

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

BI7700 Action Research and Biblical Interpretation, 3 credit hours, 14-week

Course Description

Investigation of the principles and processes related to the field of action research. Emphasis placed on the value of action research for the application of Scripture in everyday situations. Students will initiate an action research project in the second half of the course.

Course Objectives

1. Recognize research principles and terminology
2. Construct stimulating and insightful discussion questions
3. Investigate the Action Research approach through discussions with peers and journaling with instructor
4. Integrate the Action Research approach with Biblical Interpretation
5. Identify an area of improvement that can be resolved using Action Research
6. Design an action research project that considers elements of the MAABS
7. Produce a well-crafted report of the Action Research Cycle 1
8. Create a Cycle 2 Proposal

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.

Assignments (*what student does for a grade*)

- **Guidelines for the Discussion Board:** One or more students will be selected to lead each week's Discussion Board by writing a discussion question. The student will get guidance from the instructor as to a properly-phrased discussion question. (Please make sure you have read "Discussion Questions That Work.") Other students will be expected to respond to the question(s) or topic of discussion just like if it were written by the instructor. For a full grade, please also interact with at least TWO other colleagues on their responses or posts, unless otherwise directed. Please create meaningful posts or responses, not simply "I agree" statements. A meaningful post will be engaging and informative, and should invite further discussion. Please review the Discussion Board Grading Rubric to understand how to create an excellent post.
- **Guidelines for Written Papers:** All papers must be in Turabian style. Each page should be approximately 300 words, 12-pt. **Times New Roman** font on double-spaced lines with 1" margins. (Therefore, a 2-page paper is approximately 600 words; a 3-page paper is approximately 900 words, etc.) Here is a guide to Turabian style:
http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

1-1 Research Links Wiki - Find and watch a minimum of 3 videos on the Internet on research and what research is.

When you have found your three videos, formulate 1-3 sentences about why each resource was helpful to you and why. Add a page with your name as the title to the 1-1 Research Resources Wiki, found in the left navigation bar of this course. Then paste in the URL's of each page where you found the videos and your 1-3 sentences.

1-2 Vocabulary List Quiz - Download and review the Qualitative Research Glossary Word document. In order to encourage you to read each definition, which will be important in the coming weeks, there have been inserted three sentences in the document *that do not belong* in the definitions; they will be obvious! After you have identified the three sentences, take **Quiz 1**, in which you will copy and paste the three sentences (in order) as your answers, including the periods in the sentences. This exercise will ensure that you will read the vocabulary list *very closely!*

1-3 Journal – In your Blackboard journal, write no more than a 900-word “Self-Assessment” journal entry. For the purposes of developing an action research project, please share everything you are able and willing to share about yourself in this post. Self-reflection is an essential part of the action research process. This journal is private and only your instructor will see your entry.

2-1 Reflective Paper about MAABS - Write a 3-4 -page reflective paper (up to 900 words max) on the impact of the MAABS program in your life. Look back through all your courses, assignments, papers, and emails that you have accumulated in your Master’s program. Feel free to contact your instructors if you are missing papers or if you need the syllabus of a course again.

2-2 Reading Review - Write a 600 word reading review (about 2 pages) about the assigned reading for this week using the “Reading Review Worksheet” as a template.

2-3 Journal - Create a Week 2 Journal Entry by the end of this week by either using “Video Everywhere” in Blackboard (see instructions in Course Resources folder) or in writing, recording everything you felt about the reading and viewing material this week. There is no minimum or maximum requirement for this post. Don't interpret or try to make sense of your reactions, this should be a descriptive journal entry, not an interpretive one. Write down your thoughts, feelings, reactions to this week's information and assignments. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

3-1 Using Action Research (Video or Paper) - Based on your reading material this week and your assignments in Week 1 and 2, write a 3 page paper OR record a 15-20 minute video on your understanding of Action Research as an approach to research.

3-2 Journal - Create a Week 3 Journal Entry by the end of this week by either using “Video Everywhere” in Blackboard (see instructions in Course Resources folder) OR in writing, recording everything you felt about the reading and viewing material this week. There is no minimum or maximum requirement for this post. Don't interpret or try to make sense of your reactions, this should be a descriptive journal entry, not an interpretive one. Write down your thoughts, feelings, reactions to this week's information and assignments. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

4-1 Ten Research Questions - Based on the reading and viewing material this week and your work in the previous weeks, please write down **10 research questions** related to the improvement of your practice in either your ministry, your personal life or your workplace.

4-2 Journal – Create a Week 4 Journal Entry by the end of this week. Upload a video recording or write down your thoughts about some areas that you think can be improved in your practice, either in ministry, personal life or your workplace. You can be as specific or general as you want. If you were to focus on one of the questions out of the 10 you identified in Assignment 4-1, which one is more pressing? Then, write down your thoughts, feelings, and reactions on this week's information and assignments as well. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

5-1 Description of Research Context (Paper) - Review the course resources for more information about "thick" (or, "rich") descriptions.

5-2 Literature Analysis - Do a basic search on Internet, Google Scholar and MDL Digital Library resources for sources relevant to the topic of your research. Find at least **10 sources** (journal articles, thesis, academic papers, books, action research projects, websites, etc.). Copy them into a Word document, format your sources in Turabian formatting style, and submit your document.

5-3 Action Research Proposal Draft - Complete your initial Action Research Proposal. Download and use one of the two attached Action Research Proposal templates. This will be reviewed by your instructor.

5-4 Journal - Create a Week 5 Journal Entry by the end of this week. After you reflect on everything you read/viewed/worked on in this class so far, please upload a video recording or write down your thoughts on things that are still not clear about research or action research or anything else from this class. Please be as detailed as possible in this journal entry. Also, please write down your thoughts, feelings, or reactions on this week's information and assignments as well. As always, this journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

6-1 Final Research Proposal - After you consider the feedback from your Instructor on your Initial Action Research Proposal, submit your Final Action Research Proposal. This will be your guiding document for what you are going to do in Session 2 of this class.

6-2 Journal - Create a Week 6 Journal Entry by the end of this week. Please upload a video recording or write down your thoughts, feelings, or reactions on this week's information and assignments as well. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

7-1 Define Cycle 1 Question - Submit your Cycle 1 research question in a Word document. Include a few paragraphs to support why you think this is a good question for your research and how it will support you in finding answers to your research question.

7-2 Journal - Create a Week 7 Journal Entry by the end of this week. Upload a video or write down your thoughts, feelings, or reactions on this week's information and assignments as well. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

8-1 / 9-1 / 10-1 / 11-1 / 12-1 Descriptive Journals - In the **descriptive journal entry**, you can write about everything that happened and is connected to your research starting with you and your reactions or thoughts. Write as detailed as you can without trying to make sense of these events, write them down as they happen. It is recommended you maintain an electronic research journal outside of Blackboard and you write things down as soon as they happen. You can do it on your computer, phone or tablet (or a paper notebook), and later on transcribe your notes in an electronic format. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

8-2 / 9-2 / 10-2 / 11-2 / 12-2 Interpretive Journals - In your **interpretive journal entry**, you take your descriptive journal entries a step further and try to make sense of why things happened the way they did. This is your own interpretation; you don't have to support your statements, in your own words you have to try to understand what is happening. You can do this directly in Blackboard in the Interpretive Journal or in your personal research journal and then you can copy and paste your information into Blackboard. This journal entry is only visible to your instructor.

13-1 Preliminary Action Research Findings Report – Submit your report for your instructor's review. Be ready to receive and consider your instructor's feedback on your report. Also, make sure to encourage your colleagues to give you feedback and incorporate both your colleagues and instructor's feedback in your final report.

14-1 Final Action Research Findings Report – Submit your final Cycle 1 report, considering the feedback you have received in the last two weeks.

14-2 Cycle 2 Proposal – Define your Cycle 2 question. Please write a few paragraphs to support why you think this is a good question for your research and how it will support you in finding answers to your original research question. Also, please include a few paragraphs on how you are going to complete Cycle 2. Submit a Word document with your Cycle 2 research question and supporting statements.

14-3 Reflection Paper – Write a one page paper for the students coming after you and share with them the impact of this course and the MAABS in your life. Share with other students the things you have learned from this course, things you wish you would have done differently, how to make the best out of this program and especially out of this course and anything else you would like to share with them. If you created a wiki page or a website with your research, please share the URL with them so they can see your work and learn from it as well.

Assessments

Assessments (# in parentheses)	% of Total
Student-led Discussions (10 total)	15
Journal Entries (17 total)	20
14-1 Final Action Research Findings Report	20
All other assignments (15 total)	45
Total:	100%

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work

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