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 4495, Biblical Studies Capstone, 3 hours

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to review, discover, and cement the overall goals of the Biblical Studies program. Objectives include the testing and refining of the following: writing, critical thinking, and communication skills; analytical, synthetic, and hermeneutical skills in interpreting the Bible and theology; and the development of a personal doctrinal statement. Normally this course is taken at the end of the program.

Course Goals

Course goals express the instructor's interpretation of the course description in terms of what they intend the course to accomplish. These goals are broad, general statements that convey the instructor's desires for students in the teaching of this course.

By taking this course, you will:

  I.   Expand one's ability to interact with secondary literature in a critical fashion
  II.   Understand the implications and necessity of developing doctrinal statements
  III. Understand how to move from exegesis to doctrine
  IV.   Understand how to balance the demands of a changing world with doctrinal commitments
  V.   Understand how to use doctrine to shape one's personal life and the life of the church.

Course Objectives

Course objectives represent the translation of course goals into descriptions of the students' observable behaviors, attitudes, and capabilities at the end of the course.

BEHAVIORAL
By the completion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

  1. Analyze and critique the work of a contemporary theological scholar or position
  2. Research and compose one's own doctrinal position
  3. Create a theological argument aimed at the transformation of the modern-day church's ministry practices
  4. Apply the results of exegesis and theology to one's own personal life

AFFECTIVE
  1. Develop a more discerning spirit with regard for the social and spiritually formative functions of doctrine
  2. Develop an increased sensitivity to the systemic nature of sin and our individual role in supporting sinful systems

Course Textbooks

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

Assignments Overview

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. ***All assignments are due according to the course schedule.***

DOCTRINAL PROJECT

ASSIGNMENT #1: BOOK REVIEW: AN INTRODUCTION TO ECCLESIOLOGY – Write a five to six page book review of *An Introduction to Ecclesiology.*

Assignment #1 is due by the end of Week 5.

ASSIGNMENT #2: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT AND EXEGETICAL ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT – This assignment is divided into three sections: 1) the doctrinal statement, 2) the exegetical analysis, and 3) the application of your analysis.

A. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT – The doctrinal statement should be no more than seven (7) pages in length and should include a two-page "prologue" to the doctrinal statement based on the required readings from *The Genesis of Doctrine* and *The Great Giveaway,* and a three-page treatment of the doctrine of ecclesiology incorporating insights from *The Community of the Word* and 8-10 other sources found using the ATLA Religion Database at Moody's Library website.

B. EXEGETICAL ANALYSIS – The exegetical portion should consist of a version comparison of a select passage, a notes analysis, a word study, a connection analysis, a statement describing the central message of the passage, and a one-page discussion integrating the results of your exegesis with the doctrine of ecclesiology.

C. APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT – The application assignment should be approximately two pages in length. You should examine the impact of your topic on your own personal life and on the life of your church. You may include a strictly personal application, but you should focus your efforts on developing applications that derive from your position as a member of the church.

Assignment #2 (includes A, B, & C) is due by the end of Week 8.

ASSIGNMENT #3: DISCUSSION BOARDS – You are expected to actively post on the discussion boards for the course. Failure to produce adequate postings will result in a lowering of your final grade. A discussion board grading rubric is included in the *"Course Resources"* section of the Blackboard course for your review on what criteria your instructor will be grading your participation.

ASSIGNMENT #4: READING – You are expected to complete the reading for the course and required to report on your reading by the end of each week.

Assessments

1.	Book Review	25%
2.	Doctrinal Statement and Exegetical Analysis	
	A. Doctrinal Statement	20%
	B. Exegetical Analysis	20%
	C. Application	10%
3.	Discussion Board Participation	10%
4.	Reading	15%
	Total:	**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.

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.

Course Copyright Statement