



FORGING PLOUGHSHARES

Ploughshares Bible Institute

**Catalog of
Learning Modules
and
Certificates**

2020-2023



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About Ploughshares Bible Institute (PBI):

Forging Ploughshares is an organization devoted to the notion that peaceful Christian living and teaching are inherently linked. Therefore, the Ploughshares Bible Institute seeks to extend the exploration of Christian peace in the community of the Church through accessible and affordable learning modules which are designed to inform and transform learners through theological and biblical study and dialogue within a larger community.

PBI is not an accredited learning platform but it is written, developed, and facilitated by men and women with relevant accredited education and experience teaching related subjects in the college, university, and church setting. The philosophy behind PBI is not opposed to accredited higher education but suggests that the structures and hierarchies necessary to make institutions “accredited” are designed to serve an economy which is inherently in tension with the alternative community called “the Church” which is established by the Gospels and expounded throughout the New Testament. For this reason, the founders of Forging Ploughshares have concluded that there is an inherent pressure within institutions of Christian higher education to serve power structures and interests which are hostile to the truest nature of Christianity.

What this means for the learner: the Ploughshares Bible Institute is not designed to provide the learner with a “marketable degree” in hopes that they will repay the loans which were necessary to support the structures through which they attained the degree. *Instead*, PBI is designed to provide the learner with a transformative learning experience with equivalent content and contact to a seminary-level education in an online format. For this reason, the typical student who would find PBI attractive is one who is a devoted Christian who desires to more fully understand and put into practice the very practical and peaceful Kingdom Jesus established within the community of the Church, not necessarily the one seeking qualifications to enter into “vocational ministry.” These are students who, in order to find this experience without PBI, might end up paying a great deal of money and/or taking on exorbitant amounts of debt at a traditional seminary or Christian college or university.

Cost and Certificates

For these reasons, PBI modules are designed to be very inexpensive. Currently, the price to take a single 8-week learning module is set at \$150. Because PBI modules are intentionally designed to provide structure for a rich understanding of Christian theology, they are topically interdependent on one another. Therefore, students are encouraged to pursue PBI Certificates. Those certificate qualifications and prices are outlined below.

PBI learning modules are designed to be completed in 8 weeks (8 unit modules). Students should be reasonably able to complete them in 8 weeks. However, students who need extra time may request an extension of two weeks for a fee of \$20.

A Basic Certificate of Christian Peace Theology is awarded when a student completes 4 PBI learning modules. Beyond that, the Intermediate Certificate of Christian Peace Theology is awarded for completing four more, and the Advanced Certificate for completing five more beyond that. (See *Figure 1* on the next page.)



	Basic Certificate of Christian Peace Theology	Intermediate Certificate of Christian Peace Theology	Advanced Certificate of Christian Peace Theology
Completion of 4 Learning Modules (200 level)	☑	☑ ¹	☑ ²
Completion of 8 (4 more) Learning Modules (200 level)		☑	☑ ³
Completion of 5 Learning Modules (300 or higher level)			☑
Cost	4 x \$150=\$600	8 x \$150=\$1200	13 x \$150 = \$1950

Figure 1

Ploughshares Bible Institute Learning Modules:

(This section is published in every module syllabus)

Every learning module offered by the Ploughshares Bible Institute (PBI) functions as an extension of the mission of PBI which “exists to provide in-depth transformative biblical and theological education and discipleship for the global church.”

Furthermore, "Forging Ploughshares certificates and learning modules are an alternative learning experience which provide transformative biblical and theological education and resources and which inform a peaceful Christian worldview for the global church."

Therefore, each module, loosely formatted in an 8-unit topical form, seeks to fulfill specific programmatic outcomes (articulated below). The modules are intended to be completed in 8-weeks, with some flexibility built in to work around people’s busy schedules!

While we at Forging Ploughshares have endeavored to create a high-quality learning experience with equivalent content one would experience in a seminary education, these modules are not predicated on the same learning philosophy as a classical college education. Students are not earning credits toward a “degree” which they use to market themselves in an “economy.” Rather, these modules are designed for people who truly are interested in learning and growing as Christians and in understanding the Gospel of peace.

Therefore, the Ploughshares Bible Institute modules utilize a “formative” model of assessment instead of a “summative” one. Quizzes (called here “formatives”), discussion forums, and writing assignments are not marked with “A” or “B” but as “Complete” or “Incomplete.” In order to complete a module and make progress toward a certificate, students must complete all assessments and assignments. Formatives (quizzes) must be passed with 100%. But students have unlimited chances to complete them and the quizzes remember the answers they’ve gotten right. This means that the assessment is not here to “grade” the student, but to help the student learn.

¹ This is carried over from the Basic Certificate, not “in addition to”

² This is carried over from the Basic Certificate, not “in addition to”

³ This is carried over from the Ongoing Certificate, not “in addition to.”



Written assignments are also designed to be formative. Rather than an “A” or a “B” students, again, are marked “Complete” or “Incomplete.” The facilitator may ask a student to make corrections on a submission if necessary, but students should see the assignment as a chance to interact with the facilitator in a way which helps them learn the material and concepts. These are not designed to be burdensome, but to be another teaching tool.

Discussion forums are designed to give students the benefit of the community to discuss what they are reading and seeing in the instructional videos and ancillary material. The same is true for the “Zoom” synchronous online sessions.

Policies

Completion—As is stated above, in order to progress through a certificate, students must complete the learning modules. To complete a learning module, students will complete every assessment. Students are expected to demonstrate the highest standard of integrity (complete all work themselves), especially as the assessments are designed to help the students learn.

Progression—The 8-unit format is designed to be completed in 8 weeks. It is ideal that students should try to progress at that speed, in order to participate in the online discussions with other participants in the module. However, the module facilitator will work with students who need longer to complete each unit. The primary goal is to help students learn. That said, if, during or after the 8 weeks of the module, a student makes no progress or communication for 2 weeks, the Ploughshares Bible Institute will consider the student “withdrawn” from the module. No refunds will be given if a student withdraws for non-communication. If a student cannot complete a module in 8 weeks, they may have a two-week extension but may inquire a fee after a . A student who starts a module but runs into a personal emergency or issue which will prohibit them from completing the module within the time-frames listed above may request a leave at no cost. They will be able to finish the module at a later time.

Accessibility—Though the Ploughshares Bible Institute is a 501C3 and does not receive Title IV funding (financial aid) and is, therefore, not required to comply with relevant ADA Section 504 disability regulations, its administrators and facilitators are committed to making any and all reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. This may include such accommodations as producing ancillary material in larger print and/or creating transcripts or adding closed-captioning to Ploughshares-produced video content. However, because PBI operates purposefully with limited resources, PBI may not be able to make every accommodation the student requests. In that case, PBI will work with the student to seek adequate alternatives and may ask the student to seek them also. However, if, after starting a module, the accommodations made by the PBI administration and facilitator are not sufficient to assist the student to complete the module, and the student finds that necessary accommodations cannot be made, the student will be refunded the cost of the module.

Ploughshares Bible Institute Learning Objectives:

Focused on providing in-depth transformative biblical and theological education and discipleship for the global church, PBI has developed a set of program learning objectives which are predicated on a peaceful understanding of the Gospel and which support this focus. Each PBI learning module will fulfill at least one of these objectives.

PBILO 1: Students will gain familiarity with tools and develop basic skills for interpreting scripture.



PBILO 2: Students will develop a humble approach to reading the Bible, seeking to be shaped by scripture within the community of God.

PBILO 3: Students will read the Old Testament narrative Christocentrically and ecclesiologically.

PBILO 4: Students will study the life and work of Christ through theological frameworks provided by specific Gospel writers.

PBILO 5: Students will encounter an understanding of the atonement which exposes and defeats the problem of sin as a "world constituting system" and which provides access to the Kingdom constituted in the body of Christ.

PBILO 6: Students will encounter the Holy Spirit as the person of the Trinity who enables us to practice the work of the Kingdom.

PBILO 7: Students will encounter an eschatology which has immediate application to a lived theology.

PBILO 8: Students will encounter an atonement theology and ecclesiology which recognizes the "now" and "not yet" features of the Kingdom of God.

PBILO 9: Students will gain perspective on ancient and recent peaceful church traditions.

PBILO 10: Students will study the outworkings of the Gospel of Jesus within the community of the church and in relationship to creation.

PBILO 11: Students will develop a theological perspective on philosophical study.

PBILO 12: Students will conduct in-depth contextual and theological studies of New Testament books.

PBILO 13: Students will encounter an apologetic based on the narrative structure of scripture in which the aim is to witness to a conversion of the imagination.

PBILO 14: Students will encounter within the New Testament a Christian approach to issues of inequality and restorative justice.

PBILO 15: Students will gain perspective on the uniqueness of Christ among other religious systems.

Ploughshares Bible Institute Learning Module Descriptions:

Biblical Interpretation

INT 203 Reading the Bible in Community: A basic course in hermeneutics which provides skills and tools for biblical interpretation. The module focuses on coming to the text humbly within the Christian community. (PBILO 1, 2, 5)

New Testament

NTT 201 Matthew: Gospel of Kingdoms: A theological study of Matthew's Gospel emphasizing Jesus as the King of an alternative kingdom to the power structures of the world. (PBILO 4, 5)

NTT 204 Gospel of John: Book of Signs and Glory: A theological study of John's Gospel emphasizing John's key themes such as overcoming of darkness, the Kingdom of God overcoming the kingdoms of the world. (PBILO 4, 5)

NTT 207 Romans: Salvation through the Body of Christ: A theological study of the faithfulness of God revealed in Christ Jesus as articulated in Paul's letter to the Romans. Focusing on Paul's exposition of God making the world right through Christ. (PBILO 5, 7, 12)



NTT 215 Philemon and Ephesians: Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Paul: A practical development of radical forgiveness and reconciliation from Philemon and Ephesians worked out in healthy community. (PBILO 5, 12)

Old Testament

OTT 200 Christian Theology of the Old Testament: A thematic study of the Old Testament focusing on interpreting key texts theologically in the light of the revelation of Christ in the Gospels. (PBILO 3, 5)

Theology

THE 200 Sin and Salvation: An in-depth study of the meaning of sin and a description of the atonement as a defeat of sin and the basis of an alternative community in Christ. (PBILO 5)

THE 300 The Work of the Spirit in the Kingdom of God: An advanced theological study of the Holy Spirit as a practical outworking of lived salvation as it looks forward to the telos, or end goal, of the kingdom of God in Christ. (PBILO 5, 6, 7, 8)

THE 301 Living in the Kingdom of God: A study of peaceful Christian traditions in light of the Constantinian shift with a view towards eschatology. (PBILO 5, 9)

THE 310 Christian Community the World: A study of the Kingdom of God as it restores community and creation. (PBILO 5, 10)

THE 350 Philosophy for Theology: A critical study of philosophy through the lens of theology which reveals the inherent nihilism of the foundations of philosophy. (PBILO 5, 11)

THE 315 Imaginative Apologetics: A study of apologetics which shifts the focus from argument to reimagining the world through the person and work of Jesus Christ. (PBILO 5, 13)

THE 250 Marginalization and Restorative Justice: A biblical and theological study of the Kingdom of God approach to issues of power and inequality among oppressed groups including gender, race, disability, socio-economic status, etc. (PBILO 5, 14)

Culture and Religion

REL 300 World Culture and Religion: A study of world religions which aims to demonstrate how Christ exposes and defeats the religio-cultural understanding as it exists in several of the world's major religions and cultures as well as how Christ redirects and completes this understanding. (PBILO 5, 15)