

Note:

COURSE CONTENT MAY BE CHANGED, TERM TO TERM, WITHOUT NOTICE. THE INFORMATION BELOW IS PROVIDED AS A GUIDE FOR COURSE SELECTION AND IS NOT BINDING IN ANY FORM.

MOODY DISTANCE LEARNING

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BI-2230 *Bible Introduction*, 3 credit hours, *MDL only*.

Course Description

A survey of the areas of general and special introduction that include inspiration, the canon of Scripture, the transmission of the biblical text from the original writings to the many modern versions, and an examination of the major critical questions concerning the Bible that provide the student with an apologetic for the Christian faith.

Course Goals:

In this course you will:

- Understand the processes related to the formation of the canon
- Understand the doctrines related to the character and development of the Bible
- Understand the philosophies and purposes of modern biblical translations
- Understand and be able to defend various apologetic topics related to the origins and character of the Bible
- Understand and be capable of articulating an understanding of Scripture's functions within the community of faith

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Survey the process of canonization
2. Analyze the doctrines of inspiration, inerrancy, and illumination
3. Compare and contrast the various types of ancient and modern biblical translations
4. Utilize the doctrine of inspiration, illumination, OR inerrancy in an apologetic defense
5. Compose a statement expressing your viewpoint concerning the function of Scripture within the community of faith

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

TEXTBOOKS

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

ARTICLES (for Assignment #2: Doctrinal Treatment – Due During Week 7)

Andrew, S. L. “Biblical Inerrancy” *Chafer Theological Journal* 8 (January-March 2002): 1-20. Article is available online at http://www.chafer.edu/images/images/stories/docs/journal/v8n1/v8n1_1.pdf.

Averbeck, Richard E. “God, People, and the Bible: The Relationship between Illumination and Biblical Scholarship” *Who’s Afraid of the Holy Spirit? An Investigation into the Ministry of the Spirit of God Today* ed. D. B. Wallace and M. J. Sawyer (Dallas: Word, 2005): 137-166. Article is available online at http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=3439.

Kennard, Douglas W. “Evangelical Views on Illumination of Scripture and Critique” *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 49 (2006): 797-806. [Available in the **Week 8 Assignments** >> **Lesson 8 Resources** folder in the “**Assignments**” section of the Blackboard course]

Grenz, Stanley J. “The Spirit and the Word: The World-Creating Function of the Text” *Theology Today* 57 (2000): 357-374. Article available through the [ATLA Database](#) of Moody’s Crowell Library

Grisanti, Michael A. “Inspiration, Inerrancy, and the OT Canon: The Place of Textual Updating in an Inerrant View of Scripture” *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 44 (2001): 577-598. Article available through the [ATLA Database](#) of Moody’s Crowell Library

Sexton, Jason. “NT Text Criticism and Inerrancy” *The Master’s Seminary Journal* 17 (2006): 51-59. Article available through the [ATLA Database](#) of Moody’s Crowell Library

STATEMENTS AND WEB LINKS

The Chicago Statement of Biblical Inerrancy [<http://www.bible-researcher.com/chicago1.html>]

Assignments

You will be graded on your completion of the following assignments. Refer to the **Schedule & Assignments** folder within the **“Assignments”** section of the Blackboard course for greater details on these assignments.

ASSIGNMENT #1: DISCUSSION OF BIBLE TRANSLATIONS AND TEXTUAL CRITICISM – Create a two-page apologetic argument to discuss the validity of ancient and modern biblical translations. **Due Week 3.**

ASSIGNMENT #2: DOCTRINAL TREATMENT – Provide an eight-page double-spaced treatment of the Bible which includes the summary of biblical inspiration, inerrancy, infallibility, and perspicuity based on the assigned articles from Vanhoozer and other various sources of your choosing; a discussion of how these four aspects of the doctrine of Scripture are interrelated and how they are related to the formation of the canon; and an evaluative summary of one of the six articles listed above in the **Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information** section above. **Due Week 7.**

EXAM – You will complete an exam covering the areas of textual criticism and canonization. The one hour closed-book / closed-notes exam will consist of multiple choice and matching questions to determine your level of knowledge of the contents of Wegner, chapters 6-12, and 14. **Exam taken during Week 8.**

READING – You will report how much of the reading assignments you complete each week.

DISCUSSION BOARD – Significant participation in the discussion boards is required of each student in the course. Postings should be well thought out and should advance the conversations with other students. A discussion grading rubric is included in the **“Course Resources”** section for your review of the criteria by which you will be graded.

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Assignment #1: Comparison of Bible Translations	15%
Assignment #2: Paper	30%
Exam	20%
Reading	15%
Discussion Board	20%
	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	96% or higher	C	73 - 76.9%
A-	90 - 95.9%	C-	70 - 72.9%
B+	87 - 89.9%	D+	67 - 69.9%
B	83 - 86.9%	D	63 - 66.9%
B-	80 - 82.9%	D-	60 - 62.9%
C+	77 - 79.9%	F	Below 60%

Course Resources

Online students have access to the Moody Library. Though students may wish to check out books via inter-library loan, the online database has a number of articles and reviews available for download. You can access the online database by logging into your account at my.moody.edu. If you have not previously accessed the library database you may wish to complete the [database tutorial](#).

In addition to the resources available at the Moody Library, you may wish to visit <http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk> or www.bible.org. These sites contain content on various topics written by competent biblical scholars. It is also suggested that you download a free version of the NET Bible at [bible.org](http://www.bible.org).

The final resource that deserves mention here is [iTunes University](http://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/) (<http://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/>). Apple has developed a platform for colleges and universities to post audio and video content. There are a number of lectures available on iTunes U, including some on the Old Testament historical and prophetic books. Various schools such as Dallas Theological Seminary, Seattle Pacific University, Duke, and Yale have posted content related to biblical and theological studies. In addition, Covenant Theological Seminary has an Old Testament podcast.

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