

RELB 125: Life & Teachings of Jesus

Three (3) credit hours

Summer, 2021

June 1 - July 23

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Instructor

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Hours: Any time by email or text; talk via phone by appointment

Online Meeting Room: Class meetings are held on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. ET here:

<https://southern.zoom.us/j/98079024555> (Zoom)

ONLINE CLASS and TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Needing additional assistance? Feel free to reach out to the following people:

Online Campus and Academic Support

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COURSE PARAMETERS

Course Description

A study of the life, ministry, and teaching of Jesus with special emphasis on His teachings as they apply to the personal, social, and religious problems of the individual.

Textbooks

- A. **Required:** The Bible - any translation (no paraphrases); NASB used by instructor
 - a. A paraphrase is a Bible often written by one person, and is their idea of what the Bible says instead of being what the Bible may actually say. "The Clear Word," "The Message" and "The Living Bible" are paraphrases. A paraphrase is useful in personal devotions, but not for studying.
 - b. A translation is a Bible translated directly from the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. It is the work of a committee of scholars who grapple together with individual words to produce the best equivalency of the original language.
 - c. Some good translations include: KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV, etc.
- B. **Required:** *The Four Faces of Jesus* by Robert K. McIver
- C. **Required:** *Desire of Ages* (DA) by Ellen White. This can also be accessed as an audio book here: <http://www.ellenwhite.info/books/audio-da.htm>.
- D. **Optional:** *A Harmony of the Four Gospels: The New International Version* by Orville E. Daniel.

Learning Outcomes

In this class you will:

- A. Discuss arguments for and against the historical reliability of Jesus, and articulate your personal position on the basis of the evidence.

- B. Learn and discuss the historical and social context of the gospels, and demonstrate a working knowledge of the places and persons of Jesus' time.
- C. Learn and discuss the major events and chronology of Jesus' life and ministry.
- D. Apply exegetical steps to determine the meaning of a passage.
- E. Read reflectively in the Gospels, applying the message of the passage to your own personal life.
- F. Explore and discuss the teachings of Jesus, applying them to today's life.
- G. Relate the life of Jesus to the wider picture of the Great Controversy, and explore in discussion how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection answers the accusations against God's character.
- H. You will be offered the opportunity to establish or deepen a living, dynamic faith in Jesus, and to experience Jesus' working in your own life through the study of His life and teachings.

Online Learning

Your timely participation in this class is vitally important to the learning process. Access your course several times weekly. Complete all reading assignments, and view all lectures. Actively participate in all required discussions on the week they are assigned, and all assignments, and assessments. Credit will be given based on the quality, timing, and consistency of each student's work. Carefully read the course schedule that concludes this syllabus.

Course assignments are to be submitted electronically to the course site, unless specifically indicated otherwise. You may work ahead. All assignments are due on or before the dates specified in the course schedule. It is your responsibility to plan ahead and deliver a professional product in a timely manner. Other arrangements must be made with the course instructor in advance. **If you do experience atypical circumstances that impede your progress, please contact the instructor immediately.**

We suggest that you backup all projects in at least two locations.

Instructor Availability: The instructor will monitor and run the class five to six days a week, usually Sunday through Thursday. She will check in daily pending other responsibilities. The Class Questions forum and email will be the best way to make initial contact with your teacher. Please allow up to 48 hours for instructor response, (although usually it's much sooner), and up to a week for assignments to be graded.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

“Information on important policies and procedures, such as, but not limited to, disabilities and accommodations, academic honesty, and student authentication, can be found in the link provided at the end of this paragraph. The document also provides valuable information regarding instructional strategies/methodologies and how to access eClass, technology support, learning methods, resources available in eClass, etc. To access the document, click [here](#). ***Be aware that you will be accountable for the provided information.***”

Course Policies

A. **Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to alter and adjust the syllabus, course content, grading, and course calendar as may be required to assure attainment of course objectives, though very little of this is expected.

B. **Calendar/Clock Synchronization:**

--All due dates or times are based on Collegedale, TN. Collegedale is on Eastern Daylight Time during early Fall (not Eastern Standard Time).

-Students in other time zones need to make note of the time difference (i.e. Alabama clocks are 1 hour earlier than Collegedale; California is 3 hours earlier, etc.).

-Students west of the international dateline may need to make adjustments for day *and* time.

See <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/> and <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html> for help calculating international time conversions. Example: In Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, 09:30 (9:30 AM) is Monday, 21:30 (9:30 PM) in Collegedale.

C. **Electronic Documents:** Our standard software will be Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, etc.). All papers should be submitted in MS Word format. Students without this software may get it through SAU at a discount. Check <https://southern.onthehub.com>. Please avoid PDF documents, as they sometimes won't open.

D. **Sabbath Policy** Southern Adventist University, including the Online Campus, shares the belief in honoring the seventh-day Sabbath as a day of rest, worship, and freedom from academic pursuits. The Sabbath, as it is celebrated on the SAU campus, begins at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday each week. Southern's Online Campus respects the personal beliefs of each student enrolled in online courses, and the freedom to make personal choices about when and how to worship. Please know, however, that Southern's faculty honors the Sabbath and will not be responding to student emails and concerns during this time.

E. **Late Assignment Policy:**

--**Forum Discussion Reflections** are worth 10 points, and must be completed on time. Students who fail to meet the specified deadline (as per the schedule) will lose 1 point per day **up to a total of 3 points per discussion**. This is a group assignment, thus, there are no exceptions. You may work ahead, posting your Reflection before the week it is due.

--**Synchronous Discussion Responses:** 5 points are given for responding to your group mates: 5 points are given for holding an actual discussion with your group -- responding before the day of the deadline to give others a chance to respond. Only **5 points** will be possible for response postings that preclude others from responding. **This holds true even for those with emergencies, as discussions are relatively synchronous.**

--**Worksheets & Journal** will lose 1 point for each day late, **up to a total of 3 points**.

--**Quizzes** will close at specified times, after which they will not be available.

--**Please Note:** You are expected to keep up with your grades. Questions about a class activity grade (assignment, quiz, etc.) should be asked soon after within a week or two after it is graded. Students are responsible for checking their grades weekly.

Assignment Descriptions (Schedule below):

A. Introductory Activities

- a. **Get-Acquainted Discussion:** This is the initial discussion where you introduce yourself. See the directions for this discussion. ***This is the first activity you need to do.***
- b. **R1 Pre-Course Assessment:** This is required by Southern.
- c. **Syllabus Guide:** This will cover this syllabus, and English rules for writing. Log in to complete the guide on eClass.
- d. ***Please note: the R1 Pre-Course Assessment, the Syllabus Guide, and the Get-Acquainted discussion must be completed before the class will fully open for you.***

B. Discussions -- Interaction with Content, Classmates, and Teacher: 25% of your grade

Discussions are a major part of this class. Here, you will reflect on, and process together what you have learned from the week's Bible teachings. You will write your Reflection to the discussion questions (due first), then you will discuss with others in your group. See below for more details and for the discussion marking guide. Discussions, including your Reflection (initial discussion post) are 25% of your overall grade.

--Reflection: You will react to each topic's content in one of the discussion threads as per the directions for that week. Follow the directions carefully. This Reflection is due no later than each 11:59 on the Reflection due date to allow adequate time for discussion.

Note: *You will need to view/read the lectures and reading assignments before posting in the discussion.*

--Responses: Interact with each other about the material and its implications in your life and the lives of others. Make a thoughtful and substantial (more than 50 words) response to at least one Reflection in **each thread**. Then go back and continue responding for an actual discussion. You should have **no less than 4 substantial responses** in each discussion (each discussion, not each thread). It is hoped that you will think deeply about the material. Begin responding before the day of the deadline, to give your groupmates time to respond. Grading will be closed for discussions by 11:59 p.m. on the day of the deadline, but you are welcome to continue discussing.

C. Bible Study (Exegesis) Assignments -- 20% of your grade

--Bible Study Worksheets -- Complete four worksheets (in the quiz tool). These assignments will walk you through a way to **study** a Gospel passage to learn its meaning in context, and give you practice in finding contexts.

--Quizzes on content -- Complete quizzes on the lectures and reading for Section 1 & 2. These are the only quizzes/tests beyond the Bible Knowledge quizzes.

D. Spiritual Growth Activities -- 15% of your grade

--Meditation: Meditate on part of a sermon, one parable, and two stories, spending 20-30 minutes reflecting on its meaning for you. How-to's will be provided. Points are given for meaningfully completing the assignment on time.

--Reading Journal: Choose three (3) chapters **each week** from the assigned *Desire of Ages* (DA) readings. Write what you found personally meaningful from each chapter. One-two sentences per chapter is all that's necessary. You will be given points simply for completing the reading and journal. Separate your chapters in your journal so they can be seen easily..

Extra Credit: For each extra THREE chapters that you read and journal on per week, AND marked as XC, you will receive one (1) extra credit point. ***Alert your instructor that you have read extra by marking them differently -- use a different color or otherwise mark them.***

E. Online Class Meetings -- 10% of your grade

Required online class meetings begin the first week of school. Each of these is on a Monday at 9:00 a.m. EDT, and will last up to one hour. They will be recorded for the benefit of students who may be unable to attend a meeting.

For full credit, A) write a short synopsis about the content of the meeting. Include some details that prove you either were there, or that you listened to the recording, and B)

share your reaction to the live class in 1-3 sentences. Those who attend live may write their synopsis (or notes) during the class, and their reaction immediately after.

The link for the meeting is found near the top of eClass.

F. Quizzes -- 25%

--**Bible Knowledge Quizzes** cover the Gospel readings. These quizzes are timed, but may be taken as many times as you wish. Quizzes will remain open for the duration of the class. *These are not open-Bible quizzes.*

G. R1 Pre- and Post-Course Assessment: During the pre-week you will fill out a simple spiritual questionnaire. Near the end of class you will be asked to evaluate the class components, and how you have grown both spiritually and intellectually through the study of Jesus' life and teachings. This is required for Southern.

The Class Flow: All lectures, reading, assignments, quizzes, and tests may be completed before the section in which they are assigned (you may work ahead). Here is the flow of the class:

- First: View lectures, complete reading
- Second: Post your Reflection(s) to the discussion questions in one of the threads
- Third: Continue discussing, complete other requirements
- Follow all deadlines (11:59 p.m.)

Note: Do not wait until the day of the deadline to do your reading and/or assignments!

***For any discussion or assignment the instructor may take one point off per consistent English error (spelling, grammar, capitalization, paragraphs, etc.).**

Grading Criteria & Weighting

--**Grades** and a record of your scores for assignments and quizzes will be **posted** in the online classroom. **Make sure you know how to view these!**

--**A Marking Guide** is supplied for discussions. Meditations will be recorded on a form. Exegesis assignments will be completed in the quiz tool.

--**Grades will be weighted by category, as outlined below:**

| | Weight of Total Grade | | Percentages | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| | | | | |
| Discussions | 25% | | 93 -100 = A | 73 -76 = C |
| Bible Knowledge Quizzes | 25% | | 90 -92 = A- | 70 -72 = C- |
| Bible Study | 20% | | 87 -89 = B+ | 67 - 69 = D+ |
| Spiritual Growth | 15% | | 83 -86 = B | 63 - 66 = D |
| Live Classes | 10% | | 80 -82 = B- | 60 - 62 = D- |
| Evaluations, etc. | 5% | | 77 -79 = C+ | 59 - 0 = F |
| Total | 100% | | | |

Directions and Marking Guide for Discussions

DIRECTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS

Discussions are the place where you will interact with each other. You will reflect on the section's content, posting your Reflection in the discussion by the stated deadline. Then you will discuss it with your classmates for understanding. You will also discover together how the content relates to your life. Regular content discussions are required. If the professor deems it necessary, there may be at times an additional forum in the section for you to ponder and respond to a given question or specific assignment, but this doesn't happen often.

Regular discussions will be in groups. You will discuss with the same few people during every discussion. It is hoped that as you come to know each other your discussions can go deep, and that you can help each other, both in learning the content, and in applying it to your lives.

During the summer, there are a couple weeks where we will have more than one discussion. In most discussions, discussion threads have **already been created**. Write your Reflection in one of them (Thread A), then read at least one post in each of the other threads (Threads B, C, and possibly D), and respond substantially (over 50 words). **You must be involved in every thread**. In your substantial responses you will be expected to give your own reaction to the thread's question, or to the initial post someone else has written. You may type out your Reflection on a

word processor so you can edit it for English writing rules before pasting it in the forum. It is not necessary to do this with responses as they are expected to be more spontaneous.

Note: You will need to view the lectures and read the assigned reading during the early part of the week in order to complete them in time to write your Reflection.

Reflection on Weekly Content

Usually threads will already be started in the discussion. Claim your thread before writing your Reflection, then post under your chosen thread. Your Reflection should be 350-500 words. You will not do justice to the Reflection short of 350 words. There are usually two - three parts to your Reflection. These may vary, but in general, you can expect the following:

1. Question 1 will often ask you to summarize some of the week's learning in a paragraph or two. This requires you to reference class or outside material.
2. Question 2 may ask you to think about this knowledge in a different way.
3. Question 3 will ask you to make the material personal. Always use first person pronouns for this question (I, me, my).

You are expected to reference your information when you summarize a concept. You may use in-text referencing, with abbreviations for class materials.

- For the Bible, simply use the reference.
- For *Four Faces of Jesus*, use FF. so FF 23, means *Four Faces*, page 23.
- For *Desire of Ages*, use DA, so DA 245 means *Desire of Ages*, page 245.
- For a lecture, simply cite the title of the lecture.
- For any outside resource, use the book and page number in the in-text reference, then give the rest of the information at the bottom of your post.

Each thread should have the same number of Reflections (initial posts) from the group, so here's what we will do to keep it even . . .

- Post only in a thread that has no Reflection (this applies to the first three who post).
- If ALL threads already have a reflection, then post in any thread that does not have two reflections (this applies to Persons 4-6).
- View the lectures and read the assignments first. Then when you are ready to write your reflection, go into the discussion and reserve a thread by posting "I'll take this one," or something similar. That way you can write your reflection, knowing someone else won't take it before you get there (and of course, if you see that someone else has claimed a thread, move on another one).
- Post your reflection within a few hours of claiming your thread.

Discussion Responses:

There are often 2-3 discussion threads. Write substantial responses (over 50 words) in **EACH thread**. Thus you will engage in every thread. You need at least 4 substantial responses total.

Then return and continue responding in the discussion. It is hoped that you will discuss together the topic and its application. Use this discussion to bounce off of each other, to help each other understand the material and how it applies to life.

Your responses should advance the discussion. Simply saying “I agree,” or “Great post!” does not keep the discussion going. Here are some suggestions for how to respond:

1. Express your opinion or observation, and support it by your study (quote, using quotation marks, from class material to support your post, and include page numbers or video number as referencing).
2. Make connections between the current discussion and
 1. A life experience
 2. Spiritual insights you see in the discussion
 3. Concepts gained from your own study
 4. Another student’s post or comment
 5. Reputable sources (Bible dictionary, commentary, respected Christian author)
3. Ask for clarification of another student’s statement (discuss what you think you are understanding and why you need clarification)
4. Respond substantially to a post, then pose a question or thought that will further the group’s understanding and continue the discussion
5. Agree or disagree with a post, and explain why; support your statement with concepts from class learning or related example or experience. A mere “I agree” is not a post.
6. Stay with the topic at hand, but you may bring in related thoughts and material from your own reading or from life.
7. Build on others’ responses, discussing their ideas
8. Include your prior knowledge when it serves a purpose (personal work experience, personal prior coursework, reading, etc).

MARKING GUIDE FOR DISCUSSIONS

Reflection on Content (10 points)

1. Answer all questions (usually 3) in the discussion question
 - a. Usually -2 to -4 points per missing item
2. Meet the Reflection deadline
 - a. A point off for each day late up to -3 points
3. Use in-text references when summarizing, or if when needed or useful
 - a. A point off for lack of adequate referencing
4. Follow English rules, including separation of paragraphs
 - a. Usually a point off per consistent mistake, or for too-long paragraphs

Responses (10 points)

1. There are usually multiple discussion threads. Respond substantially in EACH thread so that you will be engaged in all content threads.
2. Continue responding to others for a meaningful discussion. You should have no less than 4 substantial (no less than 50 words) responses per discussion.
 - a. -2-3 points for each missing response up to -10 points
3. Follow English rules. Although more grace will be given for responses, as they are spontaneous, you should still be aware of the English rules.
 - a. A point may be taken off per consistent mistake, especially in Reflections
4. 5 points are for responses; 5 points are for discussing. This means you need to post early enough in the section so that others can respond to you. It also means that if someone asks you a question in the discussion, you answer them. The point is to actually discuss!

NAMES ON DOCUMENTS

Make sure **your name** is on every document you drop into a dropbox. Your professor may open all the documents at the same time, so your name must be there for you to receive a grade. This is not necessary for quizzes or discussions, as moodle supplies your name with each answer or post. Points will be taken off for no name.

English Writing Rules

Even in a face-to-face class a teacher must decipher a student's thoughts by reading what they write. This is also true online. For this reason, everyone needs to be on the same page with writing. The following are some English rules that you will need to use for this class. Your instructor may add to this list during the class as necessary.

If you don't understand an item, please click on the links for more information.

1. Paragraphs -- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/01/>
 - a. Use no more than one main point per paragraph
 - b. Support that main point with facts, examples, testimony, etc.
 - c. For this class, keep your paragraphs SHORT
2. Clarity -- always say exactly what you mean and do it with simplicity
3. Use Capital Letters <https://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/capital.asp>
 - a. At the beginning of each sentence
 - b. For the word "God" when referring to our Creator God
 - c. For all titles referring to God -- i.e. Creator, Lord, Savior, etc.
 - d. Although this is debated, I prefer that all pronouns referring to God be capitalized -- "He," "Him," "His"
 - e. For all holy books, i.e. Bible, Scripture, Koran, etc.
 - f. For all proper nouns, but not common nouns (i.e. "President Lincoln," but not "the president.")
 - g. In a quotation when the quote contains a whole sentence

- h. For the pronoun “I”
4. Punctuation
- a. Every sentence ends with end punctuation (period, question or exclamation mark, at times maybe an ellipsis)
 - b. Commas -- <https://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/commas.asp>
 - i. On both sides of words or phrases that interrupt the middle (or even the beginning or end) of the sentence, such as, “however,” “therefore,” “too,” etc.
 - ii. After every item in a list
 - 1. Squash, lima beans and corn = two dishes without the comma (lima beans and corn are together)
 - 2. Squash, lima beans, and corn = three dishes WITH the comma
 - iii. Between two independent clauses unless the sentence is short
 - iv. Between two phrases if it helps to make the sentence clear
 - v. Any time a separation can make your thoughts more clear
5. Quotations -- <https://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/quotes.asp>
- a. When quoting a whole sentence, use a COMMA, SPACE, QUOTATION MARKS at either end (possibly an end punctuation at the end of the quote), then begin your quote with a capital letter.
 - b. When the quotation is a continuation of the sentence, there is no comma or capital letter, but use QUOTATION MARKS to begin and end the quotation.
 - c. Periods and commas always go inside the quotation marks.
 - d. If the quoted portion is itself a question or exclamation, the question or exclamation mark goes INSIDE the quotation marks.
 - e. If the quoted material is not a question or exclamation in and of itself, place the question or exclamation mark OUTSIDE the quotation marks.
6. Subject/verb Agreement -- <https://www.grammarbook.com/grammar/subjectVerbAgree.asp>
- a. Make sure the subject of your sentence agrees with its verb (remember diagraming?)
7. Apostrophes -- <https://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/apostrophe.asp>
- a. Use an apostrophe in a contraction (can’t, wasn’t, it’s, etc.)
 - b. Use an apostrophe for a possessive
 - i. If it’s a singular possessive without an “s,” put “apostrophe s” after the word
 - ii. If it’s a singular word with an “s,” just put an apostrophe after the “s” (example: Jesus’ ministry)
 - c. Plural nouns do not need apostrophes if they are not possessive -- know the difference between a plural and a plural possessive
 - d. The word “it” has special rules: “its” is possessive (without the apostrophe), whereas “it’s” is the contraction from “it is”
8. Know your homonyms and when they are used -- <https://www.grammarbook.com/homonyms/confusing-words.asp>
- a. Their, there, they’re --- To, too, two --- Bare, bear --- Know, no --- Hear, here, etc.

Weekly Schedule

Summer, 2021

| | Reading | Lecture | Discussion | Quizzes/Tests | Activities |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Pre-Class Activities June 2 - 7 | (Choose 3 chapters from DA each week) | | Get-Acquainted Discussion | Syllabus Guide | R1 Pre-Course Assessment |
| WEEK 1 Introduction June 7-14 | Matt 1-9 Matt 10-18 DA 1-15 FF 19-21, 28 | Case for Christ Gospel Backgrounds Studying the Bible | Color-Coding Due June 10 Reflection Due June 10 | Quizzes over content Bible Knowledge | Matthew Context Assignment DA Journal |
| WEEK 2 Matthew June 14-21 | Matt 19-28 Mark 1-8 DA 16-30 FF 1-4, 7,8 | Introduction to Matthew Early Life John the Baptist & Temptations Jesus in Galilee | Reflection due June 17 | Quizzes -- Bible Knowledge | Meditation DA Journal |
| WEEK 3 Mark Parables June 21-28 | Mark 9-16 Luke 1-9:50 DA 31-45 FF 5,6, 9-12, and 29 | Kingdom of Heaven Intro to Mark Discipleship Conflict in Jesus' Ministry | Reflection Due June 24 | Quizzes -- Bible Knowledge | Meditation Study in Mark DA Journal |
| WEEK 4 Luke June 28 - July 5 | Luke 9:51 - 19:27 Luke 19:28 - 24:53 DA 46-60 | Intro to Luke Jerusalem -- Journey to / Events in | Reflection Due July 1 | Quizzes -- Bible Knowledge | Luke Context Assignment DA Journal |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | FF 13, 17, 18 FF 14-16 (choose 1) | Gethsemane and Arrest | | | |
| WEEK 5 John July 5-12 | John 1-8:1 John 8:2 - 13:38 DA 61-75 FF 22-26, 30 | Intro to John Jesus' Trial and Death Resurrection | Reflection Due July 8 | Quizzes -- Bible Knowledge | Meditation Study in John DA Journal |
| WEEK 6 Inspiration The Great Controversy July 12-19 | John 14-21 DA 76-87 | Inspiration and Revelation The Great Controversy | Reflections Due July 15 | Quizzes -- Bible Knowledge | Meditation DA Journal |
| Final Things Due July 21 | | Good-bye Forum Southern Evaluation In-Class Evaluation Extra Credit Bible Knowledge Quiz | | | |

Do Course Evaluation ASAP at <https://myaccess.southern.edu/apps/courseevaluation>