

# Biblical Literature

*Torah and Gospel*

*Biblical lit home*



**Instructor:** Mr. Mark Fredette  
**Contact Information:** E-mail: Mfredette@sfhs.net      Voice Mail ext 711  
**Text:** Fireside Catholic Youth Bible  
**Supplemental Text:** Bodo, Murray. Journey and the Dream - A Life of Francis

## **Description:**

The Bible is one of the most influential books the world has known; it is the source book of faith and morality for over a billion people. Sacred Scripture is woven into the fabric of Western literature and continues to influence the course of history today as it has for centuries. To be knowledgeable of the Bible's content provides an essential link to both spirituality and literacy.

This course is designed to strengthen that connection on a personal, academic and historical level. The message of the Scriptures will be examined in light of nearly two thousand years of Catholic Tradition. If you have never taken a course like this, approach it as you would a history course and you should do well.

## **Goals:**

- 1) Develop a greater familiarity with the most prominent and influential biblical figures and their respective stories.
- 2) Facilitate the appreciation of the various contexts in the interpretation of Scripture.
- 4) Deepen the student's understanding of the value of faith and prayer in his life.
- 5) Provide an opportunity for students to grow spiritually as well as intellectually and to hear the message of the Bible regarding challenges they face today.
- 6) Become more aware of the historical, religious and geopolitical aspects of modern Israel and the culture of modern Israelis.
- 7) Deepen an appreciation of the profound religious and historical link between Jews and Christians.
- 8) Awaken a deeper appreciation of the role of archaeology.
- 9) Introduce students to the life of St. Francis as a unique response to the love of Christ and Sacred Scripture.

## **Requirements:**

All students will be required to accomplish the following:

- completion of a quarter and final exam for each semester.

- maintain a positive, self-disciplined atmosphere in the classroom
- score a minimum of 60% comprehension of the material.
- completion of a family oral tradition paper (First Semester)
- completion of an archaeology group project (Second Semester)
- completion of an individual "Faces of Israel" project (Second Semester)

### **Evaluation:**

*Grades will be computed as a percentage of the number of points earned vs. possible points, with the following estimates:*

Homework (Written and Reading)	10 points each (average 2-3x's / week)
Notes/Journal Check	50 points (2x's per semester semester)
Quizzes	5-20 points each
Tests	50- 100 points each
Work Habits/Participation	200 points per semester (up front)
Exams	300 points
Family Oral Tradition Paper	50 points (Sem 1)
Many Faces of Israel Response	100 points (Sem 2)
Archaeology Project	300 points (Sem 2)

### **Grade Standards:**

- A 100%-90%
- B 89%-80%
- C 79%-70%
- D 69% - 60%

**The teacher reserves the right to round a grade up from a .5% based on a student's attitude and effort (represented by a clean disciplinary record and no more than two missed assignments).**

### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

A student may pursue a topic of study, or a special project in an area related to the material of the course. These will be announced and posted on the Biblical Lit website, which he may access through Edline. In addition, there will be in-class opportunities through participation in partner competitions. In accordance with school-wide standards, however, total extra credit is limited to 5% of a student's total grade.

### **DISCIPLINE:**

All of the disciplinary guidelines outlined in the *Saint Francis Student Handbook* will be the norm and maintained in this class. Each student is expected to act as a "Golden Knight," respecting the rights, dignity, and property of others. I will follow the procedure of verbal warning, written assignment/ or free time clean-up duty with parental contact. Detention and notification to the dean of discipline will follow this as the final step. (Serious violations, such as cheating, theft, violence etc. will be immediately

referred to the dean of discipline). I will also use your personal *Edline Grade Report* to post information about disciplinary problems.

**You are expected to bring all necessary materials to class every meeting which includes:**

- The Bible **EVERY DAY**
- A three-ringed binder , with paper **EVERY DAY** ( I refer to this as a “Bib Lit Journal”)
- A working pen and #2 pencil (mechanical pencil is preferred) **EVERY DAY**
- A red pen for correcting **EVERY DAY**

**Work Habits grade will be docked 5 points every time a student comes without any of the above.**

#### **LATE WORK:**

I will post homework on the left-hand corner of the board. I expect students to take down the assignment in their planners immediately upon entering the classroom, as well as record the day’s agenda and goals in his biblical lit binder.

**I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK.** *Should a special circumstance arise, a parent note of explanation for the extenuating circumstance will excuse a student, but must be brought or emailed to me the day the assignment is due.* “I forgot,” “My printer didn’t work,” “No one told me,” “I called someone and they told me the wrong assignment.” or, “I didn’t see it on the board” are not valid reasons.

**Absent Students :** If a student has a legitimate absence (including athletics) he is expected to catch up the second class meeting of his return. This applies to any legitimate absence including sporting events.

*I will post homework on the left-hand corner of the board and every student is to take down the assignment in his planner immediately upon entering the classroom while I take attendance.*

#### **MAKE UP TESTS, NOT QUIZZES**

Should a student miss a test, he will be expected to seek out the teacher in a timely manner to make arrangements for a make-up, which will generally take place *after* school. Failure to take care of this in a timely manner will result in a grade of zero. Note that the make-up test may differ significantly from the original in style, but not in substance.

*It is not necessary to make up quizzes. Your next quiz, however, will count double.*

#### **Points of Order:**

**1. Come Prepared Every Day:** A total of two hundred points is earned simply by coming prepared to work with ALL necessary materials. This also means being in your seat and talking only when recognized once class has formally begun. Upon entering the class, you should take your seat and begin to take down the homework assignment and any notes written on the board. A student who is not in dress code, or in his seat, or writing down assignments prior to the prayer will have his *Work Habits* score docked 5 points and may be marked tardy.

2. **Class begins with a prayer.** Any talking without being recognized after the prayer will “volunteer” a student for cleanup duty at lunch or a written assignment. Similarly, **no one is allowed to be out of his seat without permission after this point.** *Do not approach me for questions regarding personal business after the prayer has formally begun class.* I will try to be at the door to greet you when you enter, give you regular “brain breaks,” and may leave time at the end of class for personal business. These would be the appropriate times to discuss individual questions or concerns.
3. **Respect Property** *If it is not yours, don't touch it.* Demonstration animals are not to be handled during class time. NEVER touch anything on my desk, shelves or lectern; they are not student supplies. Students are not allowed to be on or at faculty computers for any reason, unless invited to do so by the teacher.

The same is true of student archaeology projects; again, if it is not yours, do not touch it.

**CELL PHONES,** iPhones, and similar devices are to be kept in the “off” position and placed IN your bookbag; they are not to be in your pocket during class time. A cell phone that rings during class or is outside of a student’s book bag will be handed over to the dean of discipline for parent pick up.

4. **Have Integrity:** Copying someone else’s homework is cheating, for which you will receive a zero. Allowing your work to be copied will be similarly disciplined. I encourage you to do your homework with a partner, so long as you are truly working through it together; *however, the answers must be in your own words.* Copying sentences, paragraphs, or papers from another author without crediting that person is plagiarism and will be awarded a zero.
5. **Take Initiative:** I am extremely patient by nature and am happy to spend ample time in order to clarify questions you might have regarding assignments or course material. It is up to you to help me assist you by raising questions. You can do this in general discussion/lecture time, or if you are shy, individually after class or during a stretch break. “I didn’t get it,” or, “I didn’t understand the assignment,” is NEVER a valid excuse and points only to your lack of effort.
5. **Respect Yourself:** Sloppy work will not be accepted. This includes work that is not headed properly, with full name, block and title. Such work will be given an “F.”
6. **Respect the Process:** The course material is meant to deepen an appreciation for and an understanding of the Catholic faith, including the dignity of others. While I encourage and tremendously value questions and debate, these are always to be carried out in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Every student should seek to articulate an accurate understanding of the rationale behind Catholic teaching, whether he agrees with this or not may be a point of discussion. *In the end, however, it remains a personal matter of conscience; you will be graded on the knowledge you demonstrate, not what you personally believe.*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Block \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read the syllabus and understand that each student will be held to this standard, and is required to record the assignment every day in his planner. It is up to him to clarify any confusion about the assignment with the teacher before leaving school. "I did not understand the assignment" points to a failure on the student's part to engage his initiative and is not an excuse for missing homework. The Biblical Lit website is linked to Edline. It is meant to supplement, not replace classroom communication regarding assignments and course content.*

*Student Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Signature* \_\_\_\_\_