W + W: Spring Semester 2013

**Historical Bible: Can we trust the Scriptures?**

**Week One (1/27): Inspiration** **and the Holy Spirit** What does it mean that the Scriptures are inspired?

**Week Two (2/10): Canonicity** How did the Bible get put together?

 Why did some writings make it into the Bible but some didn’t?

**Week Three (2/17): Authorship** Who wrote the books of the Bible and how do we know?

**Week Four (2/24): Manuscript Reliability** How can we be sure that the writings haven’t been changed?

 Where are the original manuscripts?

**Week Five (3/3): Approaching Scripture (Illumination)** How do we read the Bible? Literally? Figuratively?

 What about the mistakes and contradictions?

**Week Six (3/10): Other holy books** There are hundreds of “holy books.” Why is the Bible the right one?

**Week Seven (3/24): Social/Historical Problems**  Doesn’t the Bible promote slavery?

 Isn’t the Bible oppressive to women?

 Isn’t the Bible out of date on sexuality?

**Week Eight (3/31): The Bible and Science** How do we understand Biblical texts in light of modern science?

 If the Bible is wrong on basic scientific theories, can it be right in other areas?

 (CAREFUL – we are not scientists…)

**Week Nine (4/7): External Sources** Are there any external or “neutral” sources that can validate the Scripture as true?

 Doesn’t it undermine Christianity if only Christians attest to it?

**Week Ten (4/14): The Spread of Christianity** How did the Bible go out into the early church?

 How did Christianity go from local to regional in a few centuries and what can we learn from its spread?

**Week Eleven (4/21): Inerrancy and Circularity** What does it mean that the Bible is without error?

 How is that possible with centuries of revisions?

 Isn’t it circular reasoning to base our belief in God on the Bible?

**Week Twelve (4/28): Popular Criticisms of the Bible** TBD

Resources: We will NOT meet on:

From God to us (Geisler & Nix) & Inerrancy (Geisler) February 3rd: Super Bowl

Is the Bible Intolerant? (Amy Orr-Ewing) March 17th: Spring Break

Can We Trust the Gospels? (Mark Roberts)

Backgrounds of Early Christianity (Ferguson)

The Doctrine of the Word of God (Frame)