

Award in

Biblical Formation

An Introduction to the Bible



Course Description

This course is intended to prepare participants for subsequent study of the Bible by introducing the Bible through a presentation of its various literary forms and categories, basic themes, overall narrative and theological concern and message. Viewed from the perspective of faith, it approaches Scripture as a whole, while remaining faithful to issues regarding human authorship, specifics of historical and cultural context throughout the Bible, and variations in the textual tradition of Scripture as received by the Catholic Church.

Start date: Friday 6th October 2023

End date: Thursday 7th December 2023

Venue: Good Shepherd Pastoral Centre, Victoria

Applications: Application will be accepted up until Friday, September 15th, 2023. One can submit an application online or by downloading it and submitting it to the Gozo Diocese Curia in Victoria.

Course Level: MQF Level 4

Credits: 3ECTS

Lecturer: Fr. Joseph Sultana

Mode of Delivery: Face to face learning

Course Fee: €70

Learning outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- a) gain a better appreciation of the Sacred Scripture, the transmission of its texts, and the development of the concept of a biblical canon regarded as textual revelation from God that comprises both the Old and New Testaments
- b) have a more developed knowledge of the history of the Sacred Scripture books.
- c) identify the broad classes of text in the Bible and explain how those classes of texts are distinguished or defined;
- d) describe the overall narrative thrust of the Bible from Creation to the Eschaton,
- e) identify and describe the major themes of the Bible, in particular, as they appear represented in the variety of texts;
- f) learn the fundamentals of biblical text interpretation
- g) explain what is meant by terms such as Torah, prophecy, psalm, and gospel, not only as classes of text but also as theological concepts.
- h) appreciate how the Bible is used in theology, catechesis and liturgy

Target Group: The course will be available to anyone with an interest in biblical studies, with a special emphasis on those who serve as catechists or lectors in parishes.

Target audience age: 18+

Language: Maltese

Programme duration: 10 weeks

Status: Accredited

Curriculum

1. The Church and the Word of God: *Dei Verbum* and *Verbum Domini*
2. The Word of God as Revelation in and through history
3. The Bible as a literary work, with several authors across time; the original languages
4. The Biblical text and its transmission
5. Inspiration; The Bible as Word of God in human words
6. A comparison of the Catholic and Protestant Bibles
7. The interpretation of a Biblical Text: hermeneutics and exegesis
8. An Introduction to the Old Testament
9. An Introduction to the New Testament
10. The use of Bible in theology, catechesis and liturgy

Entry Requirements

Every application will be considered on its own merits. Participants should have a School Leaving Certificate and be proficient in English and Maltese.

Calendar

The course is delivered over 20 contact hours over 10 weeks. The 2 hour weekly sessions are held on Fridays between 5:30pm and 7:30pm (with the last session being on a Thursday between 5:30pm and 7:30pm).

Lecture dates

Friday 6th October 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 13th October 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 20th October 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 27th October 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 3rd November 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 10th November 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 17th November 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 24th November 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 1st December 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)
Thursday 7th December 2023 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)

Assessment

A 2000 word written assignment

Certification

After the successful completion of the course, participants will receive an Award issued by the Institute of Pastoral Ministry (Lic. 2019-006) accredited by the Malta Further & Higher Education Authority.

A Certificate of Attendance will be awarded to students who have attended at least 80% of the course's contact hours.

A Certificate of Achievement will be awarded to students who have attended at least 80% of the course's contact hours and completed successfully the written assignment.

Teaching and Awarding Institution: Institute for Pastoral Ministry

