

Dr. Christopher Cone

I. Course Description:

This course will survey the canonicity of the Biblical books, examining the historical development of canonicity and focusing on the real basis of canonicity (Jesus' stamp of authority). Also the course will consider elements of higher and lower criticism, and will discuss the worthiness of extra-biblical writings such as the Apocrypha and Gnostic gospels.

II. Course Objectives

1. To be aware of the significance of canonicity and its relation to authority and inerrancy
2. To be able to defend the present canon Biblically
3. To become familiar with basic elements of Biblical criticism
4. To be able to discern by Biblical means the relevance of extra-biblical writings
5. To increase confidence in the word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

III. Course Textbooks

Required Texts: F.F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture*, IVP Academic, 1988, 978-0830812585
 Geisler& Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, Moody, 1986, 978-0802429162

Recommended Texts: Norman Geisler *Inerrancy*, Zondervan, 1980, 978-0310392811
 Rene Pache, *The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture*, Sheffield Publishing, 1992, 978-1879215115 *The Apocrypha* (available online at www.apocrypha.org)

IV. Evaluation of Student Performance

1. **Class Attendance** – for Campus students, due to the concentrated nature of the lectures, one unexcused class absence will reduce final grade by a letter grade. A 2nd unexcused absence will result in an additional research assignment required for a passing grade. A 3rd unexcused absence will result in a failing grade. Online students must listen to the recorded lectures in their entirety and must fulfill all other format-specific requirements in order to receive a passing grade, including occasional interaction with the Advising Professor/Instructor. If the Online student is not responsive to Advising Professor/Instructor communication, the student may become inactive and receive a grade of incomplete on the course (I).
2. **Reading Assignments and Accountability** – All students will complete reading assignments and write a one page summary on each module's assignment.
3. **Research Assignments** – All students will write three 5-7 page papers on any three of the following topics:
 1. OT Canon Development
 2. NT Canon Development
 3. The Authority of Christ and Canonicity
 4. Higher Criticism
 5. Lower Criticism
 6. Critique of a Specific Extra-biblical Writing
4. **Course Exams** – There are no exams for the course.
5. **Online Interaction** – Online students will have three online assignments each module: (1) email reading accountability to the Advising Professor/Instructor; (2) E-mail a brief (50-75 words) observation of a key point from that module's lecture; and (3) respond to Advising Professor/Instructor questions and observations.
6. **Campus students** will submit assignments as directed by the Professor.
Online Students will submit assignments directly to the Advising Professor/Instructor.

7. Scoring Rubric

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Online</u>
Attendance or Online Participation	Pass/Fail/Reduction	25
Reading Component (Reading & Accountability)	30 (40 if no exams)	25
Research Component (Papers & Projects)	40 (60 if no exams)	25 (50 if no exams)
Exam Component (if applicable)	30 (if applicable)	25 (if applicable)
Total Points:	100	100

V. Course Outline & Assignments

Module 1 – Introduction, Definitions and Survey

Module 2 – The Old Testament Canon, Part I

Reading Component – Bruce, 1-54; Geisler& Nix, ch. 12; Write a one page summary of the readings.

Module3 – The Old Testament Canon, Part II

Reading Component – Bruce, 55-114; Geisler& Nix, chs. 13-14; Write a one page summary of the readings.

Module 4 – The New Testament Canon, Part I

Reading Component – Bruce, 115-169; Geisler& Nix, ch. 16; Write a one page summary of the readings.
Research Component – Students should finalize topics and begin research.

Module 5 – The New Testament Canon, Part II

Reading Component – Bruce, 170-207; Geisler& Nix, ch. 6; Write a one page summary of the readings.

Module 6 – Intro to Higher Criticism

Reading Component – Bruce, 208-252; Geisler& Nix, ch. 25; Write a one page summary of the readings.

Module 7 – Intro to Lower Criticism

Reading Component – Bruce, 253-297; Geisler& Nix, ch. 26; Write a one page summary of the readings.

Module 8 – Extra-biblical Books

Reading Component – Geisler& Nix, chs. 15 and 17; Write a one page summary of the readings.
Research Component – Students should complete drafts and continue editing process.

Module 9 – Review and Research

Reading Component – Bruce, 298-334; Write a one page summary of the readings.
Research Component – Students must complete all research papers.

VI. Tyndale General Policies and Procedures

Assignment Format

All assignments and coursework are to be turned in via student Tyndale email. Students are not required to turn in assignments in hard copy. Students must send any required notes, questions, papers, etc. via email as separate attachments in .doc, docx, or pdf format.

Coursework should be submitted directly to the Professor/Instructor (for Campus and Learning Center students) or to the Advising Professor/Instructor (for Online students). The subject line for all submitted coursework should be formatted as follows to ensure receipt of the material:

<i>Campus Students:</i>	Professor Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title <i>(e.g.: C, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper #1)</i>
<i>Learning Center Students:</i>	LC Location, Campus Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name <i>(e.g.: Mason, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith)</i>
<i>Online Students:</i>	Online Prof. Name, Class # & Name, Student Name, Assignment Title <i>(e.g.: O, Johnson, BIBL2301 Hermeneutics, Smith, Paper #1)</i>

Electronically submitted coursework will be returned along with a final grade via email after the course has been graded.

Assignment Due Dates

Campus/Learning Center students will submit all assignments according to the schedule as outlined in the syllabus. Final assignments are to be submitted no later than the last class period of the semester.

Online students will submit all assignments at their own pace, but must maintain interaction with Advising Professor/Instructor throughout the duration of the course.

Writing Guidelines

All research papers and theses are to follow Turabian guidelines as found in Kate L. Turabian *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations 7th Ed.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). All students are required to purchase a copy of *A Manual for Writers* to ensure the proper format. All work is to follow these guidelines:

1. Font & Font Size: Times New Roman, 12 point
2. Double space
3. 1-inch margins (File – Page Setup – Margins)
4. Indent paragraphs .5 inch (Format– Paragraph – Indent left)
5. Page numbers – lower center or upper right –beginning with the first page of text, but not on title page; Arabic numbers only (e.g., 1, 2; not Roman numerals); no other header or footer
6. Title page; then title again on page one (for formal papers)
7. In essay-type papers, ALWAYS write logically, persuasively, focused on the assigned topic; include a succinct introduction that informs the reader concerning the subject of your paper, and a succinct conclusion that summarizes your main points and expresses your resulting conclusion.
8. Use footnotes rather than endnotes, except in dissertation/thesis, where section endnotes are also acceptable.
9. All work should be proofread, as errors in spelling, grammar, and syntax will reduce assignment grade.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is against Tyndale policy, and any act of plagiarism will result in disciplinary action up to student dismissal from further study at Tyndale. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to quoting materials without proper citing or reference. Cutting and pasting of online and other materials requires proper citing via quotation marks and footnote.

Contact

If you anticipate difficulty in meeting any of these requirements, please contact your Professor (for Campus/Learning Center students) or your Advising Professor/Instructor (Online students) as soon as possible. A complete review of all Tyndale policies and procedures can be found in the [Tyndale Theological Seminary and Biblical Institute Academic Catalog](#).