

**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-3312 Genesis, 3 credit hours

### Course Description

A holistic presentation of the book that also seeks to examine specific exegetical problems. Introduces the student to historical, cultural, literary, and methodological issues. Emphasis is on the book's purpose and message through its biblical-theological development in order to reclaim its practical use and teaching in the church.

### Course Goals

In this course, you will learn to:

- I. Expand one's exegetical skills through the interpretation of Old Testament narrative
- II. Expand one's understanding of genre and the methods used to interpret Old Testament narrative and poetry from a literary perspective
- III. Understand and be able to employ data from ancient Near Eastern culture in the interpretation of Genesis
- IV. Understand the message and purpose of Genesis, as well as the relevance of the book for the church today

### Course Objectives

#### BEHAVIORAL

At the completion of this course you will be able to do the following:

1. Produce an exegetical analysis of one passage within the book of Genesis
2. Discuss the character of the poetic and narrative genres as they are found in the book of Genesis and the implications of these genres for the interpretative process
3. Incorporate the data from ancient Near Eastern sources into one's interpretation of Genesis
4. Compose a statement describing the purpose and message of Genesis
5. Design a vehicle (sermon, lesson, paper, etc.) for communicating and applying the results of one's studies in this course to the broader Christian community

#### AFFECTIVE

1. Develop a greater desire and appreciation for Old Testament literature in general and the book of Genesis in particular
2. Develop Christian affections based on the message and purpose of the book of Genesis

## Course Textbook

### BOOKS

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

### ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

Mathewson, S. D. "Guidelines for Understanding and Proclaiming Old Testament Narratives."  
Bibliotheca Sacra 154 (1997), 410-435  
[\[http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/article\\_mathewson.html\]](http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_mathewson.html)

Watts, Rikki, "Making Sense of Genesis 1" Stimulus 12 (2004), 2-12  
[\[http://www.stimulus.org.nz/index\\_files/Stim12\\_4RikkWatts.pdf\]](http://www.stimulus.org.nz/index_files/Stim12_4RikkWatts.pdf)

### SUGGESTED TEXTS

Young, Robert. *Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984)

**Students may also wish to request the following essay from the Moody library.**

Blocher, Henri. "Biblical Narrative and Historical Reference" in *Issues in Faith and History* ed. Nigel M. de S. Cameron (Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 1989)

***NOTE: Some of the texts required for this course do contain viewpoints that are not in agreement with the Doctrinal positions of MBI or with those of evangelicalism as a whole. While MBI certainly wishes to affirm and defend its own doctrinal positions, as well as those of the broader evangelical community, it is important for students to interact with different perspectives.***

***Reading is a conversation between the author and his or her readers in which the reader should seek to listen respectfully and attentively. Students should read all texts critically. they should seek to understand the author's position correctly and to adapt, accept, or reject his or her position as appropriate.***

***If students are having difficulty understanding a given author's argument or would like to hear the perspectives of other readers, it is suggested that students read review articles that treat the work in question or other works written by the same author. There are a number of review articles included on the ATLA Religion Database on the Library's website.***

## Assignments

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ACCORDING TO THE COURSE SCHEDULE.**

### READING ASSIGNMENT:

You will be required to complete all the reading as designated in the Course Schedule. You will report the completion of your weekly reading at the end of each week.

### INTERPRETIVE PROJECT ASSIGNMENT:

This project will be divided into five assignments: 1) a survey of Genesis, 2) a description of the literary method, 3) an exegetical analysis of one *narrative* passage in the book of Genesis, 4) the application of your analysis to the life of the church, and 5) the development of a vehicle (sermon, lesson, blog posting, podcast, etc.) by which the results of your analysis may be communicated to the broader Christian community.

### CLASS PARTICIPATION:

You will be required to complete all the discussion board activities as designated in the Course Schedule. Your instructor will grade your class participation based on your participation and postings in the Discussion Board. Your postings will be graded according to the discussion board rubric available in the **Course Resources** section of the Blackboard course.

### WEEKLY SELF-CHECK QUIZZES (OPTIONAL):

Self-Check quizzes consist of objective questions based on the stated objectives of a particular lesson(s) each week. Although these quizzes are not graded, they will help you assess how well you have learned the course material.

## Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Reading Assignment                      | 10%         |
| Assignment #1: Survey of Genesis        | 20%         |
| Assignment #2: Literary Method Analysis | 15%         |
| Assignment #3: Exegetical Analysis      | 20%         |
| Assignment #4: Application              | 10%         |
| Assignment #5: Communication            | 15%         |
| Class Participation                     | 10%         |
|   | <b>100%</b> |

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](http://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](http://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.

The final resource that deserves mention here is iTunes University. 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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