



Syllabus

PodClass: What's the Word?

Spring 2025

*This podcast drops every Monday,
but let's all play it again on Friday to bump the algorithm
(even if it's on mute, let it play through)!*

Instructor Information

Instructor: Melisa Ortiz Berry, PhD

About: www.melisaberry.com

Course Description

PodClass is a space for people all over the globe to learn about God, the Bible, and Christianity through podcasting. This series addresses common questions people have about the Bible as a book such as: "Who wrote the Bible?" "How do we interpret it?" "When did it become an actual book?" "Why do we have so many translations?" and "What can we do with all of those translations in our personal study of the Bible?"

Purpose of / Reason for the Course

Create an accessible space for people to investigate their questions about the Bible as a book and about the many different views that people have about it.

Course Objectives

- 1.) People around the globe will have access to a Bible class.
- 2.) PodClass will be a form of Christian continuing education for the listener.
- 3.) Listeners will have their faith built up (not torn down) through an academic conversation.
- 4.) Provide a variety of voices to best illuminate the subject.
- 5.) Model positive learning experiences and friendly encounters with people who have a different view than your own (it's okay to agree to disagree).
- 6.) Appreciate what a wide variety of Jesus' followers that there are in the world.
- 7.) To begin to identify what different groups of people believe and in solidarity with them or in contrast with them, what you yourself believe.

Assignments

- 1.) Listen once a week.
- 2.) Share each podcast with a friend with whom you can continue the conversation with.
- 3.) Consider joining our 9-week live Zoom class: see www.melisaberry.com

Podcast Posting Schedule

Who Wrote the Bible?

Jan 2	Conservative	Sam Lamerson, Knox Theological Seminary
Feb 10	Progressive	Eric Barreto, Princeton Theological Seminary
Feb 17	Pentecostal	A.J. Swoboda, Bushnell University
Feb 24	Roman Catholic	Edward Sri, Fellowship of Catholic University Students
Mar 3	Orthodox Lens	Mary Ghattas, Holy Transfiguration College at Agora University

Why do people interpret it so differently?

Mar 10	Messianic Jewish	Jen Rosner, Fuller Theological Seminary
Mar 17	Archaeological	Bob Mullins, Azusa Pacific University
Mar 24	Disability	Elizabeth Staszak, Disability Theologian
Mar 31	African American	Jacqueline Winston, Azusa Pacific University
Apr 7	Indigenous American	Randy Woodley, Portland Seminary
Apr 14	Nigerian	Agam Iheanyi-Igwe, Bushnell University
Apr 21	Palestinian Christian	Alex Awad, Bethlehem Bible College
Apr 28	Japanese	Ryuta Kimura, Double O Cross Church

How did the Bible become a book?

May 5	Church Historian	Jacqueline Winston, Azusa Pacific University
May 12	NIV Committee	Mark Strauss, Bethel Seminary
May 19	Missionary Translation	Joe Hoover, Missionary Bible Translator

What are some of the ways that we can use the Bible in everyday life?

May 26	Pastoral Advice	Aaron Dilla, Northwood Christian Church
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