than an average 2-3 per page of different errors appear in grammar, spelling, punctuation, format (margins, title page, page numbers, research style, footnotes, bibliography, etc.), the paper will be returned, ungraded, for revision.
- b. The same error repeated in the paper (such as consistently incorrect placement of page numbers

or quotation marks or margins, the same misspelling of a word, etc.) counts as one error. Usually, when one of these errors appears, it does so consistently throughout the paper.

- c. Other errors (such as sentence fragments, run-ons, fused sentences, lack of subject-verb agreement, comma or semi-colon misuse, shifts in verb tense, shifts in point of view, omission of apostrophes, poor proofreading, different misspelled words, lack of pronoun-antecedent agreement, etc.) count as different (separate) errors.

"Late Work" - Self-discipline is a major element in your academic development, so all work is due by the deadline. Late work will be accepted but will cost you one-third of a letter grade (ex. B to a B-) for each day. For those assignments that receive a percentage grade 4% will be lost for each day beyond the due date. Late penalties are based upon when an assignment is actually received by Dr. Larsen. All technical difficulties are the responsibility of the student and not the instructor (your computer crashed; your file has been lost; your printer will not work; you ran out of paper/ink; the dog ate your paper).

"Letter Grade Conversions" - The following scale will be used to convert letter grades to number grades.

98 = A	90 = B	81 = C	73 = D
94 = A-	86 = B-	78 = C-	70 = D-
92 = B+	84 = C+	76 = D+	35 = F

"Academic Dishonesty" - As noted in the Catalog, "Dishonesty is both a sin and a violation of the rules of Mid-Atlantic Christian University. A student suspected or accused of academic dishonesty will be approached by his or her teacher; if a student is judged guilty of dishonesty, he or she will be warned that a second offense will result in suspension or dismissal from the University. Any work on which it is judged that the student was dishonest will be nullified; this may result in failure of the course. The teacher will inform the Vice President for Academic Affairs; the VPAA will notify the University faculty.

Dishonesty includes misrepresenting the truth about completion of assignments, cheating on any form of assignment, plagiarism, or in any way passing off the work of others as your own or permitting another student to pass off your work as his own.

If you have a problem with any aspect of this course, please come in and talk with me - most problems can be solved!

Tentative Schedule: (Schedule will be finalized after the first class day.)

8/23	Introduction
8/30	No Class
9/6	No Class
9/13	Article Presentations
9/20	No Class
9/27	Presentation
10/4	Presentation
10/18	Presentation
10/25	Presentation
11/1	Presentation

11/8 Make Up Day
11/22 Final Paper Due