

**University of Sacramento**  
**Scriptural Foundations for Teaching the Faith Today**  
**EDU 603**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Term:** Fall, 2009

**Day of week:** Tuesday

**Time:** 6:00 – 9:10 PM

**Dates:** September 8 – December 15, 2009

**Instructors:** Deacon Ray Helgeson, M.A., Joseph Hollcraft, M.A.

**Office Hours:** Weekdays (except Friday) Call for appointment.

**Contact Information:**

Deacon Ray: Office (916) 443-4760 ext. 29, Cell (916) 346-6669.

Email: [rhelgeson@universityofsacramento.org](mailto:rhelgeson@universityofsacramento.org)

Joseph Hollcraft: (530): 519-8758

Email: [jholljmj@yahoo.com](mailto:jholljmj@yahoo.com)

**Course Description**

Provides students with an essential understanding of the nature and content of Sacred Scripture. Students will examine the structure, content and authentic interpretation of Scripture as an effective means for evangelization, conversion, and dynamic growth in the faith. The course will include the study specific books / passages in both the Old and New Testaments.

**Required Texts:**

1. *The Bible* (RSV Catholic version suggested).
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
3. *Dei Verbum*, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. Vatican Council II, 1965. (Available online)
4. *God's Word: Scripture, Tradition, Office*, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI). Ignatius Press, 2008.
5. *History's Golden Thread: The History of Salvation*, Cavaletti, Sofia. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Publications, 1999.
6. *In the Beginning: A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall*, Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1995.
7. *Jesus of Nazareth*, Joseph Ratzinger – Pope Benedict XVI. Doubleday, 2007.
8. *Saint Paul*, Pope Benedict XVI. Ignatius Press, 2009.
9. *You Can Understand the Bible: A Practical and Illuminating Guide to Each Book in the Bible*. Peter Kreeft. Ignatius Press, 2005.

**Recommended Texts:**

1. *Opening Up the Scriptures: Joseph Ratzinger and the Foundations of Biblical Interpretation*. Edited by Jose Granados, et al. Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008.

**Attendance:**

Attendance and class participation, while important for any learning environment, are essential at the graduate level. The student who expects an A or A- from this course, in addition to the requirements under *Grading Policy* stated below, will be diligent in class preparation, reading assignments, as well as active class participation.

See also University catalog attendance policy.

**Course Requirements and Grading Policy:**

Students will be evaluated according to the following:

- 1) Attendance and class participation (see above)
- 2) Two short reflection papers (Deacon Ray)
- 3) Two essays (first half of semester; second half of semester)
- 4) Final examination

See University catalog for additional grading policy information.

**Class Sessions and Topics – General Overview** (Subject to modification)

Sept. 8 – Week 1

Introduction to the Bible  
Divine Revelation  
Hermeneutic of Faith  
Themes: Faith, self-awareness and transformation

Sept. 15 – Week 2

Transmission of Divine Revelation  
Interpretation  
Overview on Essay - due Oct. 13

Sept. 22 – Week 3

Introduction to the Old Testament  
The Covenant  
Genesis, Exodus  
Benedict – In the Beginning  
Hermeneutic of Faith  
Christ as a Criterion  
Creation & Worship  
**Reflection paper #1 due**

Sept. 29 – Week 4

The Law, Redemption, Worship  
Typology  
**Reflection paper #2 due**

Oct. 6 – Week 5

The Kingdom  
Introduction to the Prophets

Oct. 13 – Week 6

**First Essay Due**  
Prophets  
I & II Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah  
Servant Songs

Oct. 20 – Week 7

The Psalms & Wisdom Literature  
Sirach

Oct. 27 – Week 8: Kreeft: Pgs.177-188; Benedict (Jesus of Nazareth): Pgs. 46-99, 183-192

Overview Second half of semester  
Review Senses of Scripture and the New Testament  
Matthew: The Kingdom of God (Sermon on the Mount); Parables and the  
Primacy of Peter

Nov. 3 – Week 9: Benedict (Jesus of Nazareth): 187-205; Kreeft: 189-191; Prayerfully read the

Gospel of Mark  
Matthew cont'd  
Mark: Jesus' Authority as the Son of God and the Suffering Messiah

Nov. 10 – Week 10: Kreeft: 192-197, 205-228; Benedict (Jesus of Nazareth): 202-211; Benedict  
(Saint Paul): 37-42

Luke: The Prodigal Son and Kingdom Table fellowship  
Acts: Pentecost and the Council of Jerusalem

Nov. 17 – Week 11: Kreeft: 198-204; Benedict (Jesus of Nazareth): 218-286 (particular attention  
to pgs 263-272)

John: Creation motif and the Wedding Feast at Cana (a closer look at Mary)  
The Bread Motif with John's "Hour"  
Included in this night will be a careful examination of John 6 in the Greek

**Second Essay paper Due**

Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving week – no class

Dec. 1 – Week 12: Benedict: Saint Paul: 7-131 (whole book)

Paul: The New Man and Divine sonship  
Handout Questions to review for Exam

Dec. 8 – Week 13: Kreeft: 306-328; articles (handouts)

Paul cont'd  
Revelation: Liturgical Imagery  
Review of Exam

Dec. 15 – Week 14: Prep for Exam

**Final Exam**

Closing thoughts

**Supplementary & Resource Texts**

1. Baker, Kenneth, *Inside the Bible: An Introduction to Each Book of the Bible*. Ignatius Press, 1998.
2. Barthelemy, Dominique O.P., *God and His Image: An Outline of Biblical Theology*, Ignatius Press, 2007.
3. Campbell, Dwight P. *A Primer on Divine Revelation: Scripture and Tradition 100 Questions and Answers*. Scepter Publications, 1998.
4. *Catholic Bible Dictionary*, Scott Hahn, General Editor. Doubleday, 2009.
5. De Lubac, Henri, *Medieval Exegesis: The Four Senses of Scripture*. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998.
6. Gunton, Colin, *Enlightenment & Alienation: An Essay Toward a Trinitarian Theology*. Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006.
7. Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Commentary, Notes, and Study Questions.
8. The Navarre Bible: Texts and Commentary
9. Nichols, O.P., Aidian, *Lovely Like Jerusalem: The Fulfillment of the Old Testament in Christ and the Church*. Ignatius Press, 2007.
10. Saint Paul Center Biblical Theology Journals –  
[http://www.salvationhistory.com/library/category/dr\\_scott\\_hahns\\_recent\\_academic\\_publications](http://www.salvationhistory.com/library/category/dr_scott_hahns_recent_academic_publications)
11. Shea, Mark, *Making Senses Out of Scripture: Reading the Bible as the First Christians Did*. Basilica Press, 1999.