

BI607 HERMENEUTICS/INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Course: BI607 Hermeneutics/Inductive Bible Study
Credits: 3 credits
Semester: Fall 2024 Session 1
Dates: August 19 – October 11, 2024
Time: Mondays 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central Time
Place: CABRE 101
Professor: Dr. Gary Gromacki, Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.
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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 course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

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 20 observations from James 1. See *Grasping God's Word* (pages 95-97) for a list of items to observe. Be sure you post the name of the item – what you observed in James 1 along with the verses (100 points)
2. Outlining: Type a detailed outline of the book of James. The outline must include major points and subpoints. 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: Do a study of faith and works in James. Type a research paper (6-8 pages) double spaced and following Turabian style format. (100 points)

5. Character studies on Abraham (James 2:21-24), Rahab (James 2:25), Job (James 5:11) and Elijah (James 5:17-18). For each character explain how James describes each OT character in his book, explain the OT events in the person's life that relate to the book of James, and then give one application to your life for each OT character. (100 points)

6. Application: Type out 20 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 20 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

Introduction to Bible Study Methods

Bible Reading Plans

Bible Translations (*Grasping God's Word*, p. 3-22)

The Interpretive Journey (*Grasping God's Word*, p. 23-36)

How to Study a Book of the Bible

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

How to Meditate on a Verse

Week Three – Interpretation (Literal Grammatical)

Inductive Method Step 2: Interpretation

Literal vs. Allegorical Interpretation

The History of Interpretation

Grammatical Interpretation: Word Studies and Grammatical Diagrams

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)

Week Four – Interpretation (Historical and Theological)

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)

Theological Interpretation: Biblical Covenants

Theological Interpretation: Dispensationalism

Week Five – Interpretation (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)

Week Six – Interpretation (Genres)

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)

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)

Week Seven – Interpretation (Genres) and Application

How to Study Epistles (Grasping God’s Word, p.257-278)
The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament
How to Study Revelation (Grasping God’s Word, p. 325-354)
Inductive Method: 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).

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.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 edition.