

Ambassador Bible College

COURSE CATALOG







AMBASSADOR BIBLE COLLEGE

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For further information:

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Mission Statement

The mission of Ambassador Bible College (ABC), sponsored by the United Church of God, *an International Association*, is to diligently uphold and faithfully teach the truths of God, as found in the Bible, to equip disciples of Jesus Christ for a life of faithfulness and godly service.

To accomplish this mission, ABC has appointed skilled instructors to lead the students through a systematic study of the Holy Scriptures and related topics. It is intended that those who receive these teachings will be better equipped to explain the precious understanding of God's truth to others.

Ambassador Bible College Outcomes

Some important key outcomes of the biblical studies program are:

- To be committed to the core values and fundamental doctrines of the Bible.
- To internalize God's truth and implement biblical principles in one's life.
- To build godly character through personal spiritual growth.
- To be prepared to give an answer and defend one's faith.
- To understand oneself and others better.
- To serve God and humanity zealously.
- To set an example of Christian leadership.
- To learn leadership qualities.



Program Description

ABC provides a dynamic, concentrated series of classes covering the entire Bible. ABC seeks not only to teach students the truths of God as revealed in His Word, but to encourage students to develop godly character by applying them in their lives. They will then be able to better explain those truths to others by their examples and words. Students may be challenged by the program’s intensity, but the opportunity to be instructed systematically through the Scriptures should be seen as a “pearl of great price.” Upon successful completion of the program, students receive a diploma in biblical studies.

The ABC year runs from August to May. Each class day consists of seven hours of instruction. Classes are taught by experienced faculty members from the United Church of God. In addition to instructional time, there are ample opportunities for social interaction, service and leadership. Students may choose from a number of extracurricular activities. Since the ABC program is located within the home office of the United Church of God, students also become familiar with the daily operations of the Church and interact daily with the administration and staff.

The class day begins with breakfast from 7:45-8:15 a.m. Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. Most classes last 50 minutes, with a 10-minute break between periods. Students have a one-hour lunch break, though students serving in the Chorale or on the Student Council will have obligations during some lunch breaks (note Sample Schedule 2 below). Unlike most other colleges, students at ABC are required to take all offered courses, so all students progress through the day’s classes together.

Sample Schedule 1

7:45-8:15	Breakfast
8:30-10:20	Pentateuch
10:30-11:20	Doctrines
11:30-12:20	Doctrines
12:30-1:20	Lunch Break
1:30-2:20	General Epistles
2:30-3:20	Minor Prophets
3:30-4:20	Comparative Religion

Sample Schedule 2

7:45-8:15	Breakfast
8:30-10:20	Former Prophets
10:30-11:20	Acts
11:30-12:20	Practical Christianity
12:30-1:20	Lunch Break (Student Council 12:45-1:25)
1:30-2:20	General Epistles
2:30-3:20	Minor Prophets
3:30-4:20	Chorale

Enrollment Requirements

ABC is a coeducational institution; qualified students are accepted without prejudice. While ABC is sponsored by the United Church of God, prospective students from other affiliations are welcome to apply to the program. ABC is pleased to welcome participants from high school graduates to retirees.

You should consider enrolling if you:

- Have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Love God's truth and desire to gain a deeper understanding of the Bible.
- Have a desire to learn to lead and serve others.
- Have the commitment and vision to devote an academic year to an in-depth study of the Bible.
- Can find a way to meet financial obligations (tuition and living expenses).
- Are mature enough to manage personal living arrangements.

Note for International Applicants:

Acceptance to the program does not guarantee your ability to come to ABC. Visas are required for non-US citizens enrolling in ABC. We suggest that you contact us and apply early for your visa, as obtaining a visa often takes up to six months. International students must follow laws and visa requirements for arrival and departure.



Expenses

Tuition is \$2,500 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch each class day of the academic year. Married couples who attend ABC together pay only a single tuition fee of \$2,500. While tuition covers a portion of the costs of a student's education, ABC is supported by the United Church of God, which underwrites most of the expenses.

Tuition for accepted students is due by August 15. If tuition has not been received by the beginning of the first day of classes, the student's admission may be cancelled for non-payment.

Tuition Waivers:

A limited number of partial tuition waivers are available. Email abc_info@ucg.org for a waiver request form. Waiver applications are considered based on individual need and pastoral recommendation.

Students are responsible for arranging and financing their own housing, transportation and other living expenses. Many students choose to share housing and/or carpool to reduce personal expense, and some also choose to work part-time.

Refund Policy

If a student needs to withdraw from the program after paying the tuition, the refund will be 100 percent in the first week of classes, 75 percent in the second week, 50 percent in the third week and 25 percent in the fourth week. No refund will be available after the fourth week.

Estimate of Expenses

Below is a conservative sample budget, though individual needs vary.

Tuition*	\$2,500
Supplies	\$100
Housing and utilities**	\$3,800-5,900
Groceries (\$30-50 a week)	\$1,080-1,800
Transportation	\$800-1,900
Entertainment and misc.	<u>\$400-600</u>
	\$8,680-12,800

* Tuition includes breakfast and lunch each class day for the nine-month period.

**Nine months at \$420/month to \$650/month (sharing housing).

Admissions Process

Applications to attend ABC should be submitted by no later than Aug. 1 (but earlier is better!).

You can fill out an application online or download it at:
ucg.org/members/abc/apply.

Completed applications can be emailed to **abc_admissions@ucg.org** or printed out and sent to:

Ambassador Bible College
555 Techne Center Dr.
Milford, OH 45150

Once an application is received, our admissions team will ask the applicant's pastor to submit an evaluation; this evaluation is considered part of the application. After this is complete, the application will be reviewed by a committee of ABC faculty before the director of admissions makes a final decision.



Upon approval, an applicant will receive an acceptance letter and other useful information to help him or her prepare. Students who have been accepted may apply for a tuition waiver if financial need exists; forms can be requested at abc_admissions@ucg.org.

Accepted students should plan to begin the ABC program at the beginning of the year and to attend both semesters. In exceptional circumstances, applications for enrollment beginning in the second semester will be considered. Such applications will not be considered if 40 or more students are already enrolled, and tuition waivers are not available to these applicants.

Questions? Abc_info@ucg.org or call us at 513-576-9796!

Academic Policies

The following provides an overview of our policies. More detailed information is provided in the Student Handbook.

Class Attendance and Assignments

All students are expected to be prompt and regular in class attendance. Absences should be explained to the registrar, and absences with appropriate explanation will be excused. Students are expected to fulfill all classroom assignments in a timely fashion.

Grading Policy

The syllabus for each course will explain the grading policy for that particular course. Grades will be based on one or more of the following standards of performance:

- Objective or subjective testing
- Written assignments
- Oral presentations
- Class participation
- Attendance

Courses consisting of 20 classroom hours or less will be graded on a pass/fail basis. All other courses will be graded on the basis of percentage scoring of required tests, assignments and attendance. A minimum score of 65 percent will be required for a student to receive credit for the class.

Graduation Requirements

A student must earn credit for at least 90 percent of the credit hours available in the program to receive a diploma of biblical studies. Students not receiving a diploma will not be recognized at commencement activities.

Scheduled Courses

THL 105/BUS 105 Public Speaking I. Prepares the student for elements of public speaking. Lectures on voice and tone, use of humor and facts and tips on overcoming anxiety. Students will learn proper speech organization. Each student will give a heart-to-heart speech and a demonstration speech. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 106/BUS 106 Public Speaking II. Continuing progression of speaking with color and clarity and the effective use of props and electronic media. Students will learn the elements of critical evaluation. Speeches include: unique experience, company representative, sermonette/biblical personality. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 107 Orientation to the Bible. Study of the geography of the areas in which the authors of the Bible lived and the setting of their accounts, and an overview of the Bible and its chronology. **Credit hours: .5**

THL 109/HIST 109 Former Prophets. Overview of the books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles in their historical context and theological meaning. **Credit hours: 3.0**

THL 111 Survey of the Gospels I. Study and analysis of the first half of the four Gospels, describing the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Emphasis is given to understanding the cultural context of Christ's work and the calling of His disciples. **Credit hours: 3.0**

THL 112 Survey of the Gospels II. Study and analysis of the latter half of the four Gospels, describing the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Emphasis is given to Christ's parables and the events of His crucifixion. **Credit hours: 3.0**

THL 113 Epistles of Paul I. Paul's life, writings and teachings, including the background, purpose, message and themes of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1 and 2 Corinthians. **Credit hours: 4.0**

THL 114 Epistles of Paul II. Paul's life and writings, including Romans, the Prison Epistles, Hebrews and the Pastoral Epistles. **Credit hours: 4.0**

THL 115 Doctrines of the Bible I. Study and analysis of doctrine and why sound doctrine is important. Explores the development of doctrinal belief in the United Church of God. Systematic exposition of the first 10 Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God, an International Association. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 116 Doctrines of the Bible II. Systematic exposition of the last 10 doctrines included in the Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God, an International Association. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 117/HIST 117 Post-Exilic Writings. Study of the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther within their historical context. The class will examine how these writings relate to other books of the Bible and provide lessons for modern Christians. **Credit hours: .5**

THL 121 Book of Daniel. Survey of historical events in relation to prophecy. Explores how prophecy and world events connect to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. Overview of the importance of the Middle East and the state of Israel in history and prophecy. Includes a comprehensive, verse-by-verse analysis of the book of Daniel. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 122 Book of Revelation. Study of how Europe and the story of religion and state power connect to prophecy. Explains the importance of English-speaking peoples to the modern world and the prophetic narrative. Includes a comprehensive, verse-by-verse analysis of Revelation. **Credit hours: 2.0**



THL 131 Acts of the Apostles I. Thorough exposition of the development of the early Church as given in the book of Acts. **Credit hours: 1.0**

THL 132 Acts of the Apostles II. Thorough exposition of the development of the early Church as given in the book of Acts. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 140/BUS 140 Personal and Family Finance. Budgeting and financial planning for success in marriage and life. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 201 Fundamentals of Theology. Examination of the unity of the Bible, its great themes and its teachings on God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, redemption and salvation. **Credit hours: .5**

THL 215/HIST 215 Early Church History. Study of the first century Christian Church and how it was affected by social and political forces. Of special note will be the substantial doctrinal debate and changes during that period. **Credit hours: 1.0**

THL 251 Practical Christianity I. Interactive study and discussion of the principles of Scripture in a Christian's life. Attention will be given to spiritual matters such as building a relationship with God through prayer and Bible study, observation of weekly and annual Sabbaths and service to God's people. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 252 Practical Christianity II. Interactive study and discussion of the principles of Scripture in a Christian's life. Attention will be given to making sound decisions regarding lifestyle choices and building interpersonal relationships. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 301 Pentateuch I. Study of the first two books of the Pentateuch, focusing on God's creation, the history of the patriarchs and the establishment of the nation of Israel. **Credit hours: 3.0**

THL 302 Pentateuch II. Study of the latter three books of the Pentateuch, focusing on the establishment of Israel's civil and ritual law, Israel's wilderness wandering and preparation for the conquest of the Promised Land. **Credit hours: 3.0**

THL 303 Apologetics I. Study of the intellectual and biblical answers that Christians may use to counter objections and criticisms of their faith with focus on God's existence and the Bible as the Word of God. **Credit hours: 1.0**

THL 304 Apologetics II. Study of the intellectual and biblical answers that Christians may use to counter objections and criticisms of their faith with focus on the resurrection, miracles and creation. **Credit hours: 1.0**

THL 403 Major Prophets. Study of the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, with emphasis on the mission and role of each prophet and the relevance of their prophecies. **Credit hours: 3.0**

THL 405 General Epistles. Study of the historical setting, purpose and central theme of each epistle and its relationship to Christian faith and practice. **Credit hours: 3.0**

THL 408 Minor Prophets. Study of the 12 Minor Prophets with their historical background and prophetic meaning. **Credit hours: 3.0**

THL 411/LIT 411 Wisdom Literature I. Study of the Bible's poetry and wisdom writings in the books of Psalms and Job, emphasizing their nature and relevance to Christianity. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 412/LIT 412 Wisdom Literature II. Study of the Bible's poetry and wisdom writings, principally found in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon, with emphasis on their nature and relevance for Christianity. **Credit hours: 2.0**

THL 431 Comparative Religion I. Review of the world's major religions and the beliefs of each compared with Scripture. **Credit hours: 1.0**

THL 432 Comparative Religion II. Review of the history of the major Christian denominations and the beliefs of each compared with Scripture. **Credit hours: 1.0**

Faculty and Administration

Administration

John Elliott

President, United Church of God, *an International Association*

Frank E. Dunkle

ABC Coordinator, Director of Admissions

Steven C. Myers

Dean of Faculty

Aaron K. Dean

Dean of Students, Alumni Affairs/Continuing Education

Katherine Rowland

Administrative Assistant, Registrar



Resident Instructors

Chad Browning, Assistant Chorale Director
Diploma of Biblical Studies (2019), Ambassador Bible College

Aaron K. Dean, Assistant Professor of Business and Theology
B.A. (1974), Ambassador College; M.B.A. (1990),
California State University, Los Angeles
Courses usually taught: BUS/THL 105/106, BUS/THL 140

Frank E. Dunkle, Professor of History; Assistant Professor of Theology
B.A. (1989), Ambassador College; Ph.D. (1997), Texas A&M
*Courses usually taught: THL 107, THL 111, THL 201, THL 251/252,
THL 301/302, THL 403, THL 408*

Darris McNeely, Assistant Professor of Theology
B.A. (1973), Ambassador College
Courses usually taught: THL 115/116, THL 121/122, THL 131/132

Eric Mohr, Assistant Professor of Theology
B.A. (1979), California State University, Los Angeles; B.A. (1982),
Ambassador College; M.A. (1982), California State University, Los
Angeles; Ph.D. (1993), Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Courses usually taught: THL 303/304

Steven C. Myers, Assistant Professor of Theology
B.M. (1979), University of Wisconsin; B.A. (1986), Ambassador College
Courses usually taught: THL 113/114

Chris Rowland, Instructor of Theology
B.A. (1994), Wabash College
Courses usually taught: THL 431/432

Kenneth L. Shoemaker, ABC Chorale Director
Diploma of Biblical Studies (2000), Ambassador Bible College

Visiting Instructors

Jorge de Campos, Instructor of Theology
Diploma of Biblical Studies (2005), Ambassador Bible College

Ben Light, Instructor of Theology
B.S. (2003), Western Oregon University; M.A. (2004), Willamette University
Courses usually taught: THL 405

Gary Petty, Instructor of Theology
B.S. (1978), Ambassador College
Courses usually taught: THL 215

Dan Preston, Instructor of Theology
B.S.M.E. (1999), University of Cincinnati
Courses usually taught: THL/HIST 117

Tom Robinson, Instructor of Theology
B.A. ed. (1992), Ambassador College
Courses usually taught: THL 109/HIST 109

Randy Urwiller, Professor of Literature; Instructor of Theology
B.A. ed. (1982), University of Nebraska; B.A. (1988), Ambassador College;
Ph.D. (2000), Baylor University
Courses usually taught: THL 411/412



Student Life

ABC seeks to provide more than an academic education in the Bible. Our additional goal is to provide a variety of activities and services that will help students in their personal and social lives as well as in developing leadership, character and practical skills. Counseling for various matters is available through our resident ministry, and faculty members maintain an open-door policy. We strive to give students the tools to have a positive, productive year while at ABC.

Expectations

Code of Conduct: Godly conduct is required of each of us as Christians, and at ABC we strive to teach and live by those values. Maintaining a close relationship with God and Jesus Christ is essential to living by the godly values we all esteem. Students are expected to maintain godly conduct in their language, activities and relationships. ABC does not allow the use of drugs, the abuse of alcohol, harassment of any kind or proselytizing on behalf of any specific church group. For detailed information, please see the Student Handbook.

Dress Code: The ABC dress code is based on biblical principles of modesty and neatness. ABC classes are held in the home office of the United Church of God. The building and all who work or study therein represent the Church, so it is important that we display an appropriate measure of decorum before our guests and visitors. We want students to be comfortable in their attire but also neat, clean and modest. We recommend business casual dress. For detailed guidelines, please see the Student Handbook.



Educational Enrichment

Field Trips: Occasional excursions to interesting educational sites add variety and fun to the academic year. Students will enjoy the break from routine and the chance to socialize.

Forums and Assemblies: Forums and assemblies alternate weekly. Attendance is required, but no grade is given. Forum provides the opportunity for students to hear reports from the Student Council, discuss any upcoming activities and give updates on class projects. Assembly features special presentations from administrators, faculty members or guest speakers.

Extracurriculars

There are many opportunities for students to pursue outside of class. Social activities are planned by the Student Council and the faculty to provide uplifting experiences for all students. Faculty members frequently interact with students through dinners, picnics, game nights, movie nights and other fun events. Students are encouraged to take an active role in helping to plan and prepare for these activities. In addition, there are several volunteer opportunities available to students:



ABC Times: The student newspaper allows interested students to record their class year with articles and photos. Students develop their writing and editing skills in preparing each edition. Some years, the ABC Times staff also assembles a class yearbook.

Ambassador Chorale: The Ambassador Chorale presents beautiful, inspiring music to local and outlying congregations each year. The director holds a meeting at orientation to provide details to those who are interested in volunteering for this service opportunity.

Social Committee and Service Committee: Students on the Social Committee help to organize social activities for the class and suggest events for smaller groups to attend. Students on the Service Committee help to organize service projects which serve the church and the local community. The two committees often work closely with one another, especially while organizing fundraising projects.

Student Council: Composed of student committee representatives and class officers, the Student Council meets regularly to serve the needs of the class by recommending and planning student activities. The student body officers and committee representatives are appointed by ABC administration with input from the student body.

Technical Support: Students who assist with technical support help by making class recordings, running the sound system and other technical needs.





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