

RELIGION C 324 DOCTRINE & COVENANTS, SECTIONS 1-76

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Office: 2147 JFSB

Office Hours: T, 1:30-3:00 p.m., W 2:00-4:00 pm

Winter 2017

Section 002 (JSB 174)

TTh, 8:00-8:50 a.m.

Section 012 (JSB 170)

TTh, 12:00-12:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the historical and theological content and significance of the first 76 sections included in the current *Doctrine and Covenants*.

COURSE FORMAT AND OBJECTIVES:

The primary aim of this class is to enrich our understanding of the *Doctrine and Covenants*. To that end, together we will deconstruct the *Doctrine and Covenants* as we know it today, in an attempt to understand each revelation as originally given, presented, and received. We will thus approach each section as a historical text, interrogating its historical context(s) and then considering its larger significance (including its publication history and interpretive significance in LDS thought).

Students are expected to learn the people, places, and events mentioned in the several revelations, but the more important objective is to learn to approach texts historically and to consider what we can learn and how we can benefit, both intellectually and spiritually, from that new understanding.

Students are expected to read each section assigned closely and come to class prepared to discuss and learn.

Per the University's stated student learning outcomes, all reading, lectures, and classroom discussion is aimed at "assist[ing] individuals in their quest for perfection and eternal life by providing an education that is (1) spiritually strengthening, (2)

intellectually enlarging, (3) character building, and (4) leading to lifelong learning and service.”

REQUIRED TEXTS:

In order to facilitate our understanding of the *Doctrine and Covenants* in proper historical context, we will use transcripts of the earliest extant version of each revelation as our class text. In some cases, that is a handwritten manuscript; in others, it is the revelation as originally published in the *Book of Commandments*. The *Joseph Smith Papers Project* has helpfully made available digitized images of the original manuscripts and corresponding transcriptions of each on its website, which you can view [here](#). I have also uploaded to BYU Learning Suite a PDF file of all transcriptions in chronological order. It can be found under Reading Materials >> DC-Source-Texts.pdf.

Students are welcome (*but not required*) to also read each revelation as published in the most recent (2013) printing of the *Doctrine and Covenants* by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or in the version available at scriptures.lds.org or in the LDS Library App.

Other reading assignments—typically short articles and essays (10-25 pages)—will be uploaded to Learning Suite under Reading Materials. *Students are not required to purchase any materials for this class.*

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

There are five graded components to this course:

1. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION – 15%

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate in class discussion. This necessitates reading the assigned material before class and coming prepared to critically and thoughtfully discuss it with both your classmates and myself. I will take roll regularly throughout the semester. I reserve the right to adjust borderline grades up or down based on attendance and participation in class discussion.

Students may miss up to four class periods without being penalized, though you are responsible for any material missed in case of absence. Your final grade will be penalized one point for each class period missed after that.

2. READING QUIZZES – 10%

There will be several short reading quizzes administered at the beginning of class every other Thursday, beginning January 19. Each will consist of between three (3) and five (5) questions asking you to identify people, places, events, and/or other information from that day's readings.

3. MIDTERM EXAMINATION – 15%

In-class exam, covering all items covered in class and assigned readings up to that time and consisting of several multiple choice and short IDs.

4. FINAL EXAMINATION – 25%

Includes all material covered in class and assigned readings for the semester and consisting of several multiple choice and short IDs.

5. GENERAL CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENT – 5%

Watch General Conference (Saturday, March 25; Saturday, April 1; Sunday, April 2) and take note of instances where speakers reference or quote the *Doctrine and Covenants*. Select one such instance and write a one-page paper describing how the speaker used the passage: What point was the speaker using the passage to illustrate? Did she/he provide any historical context? How did their usage differ from how early Latter-day Saints might have understood the passage?

6. RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT(S) – 30%

Complete one of the following two options:

Option 1:

Select two sections from the first half (sections 1-76) of the *Doctrine and Covenants*. Research each revelation's history and significance, and write a new historical

introduction to the revelation. In addition, provide annotation for all individuals, places, and events mentioned, as well as significant teachings or doctrines discussed in the revelation. Those annotations should be included as footnotes. Your revised historical introduction and annotated revelations will be due at the beginning of class on **(OPTION 1A)** and **(OPTION 1B)**, respectively. Each will count for 15% of your total grade.

Option 2:

Research and write one 5-6 page research paper (**RESEARCH PAPER**) in which the student selects a section from the first half (sections 1-76) of the *Doctrine and Covenants* and investigates its history and significance more deeply. The paper should identify all major people, places, and events mentioned, address the historical context that led to the revelation, and discuss its reception, publication history, and overall significance in Latter-day Saint scripture, history, and theology. A good paper will discuss not only what changes have been made (textually and interpretively) over the years, but also the importance of those changes: What do they tell us? Why do they matter? You must consult and cite at least two outside sources.

Papers should include a brief heading (student's name, class section number, and date should suffice) and title, and should be double-spaced, 12-pt. standard font, with 1-inch margins. All source citations should be footnoted following the rules of the *Chicago Manual of Style* (see [here](#) for a Citation Quick Guide).

Due dates are included on the course schedule below. **Papers/Assignments must be submitted electronically via Learning Suite before the start of class on their due date. Students will be penalized 5 points for each day that they are late. No assignments will be accepted more than 5 days late.**

A NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

You are welcome to use laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices in class for taking notes and/or viewing reading materials. Each of us learns differently and takes notes differently. Please do your best to not distract the class or your fellow students. To that end, please silence your electronic devices and use them only to take notes or access course materials. As a former student and a current instructor, please rest assured that I can tell when you are facebooking, tweeting, snapchatting, instagramming, Pokemon GO-ing, or using any other social media app or game, or reading material not relevant to this class.

Honor Code: In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

Preventing Sexual Harassment: Sexual discrimination or harassment (including student-to-student harassment) is prohibited both by the law and by Brigham Young University policy. If you feel you are being subjected to sexual discrimination or harassment, please bring your concerns to the professor. Alternatively, you may lodge a complaint with the Equal Employment Office (D-240C ASB) or with the Honor Code Office (4440 WSC).

Students With Disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, you should contact the University Accessibility Center (2170 WSC). This office can evaluate your situation and assist the professor in arranging for reasonable accommodations.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- January 10 *Introduction, History of the Doctrine and Covenants*
- January 12 *July 1828 (D&C 3), Feb. 1829 (D&C 4), March 1829 (D&C 5)*
- January 17 *April 1829 (D&C 6, 8, 7, 9)*
- January 19 *Spring 1829 (D&C 10); May 1829 (D&C 11, 12)*
Reading Quiz #1
- January 24 *June 1829 (D&C 14, 18, 15, 16)*
- January 26 *June 1829, contd. (D&C 17); Summer 1829 (D&C 19)*
- January 31 *April 1830 (D&C 20)*
- February 2 *6 April 1830 (D&C 21, 23); 16 April 1830 (D&C 22)*
Reading Quiz #2
- February 7 *July 1830 (D&C 24, 26, 25); Aug. 1830 (D&C 27)*
- February 9 *Sept. 1830 (D&C 29, 28, 30, 31)*
Research Assignment OPTION 1A DUE
- February 14 *Oct. 1830 (D&C 32, 33); 4 Nov. 1830 (D&C 34)*
- February 16 *7 Dec. 1830 (D&C 35); 9 Dec. 1830 (D&C 36); 30 Dec. 1830 (D&C 37)*
Reading Quiz #3

- February 23 *1830 (D&C 74); 2 Jan. 1831 (D&C 38); 5 Jan. 1831 (D&C 39); 6 Jan. 1831 (D&C 40)*
- February 28 *4 Feb. 1831 (D&C 41); Feb. 1831 (D&C 43, 44)*
- March 2 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION – IN CLASS**
- March 7 *9, 23 Feb. (D&C 42)*
- March 9 *7 March 1831 (D&C 45); 8 March 1831 (D&C 46, 47); 10 March 1831 (D&C 48)*
Reading Quiz #4
- March 14 *7 May 1831 (D&C 49); 9 May 1831 (D&C 50); 20 May 1831 (D&C 51)*
RESEARCH PAPER DUE
- March 16 *6 June 1831 (D&C 52); 8 June *D&C 53); 10 June 1831 (D&C 54)*
- March 21 *14 June 1831 (D&C 55); 15 June 1831 (D&C 56); 20 July 1831 (D&C 57)*
- March 23 *1 Aug. 1831 (D&C 58); 8 Aug. 1831 (D&C 59); 8 Aug. 1831 (D&C 60)*
Reading Quiz #5
- March 28 *12 Aug. 1831 (D&C 61); 13 Aug. 1831 (D&C 62); 30 Aug. 1831 (D&C 63)*
Research Assignment OPTION 1B DUE

March 30	<i>11 Sept. 1831 (D&C 64); 29 Oct. 1831 (D&C 66); 30 Oct. 1831 (D&C 65)</i>
April 4	NO CLASS - Work on General Conference Assignment
April 6	<i>1 Nov. 1831 (D&C 1); 2 Nov. 1831 (D&C 67)</i> General Conference Assignment Due Reading Quiz #6
April 11	<i>11 Nov. 1831 (D&C 69); 12 Nov. 1831 (D&C 70); 1 Dec. 1831 (D&C 71); 4 Dec. 1831 (D&C 72)</i>
April 13	<i>10 Jan. 1832 (D&C 73); 25 Jan. 1831 (D&C 75); 16 Feb. 1832 (D&C 76)</i>
April 18	<i>1838-39 (D&C 2, 13)</i>

FINAL EXAMINATION

SECTION 002: SATURDAY, APRIL 22 – 7:00-10:00 AM

SECTION 012: TUESDAY, APRIL 25 – 11:00 AM-2:00 PM