

First Things: The Ancient World Creation to 400 BCE

Course 1- Exploring Origins

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare biblical teachings on creation with other religions' teachings on this topic.
2. Contrast the creationist and evolutionist views of human origins.
3. Integrate knowledge of ancient civilizations and religions with knowledge of the "Old Testament" Scriptures.
4. Defend a position about the activity and purposes of God in history.
5. Reflect critically on their own culture and worldview and the implications for understanding the roots of human problems.
6. Explain the story of Genesis, in its historical and theological contexts, including the missiological purpose of God for all peoples.
7. Analyze evidence for the interpretation of history as a cosmic struggle.
8. Relate the concept of the threat to the fulfillment of God's promises during the Patriarchal period to similar obstacles to God's work in the contemporary world.
9. Show an appreciation for the cultural and religious diversity among human societies.
10. Apply appropriate hermeneutical methods and tools to the study of biblical texts.

Course 2- Exploring the Old Testament

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the object and the nature of saving faith in the Old Testament.
2. Relate the ethical formation of the Israelites to contemporary attempts to articulate biblical ethics.
3. Compare two or more cultures' views of demonic spiritual activity and in turn compare those views with Old and New Testament views of the spirit world.
4. Propose a biblical response, from a western cultural perspective, to the spirit world.
5. Explain the relationship between Wisdom Literature and the Promise Plan and between the Prophets and the Promise Plan.
6. Identify the genres of Wisdom Literature and Prophecy, describe their purposes, and explain their relationship to the overall Promise Plan of the Old Testament.
7. Explain the difference between exegesis and hermeneutics.
8. Apply appropriate hermeneutical methods and tools to the study of biblical texts.

Learning Outcomes for the First Semester of the WCF Degree Completion Program

Course 3- Exploring World History and Religions

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Outline major developments in civilizations around the world during the time before 500 BCE.
2. Identify similarities between Zoroastrianism and New Testament thinking.
3. Formulate and defend a preliminary position statement about communicating the biblical message to Hindus.
4. Compare the similarities and differences of three types of Buddhism.
5. Compare the prophet Isaiah with the life and teaching of other religious leaders.
6. Evaluate the usefulness of a knowledge of world religions for cross-cultural communication of the gospel.
7. Express an informed opinion about which elements of ancient civilizations were contrary to God's purposes and which He might have wanted to redeem.
8. Discuss the implications for themselves personally of the concept that the "Messiah" is for all the peoples of the world.
9. Relate insights gained through biblical studies to events in societies around the world.
10. Apply appropriate hermeneutical methods and tools to the study of biblical texts.

Course 4- Exploring Theology and Culture

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's distinctive contributions to promise theology.
2. Distinguish the characteristics of the Kingdom of God from the kingdoms of men.
3. Identify phrases in the Old Testament prophets that found fulfillment in the life of Christ.
4. Give a rationale for the use of the Old Testament by believers in Jesus.
5. Speculate on the problems in cross-cultural communication that arise due to ignorance of local cultural practices and their deep-seated origins.
6. Explain how understanding the difference between "gospel" and "religion" might help a person working among a people of a different religion. (Application)
7. Identify key elements of ancient Greek civilization that were part of the cultural background of the residents in the land of Israel before and during the time of Christ.
8. Describe the political situation in the ancient Mediterranean world.
9. Explain the value of understanding the Mediterranean world for gaining insights into the biblical world and Scripture.
10. Apply appropriate hermeneutical methods and tools to the study of biblical texts and other sacred literature.