

## BS0131W Engaging the Bible

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**Offered:** 2018: NEXT Program Semester 1 – 2 (whole year unit)  
[For students in the NEXT Program only]

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:** NEXT Program: equivalent to 1½ hours per week

<b>Assessment:</b>	One 750 word Old Testament exegetical exercise	(25%)
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	One 1,500 word thematic essay	(50%)

**Faculty:** Mia Kafieris

### **Recommended Reading:**

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Achtemeier, P C, J B Green and M Meye Thompson, *Introducing the New Testament: Its literature and theology*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2001.

Brueggemann, W., *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003.

Coggins, R and J L Houlden (eds.) *A dictionary of biblical interpretation*. London: SCM, 1990.

Collins, R F *Introduction to the New Testament*. London: SCM Press, 1983.

Drane, J *Introducing the Old Testament*. Rev.edn. Oxford: Lion, 2000.

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

Gorman, M.J., *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Peabody: Hendrickson, rev. edn, 2009.

Smith-Christopher, D., *The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith & Justice*. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2007.

Wright, C.J.H. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.