



SHORT SYLLABUS

BI501 Biblical Interpretation

Instructor: Michael Morrison, Ph.D.

(Instructor may be contacted through GCS course website)

Course description

This course surveys various methods of analyzing the biblical text and discusses how to use various forms of analysis in exploring the original meaning and contemporary applications of biblical passages.

In order to do well in this course, students are expected to put in at least 12 hours of study each week. For more details about the objectives of the course, see [Appendix C](#).

Required textbooks

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Abernethy, Andrew. *Savoring Scripture: A Six-Step Guide to Studying the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2022. 174 pages. ISBN: [9781514004098](https://www.isbn.com/9781514004098). Cost: \$16. This is an easy-to-read introduction to biblical studies. Kindle edition OK.

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*, 4th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020. 500 pages. ISBN: [0310109175](https://www.isbn.com/0310109175). Cost: About \$30. Kindle edition OK; 3rd edition also OK.

Richards, E. Randolph, and Brandon J. O'Brien. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2012. 240 pages. ISBN: [0830837825](https://www.isbn.com/0830837825). About \$17 new, \$13 for "very good" used.

Additional reading: the book of Hebrews and an article by Gary Deddo

- Hebrews in a modern committee-done translation (not a paraphrase)
- Gary Deddo, “Scripture: God’s Gift.”
<https://learn.gcs.edu/mod/page/view.php?id=4248>

Requirements and assignments

1. **Read, watch, or listen to the lessons.** They will be posted each Monday for ten weeks.
2. **Watch or read lectures by Mark Strauss.** They are posted at
<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/learn/academy/nt110-a-guide-to-bible-study-methods#class-lessons>.
3. **Watch additional videos.**
4. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 850 pages, or about 85 pages each week, or 12-14 pages per day.
5. **Participate in forum discussions.** Part of the learning that occurs in a course comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online course, this is done through comments and replies posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 15 percent of your final grade.
6. **Observations about a text.** To prepare for your exegetical paper, you should examine a biblical passage several times, and post your observations on the class website. 5 percent.
7. **Quizzes.** Open-book quizzes will help you review the readings and lessons. 10 percent of the grade.
8. **A 15-page paper, done in 8 parts.** The paper will analyze three major contexts of the passage: the historical context, the literary data, and the context we bring with us when we read. This counts for 60 percent of the final grade.
9. **A final exam.** This open book exam must be proctored. 10 percent of the final grade.