BS0131W  Engaging the Bible

This diploma unit introduces students to some of the tools and perspectives employed in the study and interpretation of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. Emphasis is given to the narrative sweep of Scripture, detailing certain key figures and events within the biblical canon, setting biblical books in context and engaging sympathetically with different forms of biblical literature. Students will employ these perspectives to examine the relevance of the Bible today.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Outline a brief survey of both the Old and New Testaments including some key events and characters;
2. Recognise different types of biblical literature;
3. Display a developing ability to engage and interpret Biblical texts;
4. Appropriately use tools for Biblical interpretation such as dictionaries, commentaries and surveys;
5. Demonstrate a growing awareness of the role and relevance of the Bible in contemporary life.

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: Evening class: Three hours per week (Semester 1 only) or NEXT Program: 1½ hours per week (Semester 1 & 2 – whole year)

Assessment:
- One 750 word Old Testament exegetical exercise (25%)
- One 750 word New Testament exegetical exercise (25%)
- One 1,500 word thematic essay (50%)

Faculty: Siu Fung Wu
NEXT Program: TBA

Offered: 2016: Evening class, Semester 1
2016: NEXT Program, Semester 1 – 2

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase

Fee, G D and D K Stuart, How to read the Bible for all it’s worth. 3rd edn. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.