

RELIGION 324 – DOCTRINE & COVENANTS

(Sections 1—75+)

Semester: Winter 2014	Instructor: Elder Rowell
Room/Time: Stake Center	Office: Stake Center (South Foyer)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 04: 102...T/TH...08:40 AM• Section 05: 102...T/TH...09:50 AM	Email: ljr29@go.byuh.edu Phone: 808.675.4901 Office Hours: by appointment

Text/Materials:

- *The Scriptures* (including the Book of Mormon, D&C, and Pearl of Great Price). Bring them, or have electronic access to them, in every class.
- *The Doctrine & Covenants Student Manual* for REL 121-122. This book is also available online at: <http://institute.lds.org/courses/the-Doctrine-and-Covenants.asp>

Objectives:

1. Obtain a clear understanding of the significant principles/doctrines and historical aspects of the Doctrine & Covenants.

President Ezra Taft Benson said: “The Book of Mormon is the “keystone” of our religion, and the Doctrine and Covenants is the capstone, with continuing latter-day revelation. The Lord has placed His stamp of approval on both the keystone and the capstone (Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants,” Ensign, May 1987, 83).

2. To better learn how to apply the doctrine and experiences of the Doctrine & Covenants in our daily life. Elder Neal A. Maxwell said:

“...in the Doctrine and Covenants we receive the *voice* as well as the *word* of the Lord. We can almost “hear” him talking... The blend of soberness and sweetness is on every page.... How can we help but see Jesus Christ not only as our omnipotent Lord but also as our Eternal Friend—a Friend who levels with us about what lies ahead.... We see a Savior who is as all-caring as he is all-knowing, for he supports his own. . . The prayerful reader of this divine volume of scripture will enlarge his testimony and draw even closer to the Savior than he has ever been before!

3. Improve one’s ability to independently find personal direction and understanding through *diligent study* of the Doctrine & Covenants.

"There are those who have made a casual...effort to test the scriptures and have come away having received nothing, which is precisely what they have earned.... If you think it [the scriptures] will yield to casual inquiry, to idle curiosity, or even to well-intentioned but temporary searching, you are mistaken" (Boyd K. Packer, *We Believe All That God Has Revealed* , Ensign, May 1974, 95).

4. Gain an increased testimony of the divinity of the Latter-day Scriptures (See Moroni 10:4-5), and the vital role Jesus Christ plays in each of our lives.

“In the final chapter of the book [of Mormon] is the never failing promise that every person who will read the book with a sincere, prayerful desire to know of its divinity shall have the assurance. Aside from all other interest that the Book of Mormon holds, this reason for our prayerfully studying it remains prominent: through it we can obtain true knowledge of God and what he wishes of us.” (Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle*, p. 227) This promise also applies to the Doctrine & Covenants.

Grading:

Grades will not attempt to measure some of the more important student efforts or spiritual growth that can be gained from this course. Rather, grades will measure a few observable tasks (see “Assignments” below) that may indicate a degree of student effort and understanding of the course material. Your final grade reflects the accumulated percentage points based on your academic performance in this class. It is not a reflection of your spirituality, your individual worth, or how much the instructor likes you...I do.

Assignments:

- Learning Exercises (quizzes): (24 Learning exercises, 5 pts. each= 100 pts. possible)
A learning exercise will be given at the beginning of each class. The learning exercises are based on the **Reading** assignments (see schedule below) and questions will specifically be taken from the **Study Questions** posted on Canvas. Do the reading assignment and respond to the study questions and you will be well prepared for class. Learning Exercises can be made up by answering the Study Questions for the day you missed and handing them in to me.
 - Attendance Paragraph: (each class, 4 pts. each = 100 pts. possible)
During class or after each class period, you will need to write a paragraph on two ideas, thoughts, or teachings from the class that caught your attention. Identify what it was and explain what it means to you personally. The paragraph should run about four sentences. This Paragraph counts as your attendance for the class each time we meet and is to be handed in before you leave class. If you have 10 unexcused absences you will not get a passing grade in this class.
 - Application Paragraphs: (4 times, 25 pts. each = 100 pts. possible)
We experience the power of the scriptures as we learn the principles they teach, and then apply those principles to our own lives. During the semester turn in an *Application paper* [25 points]. Here is how it works. Look for principles as you read the Scriptures we are studying that you can apply to your own life. What is a principle? Elder Boyd K. Packer explained: "A principle is an enduring truth, a law, or a rule you can adopt to guide you in making decisions." (Ensign, May 1996, p.17.)
This *Application Paper* should only be two paragraphs long. **Paragraph one** should be the *principles paragraph*. This paragraph should identify and explain the principle you have learned from your reading. **Paragraph two** is the *application paragraph* where you share an experience you have had in discovering and applying this principle in your own life. Please note: this paper is more than a description of an observation or an insight. It is a brief report of how you have applied or will apply a principle from the scriptures in your own life.
- EXAMPLE:** (only two paragraphs)
- Paragraph 1-The PRINCIPLE:**
- The Lord knows what lies before us and he knows how to help us. Sometimes I forget that the work of the Lord cannot be frustrated. In section 3 and 10, we read about how the devil has plans to deceive us, but the Lord always provides a way to overcome and avoid what Satan puts in our way. Section 10 tells how the Lord knew the 116 pages would be lost and he prepared the way that we still have the teachings from the small plates of Nephi. The Lord knows what lies before us and how to help us.
- Paragraph 2- The APPLICATION:**
- I learned from reading that I really can trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5-6 is my favorite scripture: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." I need to look to him more and more. I realize when I forget to look to Him I have a much harder time doing what I need to do and make more mistakes. I need to place my trust in Him; that is how I can get through the financial spot I am in right now. I can hardly afford food. But I know that the Lord has "looked upon the wide expanse of eternity" and that he will help me!
- Exams: (Midterm & Final, 50 pts. each = 100 pts. possible)

Grade breakdown:

- Learning exercises – 100 pts.
- Attendance Paragraphs – 100 pts.
- 4 Application Paragraphs – 100 pts.
- Midterm & Final Exams – 100 pts.

Total Possible: 400 pts.

Letter	%	Letter	%
A	94% +	C	74% - 76%
A-	90% - 93%	C-	70% - 73%
B+	87% - 89%	D+	67% - 69%
B	84% - 86%	D	64% - 66%
B-	80% - 83%	D-	60% - 63%
C+	77% - 79%	F	0% - 59%

Class Schedule:

T/Th DAY	LESSON TITLE	READING BLOCK	A.P.
JAN Tue 07 th Thr 09 th Tue 14 th Thr 16 th Tue 21 st Thr 23 rd Tue 28 th Thu 30 th	Introductions/ Class Leadership The Voice of Warning/ Elijah The Lost Manuscript The Call to Serve in the Vineyard Witnesses to the Book of Mormon What Greater Witness/ Revelation Two Prophets named John The Worth of Souls/ The Atonement	Sections 1, 2 3, 10 4, 11-16 5, 17 6, 8-9 7, 13 18, 19	A.P.
FEB Tue 04 th Thr 06 th Tue 11 th Thr 13 th Tue 18 th Thr 20 th Tue 25 th Thr 27 th	Church Organization & Government Church Leadership and Duties Council For An Elect Lady The Whole Armor of God The Spiritual Gathering of Mine Elect Whitmer's/ Thomas Marsh/ The Sickle Preparation for a Greater Work Move to Ohio/ The Lord's Concern for us Mid-Term Exam (take home)	20 21-24, 26 25 27, 28 29 30-34 35-36, 39-40, 47 37-38	A.P.
MAR Tue 4 th Thr 06 th Tue 11 th Thr 13 th Tue 18 th Thr 20 th Tue 25 th Thr 27 th	First Bishop/ Disciples and Stewards The Lord's Law to the Church Looking For The Great Day of the Lord To Every Man is Given a Gift A Call To Forsake the world Laying the Foundation of Zion A Commission to Testify Lord Requires the Heart & a Willing Mind	41, 48, 51, 69-70, 72 42, 44 43, 45 46, 49-50 52-56 57-59 60-62 63-65	A.P.
APR Tue 01 st Thr 03 rd Tue 08 th	The [new] Everlasting Covenant-- Laborers in the Vineyard Plain & Precious Truths Restored Final	66-68 71, 73, 75 74, 77, 86, 91, 113	A.P.
Classes= 27			