

**Dallas Theological Seminary  
Hermeneutics and Bible Study Methods  
President's Office–Horner Administration  
Building, 3rd Floor**

**BE101A Course Syllabus  
Dr. Mark L. Bailey  
Fall 2018  
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## **COURSE DEFINITION**

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

## **COURSE DESIGNS**

Cognitive Objectives: By the end of this class the student should be able to . . .

1. Implement a methodical approach to 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.

Affective Objectives: By the end of this course, the student should . . .

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.

## **COURSE DUTIES**

1. Reading from the assigned from the course textbooks:

Robert Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*  
Leland Ryken, *How to Read the Bible As Literature*  
Roy Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*

2. Regular Assignments:

Because of the nature of a methods course, practice is essential to perfect both the art and skills of Bible study. All assignments will be graded on a 10-point basis. All grades will be calculated according to the DTS Student Handbook.

3. Recommended Tools – NASB Bible, Bible Atlas, Concordance, File System

Session 1	Aug 28	Introduction to the Course <i>Reading: Methodical Bible Study, Chapter 1</i>
Session 2	Aug 30	Observation: Terms <i>Assignment: Observing Acts 1:8</i>
Session 3	Sept 4	Observation: Structure <i>Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 6</i> <i>Assignment: Observing Acts 1:8 (Part 2)</i> <b>(MABC students taking the course for 2 hours are not required to do the “Observing Acts 1:8 [Part 2]” assignment.)</b>
Session 4	Sept 6	Review Acts 1:8 <i>Assignment: Observing Acts 1:6–11</i>
Session 5	Sept 11	Review Acts 1:6–11
Session 6	Sept 13	Observation: Structure <i>Assignment: Observing Nehemiah 1:4–11</i>
Session 7	Sept 18	Review Nehemiah 1 and Introduction to Hermeneutics <i>Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapters 1–3</i>
Session 8	Sept 20	Interpretation: Introduction to Hermeneutics <i>Reading: Methodical Bible Study, Chapter 2</i> <i>Assignment: Charting the Book of Habakkuk</i>
Session 9	Sept 25	Review of Habakkuk <i>Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 4</i>
Session 10	Sept 27	Interpretation: Historical Backgrounds <i>Assignment: The Historical Background of Philemon</i>
Session 11	Oct 2	Interpretation: Cultural Backgrounds
Session 12	Oct 4	Interpretation: Cultural Normativeness <i>Assignment: Cultural Background on Philemon</i> <b>(MABC students taking the course for 2 hours are not required to do the “Cultural Background on Philemon” assignment.)</b> <i>Reading: How to Read the Bible as Literature</i>
Session 13	Oct 9	Interpretation: Narrative

Session 14	Oct 11	Interpretation: Poetry <i>Assignment: Psalm 19</i> (MABC students taking the course for 2 hours are not required to do the “Psalm 19” assignment.)
Session 15	Oct 16	Interpretation: Parables and Epistles <i>Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 9</i> (MABC students taking the course for 2 hours are not required to read Zuck, chapter 9.) <i>Assignment: Epistolary Outline of Philemon</i>
Session 16	Oct 18	Interpretation: Prophecy and Visionary <i>Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 10</i> <i>Reading: Walt Kaiser’s Chapter on Prophetic Literature</i>
Session 17	Oct 23	Interpretation: Grammatical Contexts <i>Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 5</i>
Session 18	Oct 25	Interpretation: Mechanical Layouts <i>Uploaded Articles on Grammatical Interpretation</i> <i>Assignment: Philemon 4–7 Mechanical Layout</i>
Session 19	Oct 30	Interpretation: Word Studies and Figures of Speech 4 <i>Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapters 7 and 8</i> (MABC students taking the course for 2 hours are not required to read Zuck, chapters 7 and 8.)
Session 20	Nov 1	Interpretation: Typology and Old Testament in the New <i>Reading: Uploaded Articles on OT in the NT</i> <i>Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 11</i> (MABC students taking the course for 2 hours are not required to read Zuck, chapter 11.)
Session 21	Nov 6	Interpretation: Dispensational Discontinuity <i>Reading: Dispensation Handouts</i>
Session 22	Nov 8	Interpretation: Dispensational Continuity <i>Reading: Methodical Bible Study, Chapter 4</i>
November 12–16		<b>Reading Week – No classes</b>
November 19–23		<b>Thanksgiving Week – No classes</b>
Session 23	Nov 27	Correlation: Principles

Session 24	Nov 29	Correlation: Central Theological Proposition <i>Assignment: Surfacing the Abiding Truths in Philemon</i>
Session 25	Dec 4	Correlation: Practice
Session 26	Dec 6	Application: Considerations <i>Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 12</i> <i>Assignment: Walking away Different from Philemon</i>
Session 27	Dec 11	Application: Contexts
Session 28	Dec 13	Application: Character Formation <i>Reading: Whatever has not been read</i>