

Religion 324, Winter 2014
Doctrine and Covenants, Part 1
Eric Stephan, Professor
Office: Married Student 1st Ward
Email:egs2@go.byuh.edu

I have found that “revealed truth” is always more powerful and comprehensive than researched or reasoned truth. *The Doctrine and Covenants* is a revealed volume of Holy Scripture comparable to the Bible.

After the death of Jesus and the Apostles, a great apostasy set in. For over a thousand years there had been no living, mortal prophets on the earth. Then the Father and the Son appeared to Joseph Smith. The gospel was restored. Christ’s church was organized, and great revelations began to pour out upon the earth once again.

The Doctrine and Covenants contains many insights, guiding principles, covenants and doctrines that have not been as clearly revealed in other scriptures. This course, then, presents us with a unique opportunity to learn more about gospel truths and understand more clearly how to apply them so as to have more success and happiness in this life and be better prepared for an eternal life to come.

Course Objectives:

- To gain a greater understanding of the revelations contained in sections 1 to 76 of the Doctrine and Covenants.
- To become better acquainted with how the Doctrine and Covenants persuades people that Jesus is the Christ and Joseph Smith was the prophet of the restoration.
- To discover some of the unique contributions of the Doctrine and Covenants. In other words, what would we not know if the Doctrine and Covenants had not been revealed?
- To identify some of the gospel truths revealed in the Doctrine and Covenants and apply them to having more success and happiness in our daily lives.

Course Texts:

1. Bring a hard copy of *The Doctrine and Covenants* or Triple combination to class to mark up.
2. Have access to the *Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual, Religion 324-325, 2001*, for daily study and reading in class. (lds.org/manuals/institute)
3. Be able to access the internet to look up ideas and do research in class.

Class Activities:

In class, students and teacher will discuss various aspects of the readings from the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Student Manual* assigned for each class period. To encourage student

reading, thinking, and inspiration, would you please write one specific scripture idea from the Doctrine and Covenants reading assignment, and one specific manual idea from the Student Manual reading assignment. Number them one, and two. Finally, write one test question and the answer based on either of the two readings. In summary, you will have three brief items to turn in for each class period.

Turn in your papers at the beginning of each class period so you will not have to mark them “Late.” Don’t try to work on your paper in class as it will be “late” anyway. If you miss class and turn it in, mark it “Late.” These reading responses will be read and recorded but not returned to you.

Class Assignments:

1. Study the assigned readings carefully.
2. Turn in the two key ideas and one test question and answer at the beginning of each class period.
3. Take three exams on readings and class discussions.
4. Participate in class discussions, in class assignments, and opening prayer.
5. Write a five page or longer, doubled spaced, final paper. Describe how to apply five principles from the Doctrine and Covenants to both the home and the work place. Reference specifically where the five principles are found.

Classroom Protocol:

1. Take useful notes and record personal insights.
2. Limit iPhone and iPad and Laptop use to class subject matter only. Avoid arriving late or leaving early as it disturbs others and the sequence of ideas being discussed. Also, do not work on assignments or read materials not associated with this class.
3. Avoid missing classes as almost every class has a discussion or an application of an important aspect of the gospel.
4. This course has no “extra assignments” for credit.
5. Grading: Usually students who obtain 90%-100% for an examination or an assignment receive an “A or A-” for that examination or assignment. 80% -89% is in the “B” range. 70%-79% in the “C” range. Below 70% is in the “D” range. Sixty percent of your grade is determined from your exam scores and 25 percent is determined by your reading reports, attendance, and participation, and 15 percent for your final paper.