

## **BI607 HERMENEUTICS/INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY**

**Course:** BI607 Hermeneutics/Inductive Bible Study  
**Credits:** 3 credits  
**Semester:** Spring 2026 Session 2  
**Dates:** March 17 – May 8, 2026  
**Time:** Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm Central Time  
**Place:** Microsoft Teams  
**Professor:** Dr. Stephen Mapes, Ph.D.  
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**Cell phone:** 816-679-4602

### **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)

#### **Specific competencies to be achieved. You will:**

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

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. Post your work in a Word document in Assignments in Canvas (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. Post your work in a Word document in Assignments in Canvas (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. Post your work in a Word document in Assignments in Canvas (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. Post your work in a Word document in Assignments in Canvas (200 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. Post your work in a Word document in Assignments in Canvas (200 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 for each of the 30 imperatives. Post your work in a Word document in Assignments in Canvas. (100 points)

7. 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. Be sure to include the percentage of the textbook that you read. Post your work in a Word document in Assignments in Canvas. (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 – Introduction to 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 of the Bible

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](mailto:aso@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto: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.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

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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.

House, H. Wayne and Forrest Weiland. *The Theory and Practice of Biblical Hermeneutics*. Navasota, Texas: Lampion House Publishing, 2015.

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

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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.

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