

Frequently Asked Questions

“On *Learning Suite* it gives a different date for an assignment (or a quiz or exam) than what is posted on the schedule on the syllabus. Which one is the right date?”

The syllabus is always correct! In cases where *Learning Suite* gives a different date for an assignment (or a quiz or exam) always follow the syllabus. Sometimes *Learning Suite* automatically gives a default deadline for an assignment that is not accurate. If you follow the syllabus you will have no problems. This is especially the case with the “Final Exam” where *Learning Suite* typically assigns a specific day and time whereas the syllabus will state that it is during finals week. Remember, always follow the schedule on the syllabus and be sure to regularly check it to ensure you do not miss any course assignments!

“What is the attendance policy for the class?”

After the add/drop period the first couple of weeks of the semester, and once the class roll is set, attendance will then be taken every class. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they sign the roll for every class. As per the syllabus there are deductions for missed classes (see syllabus for specific information) and students can fail the course for excessive unexcused absences. Also, if students sign the attendance roll and then leave class before it is finished, whether this is 30 minutes early, 20 minutes early, or just 5 minutes early, they will not be counted even if they signed the roll at the start of class. To have attendance count it is expected that students will be present for the entire duration of the class. Students who arrive at class more than 10 minutes late will not be counted for attendance on that day and should not sign the roll.

“If I forgot to sign the roll during one class period, can I sign in the next class?”

No. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they sign the roll every class. If they miss the roll during class for some reason, they should come up directly after class and sign the roll as I will permit this.

“Is the ‘Final Exam’ or ‘Midterm Exam #3,’ taken during finals week, cumulative?”

No, this exam only covers the last third of the course. The essay question, however, which is already posted on the study guide, can be written on any part of the course depending on how the student wishes to address the question.

“Are exams open book or open scriptures?”

No. When you take the exam you may not have notes or use your scriptures, but rest assured that on exams I will not be asking specific questions about what a verse says like: “What does it say in Romans 8:13?”

“Are exams and quizzes handed back to students?”

All exams and quizzes are not handed back to students; response papers, however, are handed back. I do not hand back papers because I do not want to have to write a new exam/quiz every semester. Students are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to meet with the professor during office hours to look at their exams/quizzes and ask questions.

“What is the best way to get a hold of the professor if I have a question?”

The best way to get a hold of me outside of class is via email. As a rule of thumb, when I get an email I try to be back in touch within 24 hours. I do not check, nor respond, to messages posted on the *Learning Suite* messaging. My TA, however, will check these messages and will provide response. If you want to get a hold of me or ask a question outside of class use email.

“If I am sick and miss class is it automatically excused?”

No. If you want an absence excused and you are sick you must provide medical documentation (i.e. a doctor's note).

“Is there a grade curve in the class?”

No.

“If I forget to take an exam or a quiz during the testing period can I take it at a later date at a reduced grade?”

No. Students are expected to take exams and quizzes during the scheduled period when they are offered. Failure to do so will result in a 0 grade for the exam. However, students who miss the exam with an excused reason (i.e. university sanctioned activity, sickness with medical documentation, etc.) will of course be allowed to take the exam at a later date with no grade reduction. In such cases students should make their best effort to make the professor aware of such circumstances in a timely manner, preferably before the testing period.

“How can I do well in this course? What advice do you have?”

This course is not so much a sprint as it is a marathon, therefore, put in a consistent effort throughout (from the first to last class) and stay on top of scheduled readings and assignments. I have posted the Study Guides for the exams so you should print them off at the start of a unit, bring to class, and use them as the basis for note taking as well as your study. Also, bring a hard copy of scriptures to every class, make notes in them as we are discussing passages in the text, as this will greatly help with exams and especially your personal scripture study. Finally, take the class seriously from the start and put in the required effort to do well! I find that some students only begin to take the class seriously after they do poorly on the first midterm or quiz; however, instead of waiting to get a bad grade (which will stay with you throughout the semester) put in the effort from the start. I assure you that you will get out of this class what you put into this class!