I. Course Description
An onsite study of the history, archaeology, geography, religion and culture of Asia Minor (Turkey), conducted through onsite lecture and an extensive tour throughout the country.

II. Rationale
While textbooks can provide information, only the personal onsite investigation of a country can provide the student with the full spectrum of first-hand experience necessary to properly know and understand the place, its people, its history, and its connection to the Bible.

III. Prerequisite statement
The are no prerequisites for enrolling in this course.

IV. Materials List


V. Course Learning Outcomes
The student will be able to...
- Identify major archaeological sites in Western Turkey.
- Trace Paul’s journeys through the sites of Western Asia Minor.
- Identify the geographical location and historical backgrounds to the Seven Churches of Revelation.
- Understand the political, cultural, and religious situation in the modern country of Turkey.

VI. Assignments/Requirements
Students participating in the General Studies in Turkey Seminar are required to actively engage in the daily activities associated with touring the biblical and archaeological sites in the country of Turkey. To prepare for the trip, students are required to read *In the Steps of Saint Paul* prior to the tour, and bring *Biblical Turkey: A Guide to the Jewish and Christian Sites of Asia Minor* with them on the tour, with select readings required during the evenings prior to the next day’s activities. Additionally, students should bring a Bible with them on the tour.

Post-tour writing assignments are required of all students, with each assignment catered to courses that students may substitute the BIBL 497 seminar for required course listings.

For students enrolled in BIBL 497, who are taking the course solely as an elective (with no course substitution): Each student will write a 10 page, double spaced (12-point Times New Roman) research paper detailing the biblical and historical background related to one significant city or site visited on the tour. This assignment is intended to allow the student to do additional research on a particular site that adds to the experience generated while on tour.

For students substituting BIBL 497 for BIBL 450 (Daniel/Revelation): Each student will write a 12 page, double spaced (12-point Times New Roman) research paper exploring the historical, geographical, cultural and religious background of at least one of the cities/churches among those listed in Revelation 2 and 3. The paper should involve an analysis of the relevant text from Revelation, interpreting the cultural and situational particulars in the letter with knowledge of historical, geographical, and cultural context.

For students substituting BIBL 497 for BIBL 110/210 (New Testament Survey): Each student will write a 6 page (10 pages for BIBL 210), double spaced (12-point Times New Roman) essay answering the following question: “Why is historical, cultural, and geographical awareness important to the study of the New Testament epistles?” In the essay, use specific examples gleaned from the tour and then linked to the relevant texts within the New Testament.

For students substituting BIBL 497 for BIBL 364 (Acts): Each student will write a 10 page, double spaced (12-point Times New Roman) research paper reflecting on Paul’s travels to Asia Minor as described in the book of Acts. Of particular interest are those sites visited on the tour in Turkey. The paper should focus on the historical and geographical setting of
Paul’s journey, with reflection on how historical and geographical awareness affects the modern reader’s cognition of time and space when reading the Acts narrative (especially Acts 16-20).

For students substituting BIBL 497 for BIBL 471 (Biblical Archaeology): Each student will write a 12 page, double spaced (12-point Times New Roman) research paper detailing the process and discoveries related to the recent archaeological activity at the Terrace Houses in Ephesus or the excavation of Laodicea.

For students substituting BIBL 497 for BIBL 472 (New Testament Backgrounds): Each student will write a 12 page, double spaced (12-point Times New Roman) research paper centered around the following question: “How does the geopolitical, cultural, and religious context of 1st Century Ephesus impact an interpretation of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians?” In your paper, use specific examples linking the interpretation of specific points in the epistle to the background of the city, and include the situational context related to Paul’s own experiences in Ephesus.

VII. Grading Policies

A. Points:
   Tour Participation & Discussion 600 points
   Research Paper 400 points

B. Scale:
   900-1000 pts A
   800-899 pts B
   700-799 pts C
   600-699 pts D
   BELOW 600 pts F

VIII. Attendance Policies

Daily attendance is required. As the form of this course is an onsite tour, the student must remain with the tour group throughout the tour to complete the course.

IX. Other Policies

Dress Code
Students are expected to come to Turkey dressed in a manner consistent with The Liberty Way, but conducive to rigorous travel demands.

Honor Code
We, the students, faculty, and staff of Liberty University, have a responsibility to uphold the moral and ethical standards of this institution and personally confront those who do not.

Academic Misconduct
Academic misconduct includes: academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and falsification. See The Liberty Way for specific definitions, penalties, and processes for reporting.

Disability Statement
Any student with a documented disability may contact the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in DeMoss Hall Building - DH 2016 in order to make arrangements for an academic accommodation, however, there are certain limitations with respect to this course as it involves transportation abroad and touring subject to local conditions which are not usually conducive to disabled students.

DROP/ADD POLICY
A summer course may be dropped without a grade, tuition, and fee charges within the first five days of the semester. Refund for the tour, however, must follow the cancellation policy of Tutku Tours.

Classroom Policies
As the classroom is in a foreign country and usually out of doors, devices such as
cameras, digital recording devices, and cell phones (that do not disrupt the lectures or disturb the group) will be permitted.

X. Calendar for the course

The course begins with departure as a group from Dulles International Airport near Washington D.C. on May 17th departing at 23:25. The tour ends with the return to Dulles on May 27th (18:10 arrival to Dulles). Papers are due via Blackboard submission within four weeks from the end of the tour.