

## BIBLE STUDY METHODS AND HERMENEUTICS

### I. Catalog Description

*This is an introduction to inductive Bible study involving the steps of observation, interpretation (hermeneutics), application, and correlation. Principles in these steps are applied to several Bible passages and books including Habakkuk and Philemon. 3 hours (2 hours MABC)*

Pre-Requisites: None (pre-requisite or co-requisite to all Bible exposition courses)

### II. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

#### A. Cognitive Objectives

1. Implement a methodical approach to the inductive Bible study steps of observation, interpretation, correlation, and application
2. Effectively function in the hermeneutical world of historical, cultural, rhetorical, and grammatical interpretation
3. Understand the need to exegete both the world of the text and the world of the reader for proper biblical application.

#### B. Affective Objectives

1. Feel more confident in rightly handling all segments of the Word of God
2. Appreciate the various literary genres chosen by God to communicate His mind to humanity
3. Commit to the diligence necessary to be a qualified interpreter of the Scriptures.

### III. Course Texts

Robert Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*

Leland Ryken, *How to Read the Bible as Literature*

Roy Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*

### IV. Course Requirements

#### A. Reading

Read the required texts and any supplemental reading assigned during the course by their respective due dates.

#### B. Attend Lecture Video Sessions

All students will view all the lecture video sessions as you would attend live class sessions.

#### C. Learning Activities

Students taking the course for 3 credit hours will produce twelve (12) projects, and post them according to instructions. MABC students taking the course for 2 credit hours will produce nine (9) projects.

Projects will range in word count and will require research and creativity.

In each module, complete the assigned project. Follow the instructions for completing the project and employ the resources provided. Consult the streaming video lectures for detailed help.

D. Interactions

Participate in the online classroom interaction, which means engage in active, meaningful, helpful discourse with others in each interaction. In addition to the posted interactions, the instructor may involve the class in discussion using other media.

Discuss the posed question(s) or, at times, discuss your submitted projects. All students are required to participate in the discussions in the welcome module and module 3. Students taking the course for 3 credit hours also must participate in a discussion in module 6. MABC students are not required to participate in the module 6 discussion.

Reasoned dialog between learners under the guidance of the instructor or learning in the community contributes a key instructional element in this course.

V. Course Supplemental

Dallas Theological Seminary does not discriminate against those with disabilities in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination, the student is responsible for informing the Student Services Office and the instructional facilitator of any disabling condition that will require modifications. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus.

The Presence of the Professor

While the online learning environment is different than the live classroom environment, your professor is still involved and available. You can expect your professor to participate in the required interactions/discussions regularly and substantially. You can also expect your professor to have at least 3 virtual live “office hours”. Your professor will inform you of the times and means that these will occur. Most professors will likely use the Chat feature provided by our online platform at [online.dts.edu](https://online.dts.edu).

VI. Course Policies

A. Grading Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

B. Grading Criteria

Reading.....10%  
Lecture Video Attendance.....10%

Learning Activities.....60%  
 Interaction.....20%

C. Class Participation

Active participation in the class discussion is essential. The quality of your participation will reveal as much about your learning as the projects you submit. It takes great understanding and time to ask informed questions about or make extensions to another person’s work. Your responses to those who ask questions about your projects or assigned discussions will reveal the depth of your understanding. Simply praising another person’s work does not count as participation in the discussion, although this may be part of the dialog. When asked to read the papers of your classmates, DO NOT open, read, and respond to someone's work until you have first submitted yours!

D. Late Assignments

Submit projects by their due date. Except for rare emergencies, expect a 3 point grade penalty per day for late projects.

Set your time zone in your Canvas profile for accurate time-date stamping of your projects.

VII. Course Schedule

Module	Title	Reading
1	Welcome to the Course OBSERVATION Introduction	Traina, Introduction & ch. 1
2	OBSERVATION Terms & Structure	Traina, ch. 1 Ryken, Preface & ch. 1
3	OBSERVATION Structure	Zuck, chs. 6 Ryken, ch. 2
4	INTERPRETATION Introduction to Hermeneutics Part 1	Traina, ch. 2
5	INTERPRETATION Introduction to Hermeneutics Part 2	Zuck, ch. 1-3
6	INTERPRETATION Historical & Cultural Backgrounds	Ryken, ch. 12

<b>Module</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reading</b>
7	INTERPRETATION Literary Forms 1- Narrative and Poetry	Zuck, ch. 4 Ryken, chs. 3–6
8	INTERPRETATION Literary Forms 2 - Parables, Epistles, Prophecy, and Visionary Literature	Zuck, ch. 9-10 (MABC students are not required to read chapter 9) Ryken, chs. 7–9 & 11 Walt Kaiser’s Chapter on Prophetic Literature
9	INTERPRETATION Grammatical Contexts & Mechanical Layouts	Zuck, chs. 5 Articles on Grammatical Interpretation
10	INTERPRETATION Literary Elements	Zuck, ch. 7–8 & 11 (MABC students are not required to read these chapters) Articles on OT in NT
11	INTERPRETATION Dispensational Discontinuity & Continuity	Articles on Dispensationalism Zuck, pp. 238–241
12	CORRELATION Principles & Central Theological Propositions	Zuck, ch. 2 Traina, ch. 4
13	APPLICATION Introduction & Considerations	Traina, ch. 3
14	APPLICATION Contexts & Character Formation	Zuck, ch. 12