

BIBLE STUDY METHODS AND HERMENEUTICS SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“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. Required prerequisite or corequisite to all Bible Exposition courses. *3 hours (2 hour MABC)*”

II. DIFFERING COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This syllabus contains different course requirements based on the credit hours required for student’s degree programs and a catalog year. These requirements reflect curricular changes to the MABC degree program beginning fall 2017.

Students enrolled in the MABC degree program, beginning with the 2017 catalog year, are exempt from certain assignments in accordance with taking this course for two (2) credit hours. The notation “**MABC students taking this course for two (2) hours are exempt from . . .**” has been added to the applicable books and assignments.

It is the responsibility of MABC students who plan to take this course for two (2) credit hours to ensure they are eligible by verifying their catalog requirements with the Advising Center (advising@dts.edu). The professor is not responsible for verifying this information.

More information can be found at <http://www.dts.edu/students/advising/degreeadvising/mabc2017>

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. 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.

B. 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.

IV. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Required

Leland Ryken, *How to Read the Bible As Literature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984.
(MABC students taking this course for two (2) hours are exempt from reading this book.)

Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*. Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1991.

[One of the following two is required]

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, reprint 1985.

Yarbrough, Mark, *How to Read the Bible Like a Seminary Professor*. New York, FaithWords, 2015.

An edition of the New American Standard Bible (NASB) without notes, outlines or other prepared study helps is to be brought to every class unless the student has it available during class on a laptop.

Additional Tools for Study:

1. A good Concordance, Bible Dictionary, and Bible Atlas.
2. An electronic Bible study program.
3. An ample supply of plain paper and pens.
4. Supplementary tools and recommended texts will be presented in class.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. All BE101 course documents are posted on Canvas. The following link will give you the information that you need concerning how to use Canvas and how to post assignments:
<https://online.dts.edu/courses/529>

B. Reading Assignments

All of the required textbooks are to be read during the semester and by the dates listed in the course schedule. The instructor's notes (if needed and available) will be posted online and are to be read prior to discussion in class. A list of the topics and required reading is included in the schedule. Students will be asked at the final class to report that they have completed the reading as scheduled.

C. Written Assignments (papers, study exercises, charts, etc.)

This course is designed as a methods course. Practice is essential to strengthen both the art and the skills of Bible study. Assignments will be given at each class and are due at the time announced. These assignments are to be submitted to the professor in class at the time due, unless otherwise discussed or assigned.

D. Course integration assignment,

There will be no quizzes or exams. However, students must submit a written course integration assignment by midnight, Thursday, Dec. 20. This exposition of an assigned passage will be 7 to 10 pages in length, typed, double spaced, and include a bibliography of sources used. The purpose of this assignment is to enable the student to apply the course principles to a passage and make an appropriate application.

VI. COURSE POLICIES

A. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

Assignment	MABC students taking the course for two (2) credit hours	All students taking the course for three (3) credit hours, including some MABC students
Reading Assignments	40%	20%
Written Assignments	60%	60%
Integration Paper	Not Required	20%
Total	100%	100%
Total Course Hours	2 Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Total completion time	Approx. 80 hours	Approx. 125 hours

B. Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in group projects and class discussion. They will also have opportunity to share the results of their personal research with the rest of the class on a regular basis.

C. Late Assignments

Each weekly assignment is discussed in class on the date it is due. Thus, it is impossible to accept late assignments, since these will already have been reviewed. The work of other students, as well as that of the professor, will have been given making it unfair to the remainder of the class if late assignments are accepted. In the event of medical or similar emergency students are responsible to contact the instructor. Alternate arrangements will be at the discretion of the instructor.

D. Absences

Students are expected to attend all class sessions but may miss the equivalent of one and one-half sessions without penalty or loss of grade. Extreme medical and family emergencies are rare, however, they do occur. In such an unlikely case the instructor must be notified of the reason and any variation in policy will be at his discretion.

E. Letter/Numerical Grade 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		

F. Plagiarism

Students must write papers in their own voice. Sources should be interacted with by means of quotation and citation, not copied as if they were one's own thoughts. The attempt to make one's paper look better than it is by not citing the sources for facts, or by consistently borrowing another's work, or line of thought without citing is considered deceitful and cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. Students should learn appropriate research, writing and notation procedures. Avoid the temptation to cut and paste from the Internet or other resources directly into your paper except for specific, cited points which bolster your paper's analysis. Plagiarism violations will result in automatic failure of the project and possibly of the course, and disciplinary procedures in accordance with the student handbook and student dean's office.

Week 5 Sept 25 Review of Habakkuk
Introduction to Interpretation

Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 4; Seminary Professor, Chapter 9
Assignment: The Historical Background of Philemon

Week 6 Oct 2 Interpretation: Historical Backgrounds
Interpretation: Cultural Backgrounds

Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 6; Seminary Professor, Chapter 10-11
Reading: How to Read the Bible As Literature
Assignment: Cultural Background on Philemon

Week 7 Oct 9 Interpretation: Narrative Part 1
Interpretation: Narrative Part 2

Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 5; Seminary Professor 12-17
Assignment: Psalm 19; Philemon Outline

Week 8 Oct 16 Interpretation: Poetry and Parables
Interpretation: Epistles and Prophecy

Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 7
Assignment: Epistolary Outline of Philemon

Week 9 Oct 23 Interpretation: Old Testament in the New Testament
Interpretation: Preformed Traditions

Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapters 9–11
Assignment: Philemon 4-7 Mechanical Layout

Week 10 Oct 30 Interpretation: Logos and Word Studies
Interpretation: Theological Systems

Reading: OT in the NT Articles
Reading: Dispensationalism Handouts

Week 11 Nov 6 Correlation: Principles
Correlation: Central Theological Proposition

Reading: Methodical Bible Study, Chapter 4

November 12-16 Reading Week – No class November 19-23 Thanksgiving Break – No class

Week 12 Nov 27 Application (Dr. Abraham Kuruvilla)

Reading: Basic Bible Interpretation, Chapter 2
Assignment (in class): Surfacing the Abiding Truths in Philemon
Assignment (in class): The Agape Project Initiative

