FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION
RELI 215 (3-3-0) Introduction to the Bible: A study of important Biblical writings, with special emphasis on the diverse forms of writings in the Bible, the historical contexts in which specific books were produced and the religious beliefs and values expressed.

III. DISABLED STUDENTS
In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1ST Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. TEXTBOOK
The Great Course: The Old Testament by Professor Amy-Jill Levine
The Great Courses: The Testament, Professor Bart D. Herman
Good News Bible. Today’s English

V. CORE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME – Humanities/Creative Arts
Students will demonstrate comprehension, analysis, and/or synthesis of the social and historical contributions of the humanities and/or arts to human cultural and intellectual advancement by engaging in inquiry, writing, and/or creative processes.
VI. COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes under the New Bloomberg’s Taxonomy:

a) **Remembering:** They will be able to recognize and recall the meaning of biblical concepts such as testament, covenant, revelation, Pentateuch, Documentary Hypothesis, Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint, dynamic inspiration, mechanical inspiration, canon, apocrypha, demythologizing, eschatology, and hermeneutics etc. within the context of other disciplines, the media, and everyday life discourses.

b) **Understanding:** They will be able to define these concepts in their own words, provide examples or illustrations, and use them correctly in dialogue, class discussions, essays, and individual or group projects including class presentations.

c) **Applying:** They will be able to apply the key concepts and skills to biblical interpretation and use of commentaries in discussing biblical history, conceptual analysis, and interpretations, and show their relevance for contemporary issues including the Bible and Science, the Bible and Sex, the Bible and Politics, and the Bible and the Media through class discussions, debates, individual or group presentations, and essays.

d) **Analyzing:** They will be able to explain and interpret biblical history as well as Old and New Testament texts accurately with the help of key conceptual tools such as The JEDP Documentary Hypothesis, typologies, allegories, comparative literature, Bible Dictionaries and Commentaries. They will be able to compare and contrast texts from Old and New Testaments, commentaries, and other religious materials and draw their own conclusions using the tools of Biblical Criticism including historical analysis and interpretation.

e) **Evaluating:** Students should be able to objectively evaluate the historical accuracy, the coherence, the relevance, of the materials read using biblical archaeology, modern science, maps, appropriate hermeneutics, biblical commentaries and opinions. [No attempt will be made to impose any dogma on students.]

f) **Creating:** Write arguments defending or critiquing a position taken by some biblical scholars or expert(s) on such issues as the Bible and War, The Bible and Marriage, and The Bible and Politics with evidence from multiple disciplines and sources.

g) **Propose and defend solutions to contemporary social/political/legal/ethical issues affecting African Americans including high school drop-out rates, high unemployment rates, hunger, homelessness, high incarceration and recidivism rates, and black-on-black violence using skills and values from multiple disciplines and sources.**

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:
This section indicates how the student’s final grade for the course will be calculated. It includes each of the following:

1. 25% of term grade or 250 pts for CW: 4 Quizzes and 3 take-home written assignments. The worst score of CW will be dropped if you do all 7.
2. 20% of term grade or 200pts for Midterm Exam, 30 Multiple Choice Questions.
3. 20% of term grade or 200 pts for Term Essay / (TE). You choose and write on 1/3 Service Learning
4. 30% of term grade or 500 pts Final Exam (FE) 30 multiple choice questions on selected chapters;
5. 15% of term grade or 150 Extra Credit points for Group Projects: Power point presentations/debates/panel discussions etc. on pre-approved topics or issues.

Final Exam on last day of Class

**Graduating seniors will be excused from the Final Exam but they will do all 7 CWs, do presentations and write 7 pages for term paper instead of 5 pages for others.

NB: If these evaluation criteria must be revised because of extraordinary circumstances, the instructor will inform the class and distribute a written amendment to the syllabus.

VIII. POLICY ON MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS
Make-up tests will be permitted only with acceptable medical, funeral; athletics or administrative documents approved by FSU policies and should be taken in the instructor’s office ASAP.
1. Student Behavior Expectations: Mutual respect between students and instructor and among students. The following behaviors are not permitted while lectures are in progress, and especially during tests/exams:
   a) Use of cell phones, headgear or other paraphernalia distracting to class
   b) Use of profanity, private conversations, and passing of notes.
   c) No food. (Water and soda are okay unless they are prohibited by rules on using the room.
2. Consequences for Non-compliance:
   1st violation: Students will receive verbal warning.
   2nd violation: Loss of grade points (1-20 maximum)
   3rd violation: Student will be reported to Dean of Students for disciplinary action from according to the FSU Code of Student Conduct.

IX. ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES –
Every student is encouraged to come to the Instructor’s office for make-ups or if they need further clarification, or discussion on any topic related to the course. The library has several biblical commentaries and Bible dictionaries, maps, texts, and journals on the bible. The Black Board learning system will be made available to the class for some announcements, copies of important course documents such as syllabus, term essays, some assignments, discussion boards and power points for midterm and final review The Language Center has programs for how to write college essays, how to avoid plagiarism, and how to edit essays/paper.

X. TEACHING STRATEGIES:
A). A combination of lectures and discussion aided by power point presentations and videos etc. Class discussions include problem-solving and question and answer sessions with individuals, small and large groups. Formats include debates, group competition, group collaboration and role plays.

B). Service Learning: In collaboration with the FSU Service learning Center, Students will be assigned to visit places such as Homeless Shelters, Food Kitchens, Minimum-medium Prison inmates, and High School for Problem Children, all in Fayetteville.
WEEKS 1 & 2: GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE
General Introduction to the Course and Syllabus
Holy Scripture: Definitions and Divisions
Chronological Table of OT Books
The Authority and Purpose of the Bible
Divine Origin of the Bible: Dynamic and Mechanical Inspirations
The Purpose of the Bible;
The Bible and Ethics.
Discussion based on Power Point and Bible Commentaries

WEEK 3 Biblical Manuscripts and their Interpretation
The Oldest Manuscripts of the Bible
The Languages of the Bible
The Most important versions of the Bible
Holy Scripture, Tradition, and Church Authority
Biblical Hermeneutics or Interpretation of the Bible
Discussion based on Power Point and Bible Commentaries
Source Theories or Hypothesis of the OT.
The Traditional Theory of Mosaic Authorship
Documentary Hypotheses/Theory J.E.D.P.
Historical Credibility and Integrity of the O.T.

WEEK 4 SELECTIONS FROM THE O.T.
L5. Human Origin and Israel’s Foundation
Focus on the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua,
Numbers, Deuteronomy
Discussion based on DVD and Course Guide Book OT parts 1 and 2

WEEK 5: Political History of Israel
Focus on the Quest for Monarchy: Judges, Sam I and II,
Focus on Critical Evaluation of Saul, David, Solomon& Uzziah
Discussion based on DVD and Course Guide Book OT parts 1 and 2

WEEK 6 The Prophets and Social Justice
The Prophetic Books of the O.T.
Focus on Amos, Hosea, and Micah
Focus on Isaiah I-III
Discussion based on DVD and Course Guide Book OT parts 1 and 2

WEEK 7 The Doctrinal/Philosophical Books of the O.T.
Focus on the Book of Job
Focus on the Book of Ecclesiastics
Focus on Book of Proverbs
Discussion based on DVD and Course Guide Book OT parts 1 and 2

Review and Midterm (Date TBA)
WEEKS 8 & 9. Prophetic Visions and Apocalypse in OT
Focus on Ezekiel Interpretation of Ezekiel’s Vision and its Relevance
Focus on Daniel: Interpretation of Daniels’s Visions and Apocalypse and their relevance
Discussion based on DVD and Course Guide Book OT parts 1 and 2
WEEKS 10 & 11: SELECTIONS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT:
L 10: General Introduction to N.T. World
L 11: Source Theory and the Synoptic Problem.
L 12: Focus on Gospels and Resurrection Theories etc.

WEEK 12 & 13: Focus on Book of Acts: The Birth of the Church

WEEK 14 SAMPLE EPISTLES & APOCALYPSE.
NT APOCALYPSE & STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
L 14: Focus on Paul’s major Epistles: Romans, Corinthians I & II, Ephesians
L 15: Focus on the Book of Revelation as Apocalypse and Eschatology/End Times

WEEK 15 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION
The Bible and Social Justice by instructor
The Bible and Poverty by students,
The Bible and Parenting by students
The Bible and War by students
The Bible and Women by students etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
7. Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Bible
8. Oxford Commentary on the Bible
9. Digital Commentary on the Bible
10. www.bibleindigitalform