

# Religious Studies

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Edgewood College

**Religious Studies 210C F8**  
INTRODUCTION TO  
LITERATURE OF THE BIBLE:  
ACTS/LETTERS

**Loretta Dornisch, Ph. D.**

Office Predolin 322

663-2288

[ldornisch@edgewood.edu](mailto:ldornisch@edgewood.edu)

Office Hours: TR 3:30-4; 6-6:30

W 5:30-6; 9-9:30

Sat 11:30-12

Others by appointment

[Course Description](#)

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## Course Description:

A study of some of the principal themes of the Bible as revealed in the various literary forms including a discussion of the significance of these terms for today. Emphasis on Acts and the Letters of Paul.

## Course Objectives:

- Exploration of the various books of the Bible.
- A study of selected themes of the Bible.
- Specialized study of the Book of Acts and the Letters of Paul.
- A study of some of the literary forms of the Bible as a basis for the recurring philosophical and religious questions of fundamental beliefs about the human condition.
- Examination of the roots of the traditions at Edgewood expressed in the mission statement of the College, which includes the following elements: intellectual competence, Catholic heritage, ecumenical context, community of learners, service.

## Texts:

- Bible: Recommended: New Revised Standard. Available in bookstore.
- Aland, Kurt. Synopsis of the Four Gospels. American Bible Society.

- Dornisch, Loretta. Paul and Third World Women Theologians: a Commentary.

Liturgical Press. 1999.

- Ferguson, Duncan S. Bible Basics. Westminster John Knox Press.

### Class Requirements:

- Participation in class, discussions, presentations, exegeses, etc.
- Assimilation of class materials: Notes required. Attending all class sessions is very important. Attendance and careful note taking are extremely important in this class. More than one absence may lower your semester grade.
- Class readings: notes, outlines, and summaries..
- Short papers (2 pages) and Bibliography:
  1. Bible Basics (In class test) - Feb. 6
  2. Acts - Feb. 20
  3. Pentateuch (In class) - Feb. 20
  4. Paul's Letters - Mar. 5
  5. Dornisch (In class) - Mar 26
  6. Prophets/Writings - Apr. 9
  7. Gospel – Mark (Passion Narrative) - Apr.16
  8. Gospel - Matthew, Luke, or John - Apr. 30  
(Resurrection Narrative)
  9. Revelation (In class) - May 14
- In class response papers (tests) on presented material.

### Calendar:

#### Class period

#### 1. Introduction. Orientation. Methodology

- Jan. 23 Bible Basics 1. Composition of the Bible. Study of the Bible (Test on Feb. 6)  
 2. Bible: Select from Bible Basics.  
 3. Read Acts.

Jan. 30 Library/ Group/ Discussion

#### 2. Test on Bible Basics 1 & 2.

- Feb. 6 Write 2 page paper on Acts. Due Feb. 20  
Bible Basics 3. Pentateuch. Bible selections. Test on Feb. 20  
 Begin Dornisch: Paul and Third World Women Theologians

- Feb. 13 Library/ Group/ Discussion

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#### 3. Paper on Acts due.

Feb. 20 Bible: In class test on Pentateuch/Torah

Bible: Letters of Paul  
Dornisch  
2-page paper of Paul's letters due Mar. 5

Feb 27 Library/ Group/ Discussion

**4. 2-page paper on Paul's letters due.**

Mar. 5 Bible Basics 4: Prophets. Selected Prophets.  
Use library, Bible, Commentaries, etc.  
Finish Dornisch. Prepare for class book review - Mar. 26

Mar 12 Library/ Group/ Discussion

Mar 19 Spring Break/ Holy Week  
(Optional: Attend service. Write reflection)

**5. In class test: Dornisch.**

Mar. 26 Bible Basics 5. Writings.  
Writings - Selections from Psalms, Proverbs, etc.  
Review Hebrew Scriptures: Prophets and Writings.  
Write a 2-3 page paper on Prophets and Writings.

**6. 2-3 Page paper on Prophets and Writings due.**

Apr. 2 Gospels. Bible Basics 6.  
Bible: Select from Bible Basics.  
Use Gospel Parallels and other Gospel tools.  
Gospel of Mark.  
Write a 2-page exegesis on text from the Passion Narrative  
in the Gospel of Mark.

Apr. 9 Library/ Group/ Discussion

**7. Exegesis on Gospel of Mark due.**

Apr. 16 Gospel of Matthew, Gospel of Luke, Gospel of John  
Write 2-page exegesis on text from Matthew, Luke, or John.

Apr. 23 Library/ Group/ Discussion

**8. Exegesis on text from Matthew, Luke, or John due.**

Apr. 30 Book of Revelation.

May 7 Library/ Group/ Discussion

**9. In class test on Book of Revelation.**

May 14

All materials due. Tests as needed.