

Prospective Outline Syllabus

I. General Introduction to a rather General Course

A. Some basic notes and ideas

1. Regarding the syllabus:

Basically there isn't one. It has proved nearly impossible for me, over the years, to develop a syllabus of any proportion before the course is taught. An outline syllabus is developed and then the class is taught from that for a year or so...and eventually fuller syllabus forms appear. That is where we are in this class...only the fledgling or outline syllabus will appear and it will be more or less full depending on how things go. I may have a few pages every week and if you miss a class it will be important for you to ascertain from some other student whether you are missing some material or not. Don't ask me...I never know those things. But if you tell me what you are lacking I will know where to get what you need!

2. A look at the formal academic syllabus outline:

This is the content of appendix I...we will look at it for a few minutes...look enough to satisfy us that it exists...short enough so as not to be filled with a deep loathing of all academic pursuits.

3. The character of this course:

It is a "survey" as you know and we have already seen its objectives in Appendix I. It moves quickly and it is important that you be able to move with it. It will be necessary for you to stay current as much as possible. The course is ferociously general and I am reminded that the basic description of any good survey course is that it is (a) general in character (b) superficial in content and (c) mediocre in execution. If it fails in any of these it becomes a content course and will never "cover the material"...the thing that a survey course is supposed to do better than anything else.

4. Of the assignments:

Details are in appendix II. Basically there are three forms of assignments: Bible reading, Bible Memory, Bible projects...and the reading of the text. The text, incidentally, is William Hendricksen: SURVEY OF THE BIBLE. You will not need to read the entire work and will have your guidance on the assignment pages of Appendix II. Let's stop and look at that for a moment...or so in order that you can see what I expect of you. Remember our objectives and you will see that the assignments comprise a corps of material designed to give you increased familiarity with the Old Testament as well as strengthened proficiency in its use.

5. Of class and the presence of students:

Please try to be with us. If you cannot make it I would appreciate a call. If you call and it looks like a "heavy" hour we might be able to tape the class for you. Note the word "might" but....