

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-1120 *Elements of Bible Study*, 3 credit hours (MDL only)

Course Description

Emphasizes the inductive Bible study method, basic principles of biblical interpretation, and uses other methods and tools of Bible study. Students will learn how to get an overview of any book of the Bible, make observations and ask interpretative questions, distinguish between figurative and literal language, outline passages and make applications from biblical principles.

This course is designed to be coupled with ED-1100 *Educational Foundations* where the learner will use the papers written in BI-1120 *Elements of Bible Study* and create lesson plans for teaching.

Course Goals:

In this course, you will learn to:

- Understand the value and principles of observation, interpretation and application
- Understand various reading strategies
- Train your eyes and mind to see what is emphasized, repeated, related, alike and unlike, true to life and understand the big picture of a biblical passage
- Understand the five keys of interpretation
- Understand literary methods and genre
- Know the four steps in application
- Know the nine questions to ask a biblical passage
- Learn to discover enduring principles of a scripture passage

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Correctly make observations, interpretations and applications of biblical passages
2. Utilize various reading strategies to aid in Bible study
3. Utilize the five keys of interpretation
4. Distinguish and identify between various literary methods and genres in scripture
5. Correctly apply the four steps of application in written assignments
6. Use the nine questions to ask in a biblical passage
7. Identify and implement into your life situation the enduring principles of the passage

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.

Articles and chapters available in the **Course Resources** section of the course:

Nevin, Paul D. "EBS Interpretation." From *Elements of Bible Study*, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1988, pp. 53-59. [Nevin, Interpretation]

____. "EBS Observations," pp. 9-13. [Nevin, Observations]

____. "Rules for Making Observations," p. 39. [Nevin, Rules]

Radcliffe, Robert, J. "Bible Study Methods" in *Evangelical Dictionary of Christian Education*, edited by Michael J. Anthony, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, p. 74. [Radcliffe]

Articles and chapters contained in the **Course Pack** (purchased by the student):

Anthony, Michael J., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Christian Education*, edited by Michael J. Anthony, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, "Inductive Bible Study" by Julie Gorman, pp. 358-59. [Anthony]

Horton, David. ed. "Interpreting Scripture" in *The Portable Seminary*, Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2006, ISBN: 0-7642-0160-3, Chapter Three, pp. 69-85. [Horton]

Virkler, Henry. "Special Literary Methods: Similes, Metaphors, Proverbs, Parables, and Allegories" in *Hermeneutics: Principles and Process of Biblical Interpretation*, Chapter 6. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1981. ISBN: 0-8010-2067-0. [Virkler]

Virkler, Henry. "Special Literary Methods: Types, Prophecy Apocalyptic Literature" in *Hermeneutics: Principles and Process of Biblical Interpretation*, Chapter 7. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1981, ISBN: 0-8010-2067-0. [Virkler]

Assignments

All assignments are due according to the schedule listed on the Course Schedule.

1. **READ THE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS.** The completion of the course reading is an important part of the course. You are expected to complete the reading early in the week for which it is assigned because it often is related to the online discussions and written assignments of the lesson. You must submit a reading report by the end of the week when reading is assigned.
2. **COMPLETE SIX WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS ON A PASSAGE (JOHN 13:1-17) AND A BOOK (JONAH).** The written assignments draw heavily on the Bible study lessons taught in the *Living by the Book* text by Howard Hendricks. They allow you to put into practice what is described in the book. For both the passage and the book, you will prepare reports on your observations, interpretation, and application.
3. **PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS.** The online discussion forum is the classroom for the course in which we interact with each other. Early each week, you are expected to post a substantial answer to the question in the forum. Later each week, you are expected to post a thoughtful response to a minimum of one other student as directed. The "Moody Online week" begins on Tuesday morning (though you can post earlier if you wish) and ends on Monday night. The discussion grading rubric by which your posts will be graded is located in the **Course Resources** section of the Blackboard course.
4. **COMPLETE THE FINAL EXAM.** The final objective exam will cover material discussed in the textbook.

Assessments

Your grade for this course will consist of:

Assignment #1	Reading	5%
Assignment #2.a.	Observation of John 13:1-17	15%
Assignment #2.b.	Observation of Jonah	15%
Assignment #2.c.	Interpretation of John 13:1-17	15%
Assignment #2.d.	Interpretation of Jonah	15%
Assignment #2.e.	Application of John 13:1-17	10%
Assignment #2.f.	Application of Jonah	10%
Assignment #3	Online Discussion Participation	10%
Assignment #4	Exam	5%
		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 at <http://mmm.moody.edu/GenMoody/default.asp?sectionID=69C97E398A6249D9AC3859B4CBF81926>.

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 www.bible.org, if you do not already have Bible software installed on your computer.

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- Carson, Donald A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.
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- Erickson, Millard J. *Evangelical Interpretation: Perspectives on Hermeneutical Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993.
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- Kevan, Ernest F. "The Principles of Interpretation," in *Revelation and the Bible: Contemporary Evangelical Thought*, ed. by Carl F.H. Henry. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1958, pp. 283-98.
- Klein, William W., Craig Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1993.
- Packer, James I. "In Quest of Canonical Interpretation" in Robert K. Johnston, ed., *The Use of the Bible in Theology: Evangelical Options*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1985.
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- Sandy, D. Brent and Ronald L. Giese, Jr. *Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting the Literary Genres of the Old Testament*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1995.
- Schultz, Samuel J. and Morris A. Inch, eds. *Interpreting the Word of God*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1976.

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Sproul, R. C. *Knowing Scripture*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1977.

Sterrett, T. Norton. *How to Understand Your Bible*. Rev. Ed. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 1974.

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