Course Description (from TEDS Academic Catalog)
Demonstration of inductive Bible study method and treatment of the special teaching of a particular book or books of the New Testament based on the English text. May be repeated for credit as the book studied changes. Not for credit in the MA/NT or MA/OT programs.
Two to three hours.

Course Objectives
By the end of the semester the student should:
1. have a deeper appreciation of and love for Jesus, the Christian faith, and Scripture;
2. be more fully committed to the gospel and be able to inspire that same commitment in others based on the inspiration given in Hebrews;
3. be better equipped to interpret Scripture in its ancient context and apply it to a modern context;
4. be able to explain the purpose of Hebrews and the methods the author uses to accomplish his purpose;
5. be aware of the historical, cultural, rhetorical, and philosophical backgrounds that were assumed by the first-century author and audience and be able to interpret Hebrews in light of these backgrounds;
6. be able to discuss modern scholarship on Hebrews and weigh in on some of the debated issues with regard to the letter;
7. have a more robust theology that accounts for the Christological and other theological implications of the Epistle to the Hebrews;
8. be aware of how Hebrews has been interpreted throughout the history of the church; and
9. be able to draw lessons from Hebrews for church life today.

Course Textbooks
Course Requirements

1. *Readings and Participation (35%)* – Readings from Koester and Mason/McCruden have been given in the syllabus. For most weeks there will be an additional article or essay to read that will be emailed to you or handed out in the previous class. All readings are to be done before the class meeting, and students will be graded on how prepared they are to participate in class discussion. Sometimes students will be given specific questions to reflect on as they read, and the students’ responses should be handed in. Sometimes a quiz will be given on the reading.

2. *Theology Presentation (20%)* – Beginning on Week 3 there will be a theological issue discussed during each class meeting. Sign up for one of the topics and prepare a 20-minute presentation on the issue based on course readings and on other literature (the professor will recommend some readings for each topic). Following your presentation the class will continue to discuss the issue together.

3. *Exegesis Paper (25%)* – A 4-5-page, single-spaced paper on a passage from Hebrews. Details will be given on the first day of class. Students are encouraged to have done much of the research by the time their particular passage is discussed in class so that our discussion of the passage will be able to go deeper, but the actual paper is not due until December 2 or 9 (whichever date you are not giving a presentation for assignment #4).

4. *Reflection Paper and Presentation (20%)* – A 3-page, single-spaced, reflection paper discussing how to apply Hebrews to a particular Christian practice. Example topics include: how to motivate faithfulness to Christ, how to preach effectively, how to design worship services, how to read Scripture, how to relate Christ to the culture, how to preach, how to pray, etc. This is more of a reflection paper than a research paper. Use of commentaries and secondary sources is not required, but be sure that you are not unaware of modern discussions of the topic. More important than using secondary sources is engaging the text of Hebrews and relating the letter to the topic at hand with specific applications. You will present your reflections to the class on either December 2 or 9.

Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Below 59.9%</td>
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Academic Integrity Policy

The world needs men and women of integrity and the choices you make now will affect how you act in the future. Students are expected to uphold the level of integrity that is described in the student handbook and is expected of disciples of Christ. Students caught copying the work of others or letting others copy their work, turning in work that was done for another class without permission, or failing to document sources on any written assignment (including a simple homework assignment) will receive reduced grades and be reported to the proper authority.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Koester</th>
<th>Mason</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Introduction to Hebrews</td>
<td>1-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Background of Hebrews</td>
<td>64-96</td>
<td>1-30</td>
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<td>9/16</td>
<td>Hebrews 1:1-2:4</td>
<td>Cosmology</td>
<td>171-212</td>
<td>97-100</td>
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<td>9/23</td>
<td>Hebrews 2:5-2:18</td>
<td>Christology</td>
<td>213-241</td>
<td>104-110</td>
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<td>10/7</td>
<td>Hebrews 4:14-6:20</td>
<td>Apostasy</td>
<td>281-334</td>
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<td>10/14</td>
<td>Hebrews 7</td>
<td>Jesus as Priest</td>
<td>335-373</td>
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<td>10/21</td>
<td>Hebrews 8-9</td>
<td>Covenant and Law</td>
<td>374-428</td>
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<td>10/28</td>
<td>Hebrews 10</td>
<td>Israel and the Church</td>
<td>429-467, 110-115, 118-125, 127-129</td>
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<td>11/4</td>
<td>Hebrews 11</td>
<td>Faith and Rewards</td>
<td>468-520</td>
<td>125-127</td>
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<td>11/11</td>
<td>Hebrews 12</td>
<td>Eschatology</td>
<td>521-553</td>
<td>100-104</td>
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<td>11/18</td>
<td>Hebrews 13</td>
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<td>554-584</td>
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<td>11/25</td>
<td>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<td>12/2</td>
<td>Applying Hebrews</td>
<td>[Reflection Presentations]</td>
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<td>12/9</td>
<td>Applying Hebrews</td>
<td>[Reflection Presentations]</td>
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**Recommended Reference Works**

**Technical Commentaries**
1. Craig R. Koester (AYB, 2001)
3. Peter T. O’Brien (NTC, 2010) – one of the best evangelical exegesis and thinkers; more accessible to the student who doesn’t know Greek than Lane, Ellingworth, and Attridge; O’Brien thinks the audience was predominantly Jewish Christians.
5. Paul Ellingworth (NIGTC, 1993) – strongest on the Greek text.
7. Gareth Lee Cockerill (NICNT, 2012) – a replacement for Bruce’s volume; Cockerill thinks the audience was predominantly Jewish Christians.
8. F. F. Bruce (NICNT, 1997) – strong exegesis but a little outdated as much of the material is from his 1964 edition.

**Mid-Level and Practical Commentaries**
1. William L. Lane, *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment* – This commentary is a much easier read than Lane’s more technical commentary and yet it is a good practical reflection by a master interpreter of Hebrews.
2. R. T. France (REBC, 2006) – This commentary is grouped with others on James through Revelation. France is a master exegete and understands Hebrews very well.
3. Philip E. Hughes (Eerdmans, 1987) – This is a good theological reading of Hebrews.
4. James W. Thompson (Paideia, 2008) – Thompson is excellent on the rhetorical background, and he condenses the message of Hebrews well.
6. George H. Guthrie (NIVAC) – Guthrie understands Hebrews well and provides lengthy reflections on how to move Hebrews into a modern context and apply it accordingly.
7. Thomas G. Long (Interpretation) – This commentary shows the power of Hebrews as a sermon.
9. John Owen (Crossway Classic Commentaries) – This is the best 19th century commentary on Hebrews.
10. N. T. Wright, *Hebrews for Everyone* (2003) – Of all these commentaries this is the most brief and the most down-to-earth, and yet it is written by one of the best thinkers in New Testament scholarship today.
11. David L. Allen (NAC, 2010) – This is a good, evangelical work, but occasionally it is hindered by Allen’s unlikely view that Hebrews was written by Luke to former priests in Jerusalem.
Introductions to Hebrews
1. Daniel J. Harrington, What Are They Saying About the Letter to the Hebrews? (Paulist, 2005). This is not so much an introduction to Hebrews as it is an introduction to scholarship on Hebrews. It is a very helpful read, and I considered requiring it.

Special Studies on Hebrews
1. Richard Bauckham, Daniel R. Driver, Trevor A. Hart and Nathan MacDonald, eds., The Epistle to the Hebrews and Christian Theology (Eerdmans, 2009). This is a collection of essays similar to Mason and McCruden but a little more technical. Some of the essays in this collection are better than anything I’ve read on Hebrews.
5. David A. deSilva, The Letter to the Hebrews in Social-Scientific Perspective (Cascade Companions, 2012). This is a good introduction to the social-scientific approach deSilva uses in his commentary.

Multi-Volume Bible Encyclopedias
**One-Volume Bible Dictionaries**


**New Testament Introductions**


**New Testament Theologies**


**Also Highly Recommended**


This will include the best multi-volume New Testament encyclopedia, some of the best one-volume Bible dictionaries (IVP’s *New Bible Dictionary* is very similar to *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*), and the IVP Bible Background Commentaries.