

BI607 HERMENEUTICS/INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Course: BI607 Hermeneutics/Inductive Bible Study
Credits: 3 credits
Semester: Spring 2025 Semester Session 2
Dates: March 17 – May 9, 2025
Time: Wednesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central Time
Place: CABRE 101
Professor: Dr. Gary Gromacki, Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.
Department Chair and Professor of Bible and Theology
Director of the Master of Arts in Bible and Theology Program
Director of the Ph.D. in Bible and Theology Program
Email: gary.gromacki@calvary.edu
Phone: 816-425-6174

DESCRIPTION

This course examines the steps of inductive Bible study (observation, interpretation, application and correlation) and equips the student to correctly understand and interpret the Bible using the literal, grammatical historical method of interpretation.

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Learn and practice the inductive method of Bible study: observation, interpretation, application and correlation. (PLO 1, 2, 4, 5) (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
2. Learn and practice the literal, grammatical historical method of interpretation of the Bible (PLO 1, 2, 4) (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
3. Learn and practice the skills of doing biblical exegesis (PLO 1, 2, 4) (Assignments 1-8)

Our Mission: To prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview

Specific competencies to be achieved. You will:

1. Demonstrate skill in analyzing words, verses, segments and books of Scripture (PLO 1, 2,4) (Assignments 3, 4, 7, 8)
2. Identify and interpret different genres of Scripture (PLO 1,2, 4) (Assignments 1-4)
3. Diagram and outline different passages of scripture (PLO 1, 2, 4) (Assignment 3)
4. Learn new ways to study the Bible for personal devotions (PLO 1, 5) (Assignments 5, 6)

TEXTBOOKS

BIBLE - The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Duvall, J. Scott and Hays, J. Daniel. *Grasping God's Word*. Fourth edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2020. ISBN-13: 978-0310109174 Cost: \$48.59

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Observation: Type out 50 observations from the book of James. See *Grasping God's Word* (pages 95-97) for a list of items to observe. Be sure you post the name of the item from the list in the textbook and then give the example from the book of James with the chapter and verse (100 points)
2. Outlining: Type a detailed outline of the book of James. The outline must include major points and subpoints. Roman numeral I, II, III... should be used for main points. Capital Letters A, B, C... should be used for Subpoints. And Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4... for Sub-Sub points. Each outline point must be followed by a chapter and verse reference from James. (100 points)
3. Word Study on wisdom: What is wisdom? Look up the word "wisdom" in at least 3 Bible dictionaries and/or encyclopedias and read what is said about the word. Type a summary of the meaning of the word wisdom in the Bible. Now explain what the word wisdom means in the book of James. (100 points)

4. Interpretation: Type out your commentary on one of the chapters in the book of James. Be sure to explain the meaning of all the verses in context. Point out your observations and solve any interpretive problems (100 points)

5. Bible Character Study: Do Bible Character studies on Abraham (James 2:21-24), Rahab (James 2:25), Job (James 5:11) and Elijah (James 5:17-18). Give a description of the key events in the life of each of the Bible characters from the Old Testament. Now explain how James describes each OT character in his book and explain why James includes these people in his book. Give one application to your life for each OT character. This paper should follow Turabian format and be at least 8 pages double spaced (100 points)

6. Application: Type out 30 imperatives from the book of James (be sure to type out the verse and the chapter and verse) and then give an application to your life from each of the 30 imperatives (100 points)

7. Correlation: Do a study of the chronological order of writing of the books of the Bible. Put all 66 books of the Bible in a chronological sequence and be sure to list three sources after each book with dates in support of your chronology (example: James A.D. 45-50, Ryrie Study Bible, p.1966) (200 points)

8. Reading textbook and Learning List: Read through the textbook *Grasping God's Word* and type out 20 things you learned about studying the Bible from this book in a Word document (200 points)

GRADUATE GRADING SCALE

960-1000	A
940-959	A-
920-939	B+
880-919	B
860-879	B-
840-859	C+
800-839	C
780-799	C-
0-779	F

SCHEDULE

Week One – The Inductive Method of Bible Study

The Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Bible
How We Got our Bible
Bible Reading Plans
Dynamic Bible Study Methods
Bible Translations (Grasping God's Word, p. 3-22)
The Interpretive Journey (Grasping God's Word, p. 23-36)
Book Background Bible Study Method

Week Two – Observation

Inductive Method Step 1: Observation
How To Read the Book – Sentences (Grasping God's Word, p. 37-56)
How to Read the Book – Paragraphs (Grasping God's Word, p. 57-80)
How to Read the Book – Discourses (Grasping God's Word, p. 81-108)
How to Study a Chapter

Week Three – Literal Grammatical Interpretation

Inductive Method Step 2: Interpretation
Literal vs. Allegorical Interpretation
Word Studies (Grasping God's Word, p. 165-192)
Who Controls the Meaning? (Grasping God's Word, p. 193-206)
Levels of Meaning (Grasping God's Word, p. 207-226)
The Role of the Holy Spirit (Grasping God's Word, p. 227-238)
Grammatical Interpretation: How to Do Word Studies

Week Four – Historical Interpretation

Grammatical Interpretation: How to Do a Grammatical Diagram
Grammatical Interpretation: How to Outline a Book of the Bible
Historical Interpretation: OT and NT Chronology
Historical Interpretation: Cultural and Geographical Contexts
The Historical-Cultural Context (Grasping God's Word, p. 109-136)
What Do We Bring to the Text? (Grasping God's Word, p. 137-148)

Week Five – Literary Interpretation (Old Testament Genres)

The Literary Context (Grasping God's Word, p. 149-164)
How to Study OT Narratives (Grasping God's Word, p.355-381)
How to Study a Bible Character
How to Study OT Laws and Types (Grasping God's Word, p. 383-403)
How to Study Psalms (Grasping God's Word, p.405-433)
How to Study OT Wisdom Books (Grasping God's Word, p.463-489)
How to Study OT Prophetic Books (Grasping God's Word, p.435-461)

Week Six – Literary Interpretation (New Testament Genres)

How to Study Gospels (Grasping God's Word, p. 279-304)
How to Study the Parables of Jesus
How to Study Acts (Grasping God's Word, p. 305-324)
How to Study Epistles (Grasping God's Word, p.257-278)
How to Study Revelation (Grasping God's Word, p. 325-354)

Week Seven – Dispensationalism and Application

Introduction to Dispensationalism
Dispensations and Biblical Covenants
The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament
Typology and Symbolism
Inductive Method Step 3: Application (Grasping God's Word, p. 239-256)

Week Eight – Correlation and Creative Communication

Inductive Method: Correlation
How the 66 Books of the Bible Tell One Story
Creative Communication: Powerpoint, Charts
Inspiration and Canon (Grasping God's Word, p.491-503)
Writing an Exegetical Paper (Grasping God's Word, p. 505-507)
Building a Personal Library (Grasping God's Word, p.509-546)

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Attend class every week on time. Students are expected to be in every class either in person or in Microsoft Teams. You are expected to contact the professor if you cannot attend class (for any reason).

All Bible and Theology research papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th edition.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's ideas or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. If a student plagiarizes the student will receive a zero (F) for the assignment and he or she will be reported to the dean of students and the chief academic officer.

Turn all work in on time. -5 points for each day late.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blomberg, Craig. *Interpreting the Parables*. Second edition. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Couch, Mal, ed. *An Introduction to Classical Evangelical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2000.

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. Fourth edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.

Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Fourth edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Hamilton, James. *Typology: Understanding the Bible's Promise Shaped Patterns*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2022.

Henricks, Howard and William Hendricks. *Living by the Book*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

Kaiser, Walter and Moises Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Revised and Expanded. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006.

Ramm, Bernard. *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*. Third revised edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004.

Stein, Robert. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

Virkler, Henry. *Hermeneutics*. Second edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Vlach, Michael. *Dispensational Hermeneutics*. Theological Studies Press, 2023.

Warren, Rick. *Dynamic Bible Study Methods*. Victor Books, 1981.