

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 3333 Hebrews, 3 credit hours

Course Description

An expository study of the book that emphasizes the preeminence of the Lord Jesus Christ in His deity and high priestly ministry as a fulfillment of Old Testament theology. Applies the great spiritual truths of Hebrews to everyday living and Christian service.

Prerequisites: Not open to Freshmen

Course Goals

In this course you will:

- Understand the rhetorical argumentation consistent with the Epistle's theme
- Utilize correct Hermeneutical steps using OT passages in Hebrews
- Follow the logical thought and progression of Soteriological themes
- Discover key Biblical-Theological themes
- Learn careful discourse analysis when reviewing warning passages
- Enjoy the beauty of this great epistle when applying the reading to life and ministry

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Analyze key historical, thematic, and problem passages for interpreting Hebrews
2. Practice the use of independent observation apart from commentary analysis to determine the seven key Biblical-Theological Themes
3. Apply steps in discourse analysis using version comparison as the beginning step for interpreting problem passages
4. Critique broad and conservative theological interpretations of the Epistle of Hebrews
5. Synthesize various positions on authorial intent, soteriological framework, and textual criticism interpretations
6. Summarize data into a final project presentation

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

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

NOTE: Additional content or links to Internet content may be required and will be provided in the course.

Assignments Overview

See the Syllabus page in the Blackboard course for general assignment instructions.

READING: The completion of the course reading/listening is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the reading/listening prior to class for discussion purposes. You will be required to submit a reading report at the end of each week.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Attendance is expected. You must maintain a significant presence in the discussion boards by posting your initial answer to the discussion question by mid-week (Friday, 11:59pm CT) and reading/responding to at least two classmates' initial posts by the end of the week (Monday, 11:59pm CT) that the discussion is due. Please refer to the discussion board rubric included in the **Course Resources** section of this course for more information on how your participation in the discussion board will be assessed.

ASSIGNMENT #1: SERMONS – DUE DURING EACH WEEK'S DISCUSSION BOARD

Explore eight (8) sermons on the book of Hebrews. These sermons can be accessed through the following website: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/category/sermons/a/scripture/Hebrews>

The scope of the assignment: Listen to each link and evaluate the message of Carson, Piper or Begg in a reflective/meditative process. Submit your thoughts through Blackboard's discussion board. The reflections should identify the major points, themes, and an application of the messages. You should also connect these thoughts by identifying key similarity in commentary/journal article readings.

Listen #1: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/Part-1-As-the-Son-He-Eclipses-the-Angels-Hebrews-1>

Listen #2: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/Part-2-As-a-Man-He-Bypasses-the-Angels-Hebrews-2>

Listen #3: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/Part-3-Jesus-Rest-is-Better-Than-All-the-Rest-Hebrews-37-413>

Listen #4: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/Part-4-Jesus-Priesthood-is-Better-Than-Aarons-Hebrews-7-also-4-5>

Listen #5: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/Part-5-Jesus-Is-Better-Dont-Apostatize-Hebrews-511-620>

Listen #6: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/Part-6-Jesus-Sacrifice-Better-Than-the-Temple-Sacrifices-Hebrews-9>

Listen #7: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/In-These-Last-Days-God-Has-Spoken-by-a-Son>

Listen #8: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/resources/a/A-Christian-Lifestyle>

ASSIGNMENT #2: COMMENTARY REVIEW – DUE WEEK 7

Complete a five to seven (5-7) page book analysis of *The Letter to the Hebrews*, by Peter O'Brien.

The following is required:

- a. A critique on two (2) strengths and two (2) weaknesses of the commentary
- b. Comment on O'Brien's outline established for the book
- c. Examination and analysis of O'Brien's summary of the Warning Passages presented

Consult these warning passages: **Hebrews 2:1-4, 3:1-4:13; 5:11-6:20; 10:26-39; 12:14-29**. The paper should reflect substantive and robust effort commenting on specific examples of the commentary. Establish subject headers for organizational purposes. Correct MLA style documentation and the insertion of references within the body of the paragraphs are expected.

ASSIGNMENT #3: JOURNAL ARTICLES – DUE WEEKS 1, 2, 4, & 6

Read the four (4) interpretative journal articles from various themes on the Epistle of Hebrews (listed in the **Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information** section). **Note:** The *Journal articles do not necessarily reflect MBI's theological position, but are designed to challenge student's critical thinking skills and theological foundation through reading diverse articles of biblical exegesis*. These assignments are worth 5% each. The length of the reflections should be three to four (3-4) pages of summation. Succinct, robust, and substantive effort is expected. The project should contain section headers, bolded and underlined: (e.g., **Strengths**, **Weaknesses**, **Critique**, and **Question**).

The following will express the makeup of the four (4) critical responses:

- a. State two (2) primary strengths and two (2) primary weaknesses*
- b. Critique whether the title presented represents careful biblical exegesis by discussing and pointing out key concepts from the journals, maintaining thematic consistency of the theme and its development reflects careful consistency of the theme
- c. State one (1) primary question the author raises and explore that question within O'Brien's commentary on Hebrews.

* **Important Note:** The analysis on strengths and weaknesses should not begin with, "I liked the way..." or "I did not like the way..."

ASSIGNMENT #4: MAJOR PROJECT – DUE WEEK 8

The **Major Project** is to be 10-12 pages in length and double-spaced, using correct MLA citations and necessary rules of grammar. Completion of the major project includes the following elements:

- A. **Biblical Theology on Seven (7) Major Themes:**
Do an in-depth analysis on the biblical-theological themes in Hebrews using the following **seven (7) themes:**

Table 1: Outline

1. Faith
 - a. Believing faith
 - b. Unbelieving faith
 - c. Other sub-themes
 - d. Principle Learned or Application Obtained
2. Perfection
3. Promise
4. Endurance
5. Superiority
6. Witness
7. Inheritance

The seven (7) themes should be expanded into sub-points as shown in Table 1. Reflect and analyze the book of Hebrews based on your own reading. **No commentaries, Bible dictionaries, or webpages should be consulted!** Independent work is expected and encouraged.

Trace the seven (7) themes and appropriate sub-themes connecting the biblical references to each thematic section in chapters 1-13 of Hebrews. Citing references and interpreting features of these verses is expected. Students may not go outside of the book of Hebrews for developing the theme unless it is a direct link to an Old Testament passage. Cross-reference of this sort is expected. Observation questions should be asked (**Who, What, Where, When, Why, or How?**). **Principle Learned or Application Gained:** After each theme, summarizing a principle learned or application for either life or ministry should be included. This assignment should be a narrative reflection with good transitional words and grammar applied.

B. Commentary Analysis on Each Major Theme:

After independent work is completed, **utilize the biblical commentaries** to explore the **seven (7) themes**, noting particular differences of the personal comments previously made in the narrative and comparing those observations with O'Brien's commentary, Precept Austin <http://www.preceptaustin.org/>, "Notes on Hebrews" by Dr. Thomas L. Constable <http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/hebrews.pdf>, and other biblical commentaries in this exercise. **Note:** *The instructor will be able to observe independent observation versus scholarly work performed in the first section.*

C. Preliminary Discourse Analysis:

This analysis is a version comparison chart on the **Five Warning Passages** from various English translations, using www.netbible.org translation notes and making personal observations between versions.

Use the following chart in your Word document:

Translation	Verse	NET Bible Translation	Personal Observation of NET Bible and English Translation
ESV	Hebrews 2:1-4	1sn <i>The message spoken through angels</i>	1. The ESV begins with "therefore,"

NASB	Hebrews 2:1-4	refers to the OT law, which according to Jewish tradition was mediated to Moses through angels (cf. Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 68:17-18; Acts 7:38, 53; Galatians 3:19; and <i>Jub.</i> 1:27, 29; Josephus, <i>Ant.</i> 15.5.3 [15.136]). 2 ^{tn} <i>Grk</i> “through angels became valid and every violation.” 3 ^{tn} <i>Grk</i> “God bearing witness together” (the phrase “with them” is implied). 4 ^{tn} <i>Grk</i> “and distributions of the Holy Spirit.”	while NASB uses “for”. 2. <i>and so forth and so on...</i>
NLT	Hebrews 2:1-4		

This project must contain headings and organizational structure. Please follow these in order. The formats include:

- I. Biblical Theology on Seven Major Themes
- II. Commentary Analysis on Each Major Theme
- III. Preliminary Discourse Analysis

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Grading Percentages	
Reading of Hebrews (ESV or NASB and NLT)	5%
Assignment #1: Sermons (Class Participation)	15%
Assignment #2: Commentary Review	15%
Assignment #3: Four (4) Journal Articles - 5% each	20%
Assignment #4: Major Project	45%
Total	100%

BI-3333 Hebrews - Syllabus

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%