



# FDREL 275 - The Teachings and Doctrine of the Book of Mormon Syllabus

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## Outcomes

1. Students will better understand the Book of Mormon as another witness of Jesus Christ and deepen their love for and testimony of Him.
2. They will increase their ability to study the scriptures in context and will strengthen their gospel scholarship, leading to greater understanding and personal discipleship.
3. They will be prepared to explain and testify of the doctrine, importance, and divine origin of the Book of Mormon.
4. They will deepen their ability to manage ambiguity while still acting in accordance with revealed doctrine.
5. They will learn to recognize that revelation is ongoing and that God, as of now, has not revealed all things.
6. They will learn the art of diligent inquiry - "ask and ye shall receive" while being disciplined to not publicly give reason to revelation when the Lord has not done so (i.e., keep personal insight and revelation personal).
7. They will learn to be source-critical, consulting scripture text and other authoritative sources to find answers to difficult questions.
8. Recognize how each person's premises affect conclusions (even examining our own premises), while withholding judgment of others with whom we disagree.

## Description

Come unto Christ by reading, studying and applying the teachings of the Savior as found in the Book of Mormon. This will require you to:

1. Read each assignment and ponder and pray about their teachings.

2. Turn in your assignments on time and be ready to participate in the discussions with both your heart, mind, and soul. Be willing to ask thoughtful questions, ready to share insights and testimonies.
3. As the Spirit directs, apply the principles of discipleship that you discover in this course in your personal circumstances.

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Course Architecture

In an online course, regular and sustained attention to the course is *critical*. You will not be successful if you try to cram all your learning into short, intensive bursts of study. Be *attentive* to the reading assignments, course activities, and *deadlines*. Most assignments cannot be made up once the deadline has passed. However, if you feel you have *extenuating circumstances* that warrant special consideration, let your instructor know *early*. The earlier you inform your instructor, the more discretion he/she has to work with you. *Any accommodations to course material and/or deadlines will be made at the sole discretion of your instructor.*

Lessons are generally one week long. Lesson 01 will help *orient* you to the course and give you time to *practice* using the online tools. You will wrap up the course in Lesson 14 (half-week) by submitting your final assignments. Plan to spend 6 to 8 hours every week for this course (3 to 4 hours per credit).

This course runs using a two-week cycle (or module). For example, some activities may be started in Lesson 02 but will not be turned in until Lesson 03; do not procrastinate those activities. Each module has an overarching theme that spans the two weeks. If you keep that in mind, you will glean more from this class as you study the scriptures and do the assignments.

Each week you will be asked to *thoughtfully* read within specified scriptural blocks in the Book of Mormon, statements by General Authorities and other officers of the church, and additional, related material in order to gain better doctrinal understanding of the truths being taught. Emphasis should be placed on *studying* the material rather than *reading* it.

Then, in the [weekly activities](#), you will become both a *learner* and a *teacher* as you use what you are finding to make changes in your life and

helping others to do the same. The activities will push for deeper involvement with scriptural insights as you share what you are learning with others, respond to their questions, and find ways to incorporate gospel principles more fully into your daily life. *Every* activity has a specific purpose in helping you draw closer to Jesus Christ. There is *no* busywork in this course unless you choose to make it so. Finally, *pondering* on what you are learning each week will allow you to see your own growth and improvement as you work to become better disciples of Jesus Christ.

Even though this course is online, it is **not** an independent study course. Research about learning shows that *talking to others about what you are learning* strengthens both what you are able to learn and what you are able to teach. *You will be expected to interact with classmates and others in order to teach and learn from them.* That is the role of a disciple of Jesus Christ. You will need to participate together in the various activities. Group activities can provide some of the most powerful experiences in the course if you will put your best effort into them and earnestly seek to learn from one another.

President Spencer W. Kimball has reminded us that “*God does watch over us and does notice us, but it usually through someone else that he meets our needs.*” Let your classmates help meet your needs as you *study* and learn from the scriptures together.

## Course Activities

### Non-Graded Activities

- **Lesson Overview** - Reading. Each lesson has an overview page that explains the flow for that week (assignments, due dates, instructions, etc.). Use these pages to know what to do in this course.
- **Questions and Conversations** - Discussion Board. This discussion board is open all semester long and serves as a space where you can post your class questions or concerns. Before posting, please read other students' questions. Check this page frequently so you can stay up-to-date. Teach one another by answering each others' questions. *Posting on this discussion board is the most effective and efficient way to get issues resolved.* Contact your instructor through email only if your question is of a personal nature.

### Graded Activities

Even Weeks (excluding Lesson 14)

- **Searching for Truth** - Reading. This document will provide references about each week's topic. Take your time as you read it and study the recommended scripture references. (Do throughout the week)
- **Inspired Questions** - Dropbox. Submit the questions or ideas coming to you as you talk with others about the gospel. What would you like to discuss with your classmates? Your instructor will use some of those questions to start some small group discussions. You will earn extra credit if your question is chosen. (Due Wednesdays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)
- **Sharing Truth** - Dropbox. Carefully choose someone and have a meaningful discussion about the truths you are discovering in your daily scripture study. The focus of this conversation should be on *learning*. Use your conversation to determine an interesting related question or two you would like to discuss further with your instructor and classmates. Write up a report about the experience and submit it. (Due Thursdays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)
- **Rejoicing Together** - Small Group Discussion Board. This activity will run for both weeks of each module. Small groups will change every four weeks (i.e. every other module, in Lesson 2, 6, and 10) - so you will work together to complete this activity twice with each group. Share your thoughts to the questions posted for your group on that module's discussion board. Read others' thoughts and respond to one or two posts with something that will help deepen everyone's understanding and love of Book of Mormon truths. Grading will emphasize sincere, quality posts. Use this opportunity to really learn about the gospel together. *Support your comments with scriptural references or teachings from church leaders*. Avoid speculation. (First posts Due Mondays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time; responses due Thursdays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)
- **Testify** - Project. You will begin working on creating a teaching tool that helps you share your learning/growing testimony about the principles or doctrines you are studying during the first week of the module. Projects are not due until the following (odd-numbered) week, but should teach about both weeks' topics. Find a personal way to share your testimony.
- **Doctrinal Review** - Quiz. After studying about the divine principles and doctrines of the Book of Mormon, demonstrate your understanding by completing a brief quiz on the scriptures you studied that particular week. (Due Mondays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)
- **Weekly Report** - Quiz. This activity allows you to report on your activities each week and assess what has gone well and what might be improved. This is the only way to get credit for some of the activities that you do so be sure to complete it at the end of every week. (Due Mondays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)

## Odd Weeks (Excluding Lesson 01)

- **Searching for Truth** - Reading. This document will provide references about each week's topic. Take your time as you read it and study the recommended scripture references. (Do throughout the week)
- **Inspired Questions** - Dropbox. Submit the questions or ideas coming to you as you talk with others about the gospel. What would you like to discuss with your classmates? Your instructor will use some of those questions to start some small group discussions. You will earn extra credit if your question is chosen. (Due Wednesdays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)
- **Rejoicing Together** - Small Group Discussion Board. This activity will run for both weeks of each module. Small groups will change every four weeks (i.e. every other module, in Lesson 2, 6, and 10) - so you will work together to complete this activity twice with each group. Share your thoughts to the questions posted for your group on that module's discussion board. Read others' thoughts and respond to a few of the posts with something that will help deepen everyone's understanding and love of Book of Mormon truths. Grading will emphasize sincere, quality posts. Use this opportunity to really learn about the gospel together. Support your comments with scriptural references or teachings from church leaders. Avoid speculation. (First posts Due Mondays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time; responses due Thursdays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)
- **Teaching Truth** - Dropbox. This discussion should focus on *teaching/testifying* about the gospel. Sincerely look for someone to share your new learning with. Teach the truths you learned during each module, making connections from both weeks. Submit a report about the discussion, including the scriptures and ideas you shared. (Due Mondays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)
- **Testify** - Dropbox. Use your teaching tool to testify of the principles or doctrines you are studying. Your finished product should connect the principles of both weeks of the module. You will submit your finished product at the end of each module. (Due Mondays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time, odd-numbered weeks)
- **Doctrinal Review** - Quiz. After studying about the divine principles and doctrines of the Book of Mormon, demonstrate your understanding by completing a brief quiz on the scriptures you studied that particular week. (Due Mondays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)
- **Weekly Report** - Quiz. This activity allows you to report on your activities each week and assess what has gone well and what might be improved. This is the only way to get credit for some of the activities that you do so be sure to complete it at the end of every week. (Due Mondays at 8:00 AM Mountain Time)

# Required Materials

1. [Holy Bible](#)
2. [Book of Mormon](#)
3. [Doctrine & Covenants](#)
4. [Pearl of Great Price](#)

The [Book of Mormon Institute Manual](#) is NOT required, but is an *excellent* resource for supplemental reading.

# Grading

The general breakdown of course points is as follows:

Searching for Truth (Accounted for in the Weekly Report)	x14	20
<b>Lesson 01 Activities</b>		
Syllabus Quiz	x1	10 pts.
Add Your Picture	x1	10 pts.
Course Etiquette Quiz	x1	5 pts.
Getting Acquainted Discussion Board	x1	10 pts.
<b>Lesson 02-13 Activities</b>		
Inspired Questions	x12	10 pts.
Sharing Truth	x6	10 pts.
Rejoice Together Discussion Board	x6	10 pts.
Teaching Truth	x6	10 pts.
Testify (project)	x6	10 pts.
Doctrinal Review	x12	10 pts.
Weekly Report (questions other than Searching for Truth)	x14	10 pts.
<b>Lesson 14 Activities</b>		
Hold to the rod	x1	5 pts.
<b>Total Points</b>		

## Grading Scale

A	93 - 100%	C	73 - 76%
A-	90 - 92%	C-	70 - 72%
B+	89 - 87%	D+	67 - 69%
B	83 - 86%	D	63 - 66%
B-	80 - 82%	D-	60 - 62%
C+	77 - 79%	F	59% and below

## Late Work Policy

Assignments are due when indicated. Work that is late hampers both your and your classmates' ability to fully participate in the course, and will be accepted **only at your instructor's discretion**. No late work will be accepted without **first** obtaining permission from the instructor. Inform your instructor **before** the assignment is due of your extenuating circumstances. Any late work that is accepted is subject to a **penalty** as determined by your instructor.

## Other Policies

The University has established and posted policies concerning the topics below. Please review the following University documents:

- [Sexual Harassment](#)
- [Plagiarism](#)
- [Disabilities Services](#)

Your instructor reserves the right to *change your grade if you are disrespectful in any of your communication in this course*. Common courtesy is an expectation. It is acceptable to disagree with someone as long as you are respectable about it.

**Final Note:** Your instructor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus **at any time** during the semester in order to adapt to changing course needs. You will be notified prior to any changes that may take place, **so be sure you pay attention to communication from your instructor**.