



COURSE SYLLABUS (SEP. 8-DEC. 8) A Great Commission University

BIBL 203 (BIB 203) Bible Atlas

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the geography, archaeology, and historical landscapes of the Old and New Testaments through intensive engagement with a modern Bible atlas. Students will situate major biblical events on accurate maps; analyze regional features (topography, climate, routes) that shaped biblical narratives; and synthesize geographic insights with exegetical reading to enhance interpretation, teaching, and preaching. Emphasis is placed on visual literacy, spatial reasoning, and correlating places and periods across the biblical storyline.

RATIONALE: Understanding the world of the Bible—its roads, borders, terrains, and cities—is essential to sound interpretation. Geography clarifies why events occurred where and how they did, illuminates theological themes (e.g., exile and return, wilderness testing, temple-centered worship), and sharpens accuracy in preaching and teaching. This course equips students to use atlases, maps, and archaeological data responsibly so they can communicate Scripture with clarity and credibility in church, classroom, and missionary contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

- Identify and locate major regions, routes, and sites of the biblical world (e.g., Galilee, Judea, Samaria, Negev, Jezreel, Coastal Plain, Transjordan).
- Explain how geography and archaeology inform interpretation of selected OT and NT passages.
- Correlate key historical periods (Patriarchs, Conquest, Monarchic, Exile/Return, Intertestamental, Second Temple, Early Church) with their primary sites and political realities.
- Construct clear teaching visuals (maps/charts) that accurately represent biblical events.
- Evaluate secondary sources and atlas entries for accuracy, clarity, and theological relevance.

Required Textbook:

- The Bible (any essentially literal English translation recommended).
- Ultimate Bible Atlas: Hundreds Of Full-Color Photos, Maps, Charts, And Reconstructions Of The Bible Lands (Ultimate Guide) Kindle Edition - by [CSB Bibles by Holman](https://A.Co/D/Eyghduc) (<https://A.Co/D/Eyghduc>)

- Other sources included as requested by an assignment.

COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

GRADING SCALE:

A (90-100%)

B (80-89%)

C (70-79%)

D (60-69%)

F (BELOW 60%)

****** Guidelines below for attendance and late assignments for live classes do not apply to On-Demand courses done at one's own pace and privacy.***

Late Assignment Policy (for timed courses only, i.e. campus, Ecampus)

Course Assignments, including discussions, quizzes, and other graded assignments, should be submitted on time.

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week after the due date will receive up to a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week, and less than 2 weeks late will receive up to a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted outside of special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant personal health issues), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.
4. Group projects, including group discussions and/or replies, and any other group assignments will not be accepted after the due date outside of special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant personal health issues), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.

Course Attendance

Regular attendance in online courses is expected throughout the length of the term. A student who misses more than twenty percent of scheduled class time will suffer academic penalty. A student who misses more than thirty-three percent of scheduled class time will fail the course. For courses that meet once per week during the fifteen-week semester, the penalty for exceeding

three absences is a full letter grade reduction in the final course grade per absence, and the penalty for a sixth absence is to fail the course. For Seminars and courses that meet for a different duration, the same ratio will be applied. Concerning tardiness, a student who is tardy three times will accumulate an absence to be calculated with all absences. Students that are not in the classroom when the class starts are tardy. Students that leave class early are also tardy. Additionally, for all online and on-campus courses, we ask that the student maintain appropriate casual attire.

Academic Honor and Plagiarism

Louisiana Baptist University comprises a Christian community based upon the truth of the Bible. This truth defines our foundational principles and educational culture, which remains distinctively Christian and is designed to preserve and advance truth.

This Christian community is predicated on shared values and goals. At the core of these values and goals lie two essential concepts: a belief in the significance of all individuals, and a reliance on the existence of objective truth.

We maintain the expectation that all students will commit to respect and uphold the pursuit of truth while enrolled at GLU. As such, the unauthorized use of non-original work or the failure to provide proper attribution to the work of others is considered a serious violation of academic honor. This includes, but is not limited to:

- omitting quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from any source;
- paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting a passage from a source without referencing the source;
- purchasing or acquiring material of any kind and representing it as one's own work; and replicating another person's work and submitting it as one's own work.

Any student engaging in plagiarism will be considered responsible for such actions which may result in the failure of an assignment or dismissal from the course.

AI (artificial intelligence) apps are permissible for research, organization and formatting of the student material. The only restriction is that it does not think or write the paper(s) for the student.

Written Assignment Policy

Except for informal discussion assignments or specific writing instructions by the professor, all Louisiana Baptist University written assignments will follow Turabian format (see Guidelines For Writing Assignments for complete details).

PREREQUISITES: None.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1) Regional Map Portfolio (Foundations)

Create an original portfolio of 6 labeled maps (digital or hand-drawn, neatly scanned) covering: a) a General Overview; b) Egypt & Sinai; c) Northern Kingdom (Israel) & Galilee; d) Southern Kingdom (Judah) & Judean Wilderness; e) Transjordan & Decapolis; f) Asia Minor & Aegean. Each map must include a legend, scale, major cities, rivers, elevation cues, and two Scripture references linked to the region.

2) Event-Route Analysis Dossier

Select one biblical journey (e.g., Exodus route segment, Joshua's central campaign, David's flight routes, Jesus' Galilean ministry loop, Paul's 1st/2nd missionary journeys). Produce a route map and a 700-word analysis explaining **geographic constraints** (terrain, water, borders), **political factors**, and **theological implications**. Cite atlas pages and at least two scholarly resources.

3) Jesus and the Land

Using any resources within the textbook, write a minimum 1000-word paper on prominent locations in the life of Christ, including those with historic significance from the Old Testament as well as those with cultural and spiritual significance in the time of Jesus. Follow the procedures in the *Guidelines for Writing Assignments*.

4) Capstone Atlas Commentary

Write a 2,000–2,400-word minicommentary that traces a biblical theme route (e.g., From the Wilderness to Zion; from the Exile to the Return; From the Temple to the Church). Integrate at least 3 specific map plates or site entries from the textbook.