

**WML Information Literacy Instruction Assessment 2020-21
Classroom Activity Report – Individual**

Faculty Librarian: Donna Witek

Semester: Fall 2020 and Spring 2021

Course Number and Name: T/RS 121: Theology I: Intro to the Bible

Course Instructor (Last Name): Witek, P.

Date(s) of Information Literacy Instruction: Week of Sep 7 and 3/22/2021

Time(s) of Information Literacy Instruction: N/A and 5:00-6:15pm

Location: Asynchronous Support and Zoom

Number of Students Registered in Course: 33 and 29 (2 sections, one in Fall and one in Spring)

Summary of research assignment or task

Students are tasked with researching and writing a term paper about a biblical topic that integrates 4-5 scholarly sources including the Bible, which can include books, journal articles from scholarly databases, scholarly internet sources, or official promulgations of the Church. Their topics should be rooted in 1-3 biblical passages that address the topic within the Bible, and the additional sources should provide commentary, analysis, and interpretation of those passages and the topic.

I have taught this prep for Dr. Witek for many years; however, this academic year presented the challenge of limited access to the Library's physical collection with Research Services provided exclusively remotely. I needed to adapt teaching research in support of this assignment into a remote-first approach. To aid in this, I curated an online Remote Biblical Research Guide (<https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research>), which steps novice biblical researchers through accessing electronic and licensed biblical resources through the Library. Dr. Witek added me to his LMS course page, where I created a module that provides research strategies customized to this assignment (see first attachment).

He also invited me to assign students to read through the research guide and complete an at-home knowledge check Bible Research Quiz assessment as a way for me to directly assess their knowledge of research and resources related to the Bible. This assignment counted as a quiz in the course, and had the added incentive that students scoring 85 or above on the quiz would have their term paper grade raised by a half letter grade. The Spring 2021 quiz questions are attached (see second attachment) with [a live copy of the quiz accessible here](#).

Of note is the fact that in Fall 2020, I engaged with students exclusively asynchronously over email and through the LMS to assign the research guide and quiz, while in Spring 2021 I was able to teach a synchronous information literacy class the week before they were assigned the research guide and quiz. I am reporting on both semesters to see if the inclusion of a synchronous component makes a difference in the rate of success on the quiz.

Classroom Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – at least one, no more than three

SLO 1: As a result of this information literacy instructional support, students will understand the relationship between the Bible as a primary source and secondary scholarly biblical sources and plan their research process accordingly.

SLO 2: As a result of this information literacy instructional support, students will identify a variety of biblical source types and formats and recognize their strengths and suitability for their research needs.

SLO 3: As a result of this information literacy instructional support, students will practice using the Library's search tools and resources to find a relevant and appropriate source about a given biblical topic.

How will you know how students are doing as they work toward meeting these outcomes?

SLO 1: Students learn this through the LMS module content I created for them, but assessing their demonstration of this learning is best done through their term paper submissions and an evaluation of how students structure their discussion in relation to their stated topic, relevant biblical passages, and the additional scholarly sources used.

SLO 2: The majority of the Bible Research Quiz assesses this SLO, so student performance on the quiz is a reliable indicator of what they have learned related to this.

SLO 3: Question 14 of the Bible Research Quiz (“You are researching the topic of repentance as represented in the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. Use the Remote Biblical Research Guide ... to find one possible and relevant source for your research. Generate a citation for the source in MLA format, and copy/paste the citation here.”) maps directly to this SLO, so student performance on this question provides evidence of this SLO; in addition, their success at finding and using appropriate sources in their term paper submissions would also demonstrate their proficiency at this SLO.

Based on your experience teaching this class and any assessment of student work you were able to do, what can you change next time to improve how you teach it? Or, what was successful that you want to be sure to do again the next time you teach it?

The primary source of evidence of my SLOs I can report on here is student performance on the Bible Research Quiz:

Fall 2020:

- There are 32 quiz submissions from this section of the course.
- All 32 submissions scored 85 or above, with 10 students scoring 100, indicating success on the quiz and on SLO 2 by all students who submitted a quiz for grading.
- On Question 14, 24 students received full credit, 3 students received partial credit, and 5 students received no credit. This suggests that many though not all students in this section (24 out of 32) demonstrated success at SLO 3.
- The class mean quiz score was 97.

Spring 2021:

- There are 25 quiz submissions from this section of the course.
- All 25 submissions scored 85 or above, with 8 students scoring 100, indicating success on the quiz and on SLO 2 by all students who submitted a quiz for grading.
- On Question 14, 21 students received full credit, 2 students received partial credit, and 2 students received no credit. This suggests that the majority of students in this section (21 out of 25) demonstrated success at SLO 3.
- The class mean quiz score was 98.

Note that the above data does not include point deductions for late submissions (1 student in Fall and 3 students in Spring); their scores before the late submission point deduction were counted in the above assessment. The above also excludes students who did not submit a quiz at all (1 student in Fall and 4 students in Spring).

Overall, students performed well on the Bible Research Quiz. Student performance on the quiz, including Question 14, was slightly better in Spring 2021 than in Fall 2020, which could be attributed to the synchronous instruction I provided in that semester. In particular, my instruction focused on modeling the process of finding sources about a given biblical topic. I surmise that having exposure to a live model search process is a benefit to students. Should I teach this prep again, I will advocate for synchronous instruction, whether in person or remotely delivered, so students are able to see in action the concepts presented in the LMS module and the online research guide and ask any questions they may have.

Information Literacy Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) – at least one, no more than four – this information literacy instruction supports

PLO2: Students will gain insight and understanding about diverse sources of information in order to evaluate and use resources appropriately for their information needs.

PLO3: Students will identify the appropriate level of scholarship among publication types (scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines, websites, etc.) in order to critically evaluate the usefulness of the information for their research need.

PLO4: Students will articulate the key elements in their research questions in order to develop and execute a search strategy.

Parameters for the Term Paper:

- 8-10 pages (not including bibliography page), double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins
- 4-5 *scholarly* sources, one of which should be your Bible with its study guides
- Quote from and cite your sources throughout the paper, and include a bibliography at the end of the paper that includes the sources you cite.
- **See [Term Paper Guidelines](#) to view the complete assignment sheet for this paper.**

Research Strategies:

- Begin your research with the Bible. Identify sections and passages from the Bible that focus on your topic.
- Note the biblical book, chapter, and verse range for these sections. Use these *scriptural citations* to help you search for secondary sources.
 - Example: **Ephesians 5:22-33**
 - In the example, the biblical book is **Ephesians**, the chapter within that book is **5**, and the verses within that chapter are **22-33**.
- Once you have 1-3 scriptural citations that provide biblical examples of your topic, search for additional scholarly sources using the [Remote Biblical Research Guide](#) found at this link.

Bible Research Quiz - Spring 2021

The following quiz is designed to check your knowledge after you have read through the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research>. Some questions will require you to use the guide to do a research task before you can answer the question.

Questions about this quiz can be sent to Prof. Donna Witek, Research and Instruction Librarian for Theology/Religious Studies, at donna.witek@scranton.edu.

* Required

1. Email *

2. Student Name *

3 points

3. Instructor Last Name for Course in Which this Quiz was Assigned *

2 points

4. By selecting each of the following, you acknowledge that you have visited that part of the Remote Biblical Research Guide and have read through the information provided there. * 55 points

Check all that apply.

- Home: Remote Biblical Research: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/home>
- Online Bibles: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/online-bibles>
- EBOOKS Available Through the Library: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/ebooks>
- Full-Text Biblical Reference Books: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/reference-books>
- EBOOK Commentaries: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/commentaries>
- EBOOK Criticism and Interpretation: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/criticism-interpretation>
- Library Databases for Biblical Research: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/databases>
- Oxford Biblical Studies Online: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/oxford-biblical-studies-online>
- Citing Biblical Scholarship: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/citing-biblical-scholarship>
- Citing the Bible: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/citing-the-bible>
- Ways to Get Further Help: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/ways-to-get-help>

5. What is the step you need to take before you begin your research so that your internet browser knows you are a student at the University of Scranton? (Hint: If you're not sure, consult the Home tab of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/home>) * 4 points

6. Which of the following genres of biblical scholarship is easy-to-use, provides direct commentary on either a particular book of the Bible or the Bible as a whole, and is organized by scriptural citation? (Hint: If you're not sure, consult the Home tab of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/home>) * 4 points

Mark only one oval.

- Bible Criticism and Interpretation
- Bible Commentary
- Biblical Scholarly Journal Article
- Biblical Reference Books

7. Which of the following are true of EBOOKS made available through the Library? (Hint: If you're not sure, consult the Home tab of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/home>) * 4 points

Mark only one oval.

- Refers to "electronic book"
- Is a filter within the Library Catalog
- Can be read in full online when accessed through the Library
- All of the above

8. You are beginning your research and looking for overview and background information about the concept of "covenant" in the Bible. Which of the following sources would be the best place to find this information? (Hint: If you're not sure, consult the Full-Text Biblical Reference Books section of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/reference-books>) *
- 4 points

Mark only one oval.

- Dictionary.com
- The Oxford Dictionary of the Bible
- Wikipedia
- Atlas of the Bible, Andromeda

9. You would like to consult a Bible commentary in order to better understand the Creation account in Genesis 1-2. Which of the following EBOOKS would enable you to do this? Check all that apply. (Hint: If you're not sure, consult the EBOOK Commentaries section of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/commentaries>) *
- 4 points

Check all that apply.

- New Collegeville Bible Commentary: New Testament (<http://rose.scranton.edu/login?url=https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/scranton-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4837474>)
- The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary (<http://rose.scranton.edu/login?url=https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/scranton-ebooks/detail.action?docID=6122844>)
- The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament (<http://rose.scranton.edu/login?url=https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/scranton-ebooks/detail.action?docID=2029824>)
- Genesis as Dialogue: A Literary, Historical, & Theological Commentary (<http://rose.scranton.edu/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/0195138368.001.0001>)

10. True or False: Books that contain Bible criticism and interpretation are always organized by scriptural citation. (Hint: If you're not sure, consult the EBOOK Criticism and Interpretation section of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/criticism-interpretation>) * 4 points

Mark only one oval.

- True
 False

11. If you want to find biblical scholarly journal articles about your topic or passage, select the library database in the dropdown menu that would be the best place to search, out of those listed. (Hint: If you're not sure, consult the Library Databases for Biblical Research section of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/databases>) * 4 points

Mark only one oval.

- PsycARTICLES
 ProQuest Social Science Journals
 ScienceDirect
 ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials Plus

12. Out of the following options, what is the simplest way to generate a draft citation for a remote biblical scholarly source you plan to use in your paper? 4 points
(Hint: If you're not sure, consult the Citing Biblical Scholarship section of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/citing-biblical-scholarship>) *

Mark only one oval.

- Send a link to the source to a librarian through the Ask a Librarian chat box and ask them to create a citation for you.
- Use the "Cite" button located in the platform where you are viewing the source.
- Type the title of the source into Google.
- Take a cell phone pic of the screen where you are viewing the source and embed that into your paper.

13. What is one way to get further help from a librarian about biblical research? 4 points
(Hint: If you're not sure, consult the Ways to Get Further Help section of the Remote Biblical Research Guide: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research/ways-to-get-help>) *

14. You are researching the topic of repentance as represented in the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. Use the Remote Biblical Research Guide (<https://guides.library.scranton.edu/remote-biblical-research>) to find one possible and relevant source for your research. Generate a citation for the source in MLA format, and copy/paste the citation here. *

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