Course Outline
Religion 325 – Section 2
Fall 2008

Instructor
Lawrence Rees (Dept. of Physics and Astronomy)
N-357 ESC 422-4307
Lawrence_Rees@byu.edu
Office Hours: T-Th 9 – 9:50 am and by appointment
Other Office Hours: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am, 2:00 – 2:50 am.

Class Time and Location
T Th 8:00-8:50 am in C-261 ESC

Course Website
General course information is available on the course website:
http://www.physics.byu.edu/faculty/rees/325

Course Expectations
I’ve long had a special appreciation for the Doctrine and Covenants and I’m excited to be able to teach this course. My hope is that, to some extent at least, you will:
• gain a greater understanding of “the revelations” and their role in the restoration.
• better appreciate the Doctrine and Covenants by learning some basic facts about the culture and climate of the United States in the early 19th Century.
• become comfortable with the last half of the Doctrine and Covenants so you can better use these scriptures in your daily life.
• appreciate that as part of the restoration of all things, Joseph Smith tied the past to the present, the future to the present, men to one another, and finite man to infinite deity in ways that were innovative and mind-expanding.
• recognize that Joseph Smith was a man and had problems and imperfections, but that Joseph Smith was driven by a desire that all the Saints, even with their own problems and imperfections, would come to know God.
• come to understand that the restoration is an ongoing process and that the great work that began in the 19th Century is but the foundation of a greater work that is unfolding in our own time.
• better understand who you are, what you believe, why you believe it, and be willing to reformulate your views to be more in harmony with new light and truth that you gain.
• be better able to express your ideas and beliefs in words so that you can effectively communicate them to others.

Reading
Our text is the Doctrine and Covenants. Before each class, you should have read the assigned sections of the Doctrine and Covenants and come prepared to discuss them. Additionally, we will use two manuals prepared by the Church Education System: Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual and Church History in the Fulness of Times. These manuals are available in the Bookstore or online at http://www.ldsces.org. Before each class you should read the sections in the Doctrine and Covenants and excerpts from the manuals listed in the
class schedule. Occasionally, there will be some additional material for you to read as well.

You will report your reading online. For each class, there will be one score for scripture reading and one score for other readings. You will receive 10 points if you complete the reading on time and 7 points if you complete the reading later.

Class Participation
Although there will be a certain amount of material I’ll want to convey in each class, I want to have a good amount of class discussion. I recognize that some people prefer to talk and others prefer to listen, but I’d like the talkers to find some restraint and listeners to find some courage and everyone become involved in our discussions. I will take off participation points if 1) you have more than two unexcused absences, 2) you are habitually tardy and/or leave early, 3) your behavior is frequently disruptive, or 4) you seldom contribute to class discussions.

Tests
We will have two mid-term tests and a final exam. The dates for the tests are listed on the Class Schedule. The mid-term tests will be given in the testing center, but the final exam will be given in the classroom at the scheduled time. The test questions will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and (short) essay questions. I will provide you with reviews and sample exams to assist you in your study. The final exam will be comprehensive with an emphasis on the last part of the course.

Written Assignments
There will be three written assignments due during the semester. Details about these assignments can be found in a separate file.

Grades
Your grade will be calculated using the following weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context Paper</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topical Guide</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insights Paper</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exams</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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</tbody>
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Your letter grade will based on your total score. Your letter grade will be at least as good as indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Score in Percent</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93–100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88–93%</td>
<td>A–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82–88%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74–82%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68–74%</td>
<td>B–</td>
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For grades lower than B–, I will need to take each case into individual consideration.

The average grade in the course will likely be somewhere in the B to B+ range, in accordance with the expectations of Religious Education.
Legal and Policy Notices:

The University and Religious Education suggest that the following statements be included in all course outlines. Please note that I fully endorse these policies.

**Honor Code**
Religious Education is committed to the Honor Code at Brigham Young University. Therefore, please come to class dressed appropriately and act accordingly. It is a violation of the Honor Code for a student to represent someone else’s work as their own. It is department policy that those who cheat or plagiarize the work of another are given a failing grade for the course. Violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Code office as required by University regulations.

**Harassment**
BYU’s policy against sexual harassment and sexual discrimination extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

**Disruptive Behavior**
Disruptive behavior including multiple tardies, cell phone interruption or use (including text messaging), sleeping, and/or other disruptions (students who dominate class discussion or lecture with excessive comments/questions, talking during class discussion and lectures, reading newspapers, eating in class, etc.) will not be tolerated and may result in a lower grade.

**Disabilities**
Brigham Young University is committed to providing an environment that reasonably accommodates persons with disabilities. If you have a disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767).
If you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.