



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

BIB830 Historical Geography of the Bible Fall, 2011

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at

<http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

Professor: Joseph Coleson, Ph.D.

Email: jecoleson@NTS.edu

Office Hours: Tues, 9:00 a.m-12:30 p.m.

(except 10:20-11:20 a.m.)

Thurs, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Catalog Description

A consideration, across the biblical record, of the close link between the geography of the Bible lands and the biblical history acted out on the geographical stage. The causing and shaping effects of geography on historical events will be studied closely. The impact of historical geography on the theology of the biblical record is another important focus of the course.

Course Narrative & Rationale

The faculty of NTS view the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. We believe this view accords with historic Christianity, as well as with the direction of God found in the Bible itself.

Nazarenes and other Wesleyan/holiness people do not assert that the Bible is either first or foremost a book of history. Yet much of God's revelation in the Bible is historically and geographically determined in its form, its focus, and its sequence, if not in its essence. Therefore, if we would understand the intended meaning of the Bible and its enduring import, we must understand the stage upon which, and the human history through which, it was given.

Besides being important, historical geography is a grand adventure. It's fun; it's interesting; it's exciting. More than anything else, the minister of the Good News of God's redemption in Christ ought to be able to portray and convey a sense of the eternal joy and adventure of life with God. That life began, for the human race, in real places, through real events which, when known and owned, will strengthen and gladden the heart of any believer on her/his own journey--read high adventure!--of faith.

Degree/Program Objectives Addressed in this Course

This course addresses aspects of the following NTS Degree/Program Objectives:

- M.Div. Objective 2: The articulation of the knowledge of God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
- MACE Objective 1: Appropriate and enhance the student's ecclesial understanding of the Word of God, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and the fellowship of believers, sufficiently to enable him/her to deepen a personal commitment to God and the Church and to inform a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry.
- MAICS Objective 4: Graduates will articulate, communicate, and contextualize the essential affirmations of the Christian faith in a cross-cultural setting.
- MA(TS) General Academic Track Objective 1: Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the major theological disciplines and their interrelationships.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the placement, the topography, and the importance of the geographical regions of Canaan/Israel/the first-century Jewish homeland
 2. Discuss the impact of geography upon the flow of biblical history, generally
 3. Discuss the geographical factor(s) in a significant proportion of biblical episodes, cultural attitudes, etc.
 4. Access the major primary and secondary sources for the study of biblical historical geography.
- (Because of the nature of the weekly essay assignments, all written assignments will contribute to fulfillment of all expected course outcomes.)

Required Text

Rainey, Anson F., and R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World*. Jerusalem: CARTA Jerusalem, 2006.

Course Outline

Sept. 8 – <i>TSB</i> , chapters 1-3	Nov. 3 – <i>TSB</i> , chapters 14-15
Sept. 15 – <i>TSB</i> , chapters 4-6	Nov. 10 – <i>TSB</i> , chapters 16-18
Sept. 22 – <i>TSB</i> , chapters 7-8	Nov. 17 – <i>TSB</i> , chapters 19-21
Sept. 29 – <i>TSB</i> , chapter 9	Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)
Oct. 6 – <i>TSB</i> , chapter 10	Dec. 1 – <i>TSB</i> , chapter 22
Oct. 13 – <i>TSB</i> , chapter 11	Dec. 8 – <i>TSB</i> , chapters 23-25
Oct. 20 – Reading and Research Week	Dec. 15 – Course wrap-up
Oct. 27 – <i>TSB</i> , chapters 12-13	

Course Essay Assignments

Twelve weekly essays, six hundred (600) words minimum each, will be assigned. For each student, the ten essays earning the highest grades will count toward the course grade. To be eligible for consideration for a grade of A, an essay will:

1. Address an issue arising from the week's assigned reading in *TSB* (the course text)
2. Include material gleaned from personal perusal of at least one primary or secondary non-biblical source referenced in *TSB*
3. Incorporate discussion of at least one biblical reference or pericope
4. Exhibit the high standards expected in graduate-level academic writing.

(Because of the nature of the weekly essay assignments, all written assignments will contribute to fulfillment of all expected course outcomes.)

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	Hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	39
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	0
Reading	60
Writing	40
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	0
Exams & Quizzes	0
TOTAL	139

Method for Submitting Assignments

Weekly essays are to be submitted in the Assignments section of the Moodle course.

Form and Style Expectations

NTS has adopted Turabian's text on form, style, usage, and other writing issues. Written work is expected to conform to best practices, as set forth in Turabian. For convenience, a summary of the most commonly problematic issues in written work presented in the professor's courses over the years is included in Moodle course resources.

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people often have used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in writing. All written work presented to meet NTS course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work

Essays submitted late cannot earn a grade higher than B+. Essays will not be accepted more than two weeks late.

Additional Costs

No course costs beyond NTS tuition and fees, and the course textbook, are expected.

Course Grading

The ten essays contributing to the course grade will be weighted at ten percent (10%), each. Assuming consistent class attendance and submission of ten weekly essays of graduate-level quality, the student may expect to earn a course grade of A or B. An essay earning a grade of C+ or lower may be rewritten and resubmitted within two weeks of the grade's posting; resubmitted essays may earn a grade of B, but not higher.

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity, or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Class Attendance

Maximum benefit from this course will require consistent class attendance. If you will be absent from a class session, please notify the professor as soon as possible. Absences equivalent to two full class sessions will bar a student from earning a grade of A for the course. Absences equivalent to four full class sessions will result in failing the course.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students needing such verification are responsible to notify the professor early in the course.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
9/8	1	None
9/15	2	Essay #1
9/22	3	Essay #2
9/29	4	Essay #3
10/6	5	Essay #4
10/13	6	Essay #5
10/20	7	Reading and Research Week
10/27	8	Essay #6
11/3	9	Essay #7
11/10	10	Essay #8
11/17	11	Essay #9
12/1	12	Essay #10
12/8	13	Essay #11
12/15	14	Essay #12