



# BI501 Biblical Interpretation

## Short Syllabus

**Instructor:** Michael Morrison

### 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.*

### 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](http://www.bookfinder.com).

Camery-Hoggatt, Jerry. *Reading the Good Book Well: A Guide to Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2007. 240 pages. ISBN: [0687642752](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0687642752). Cost: \$17– 20. 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.amazon.com/dp/0310109175). Cost: About \$40. Kindle edition OK; 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, IL: InterVarsity, 2012. 240 pages. ISBN: [0830837825](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0830837825). About \$12. Kindle OK.

Additional reading: the book of Hebrews and two articles 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>
- Gary Deddo, “Thomas F. Torrance on the Realist Reconfiguring of Theological and Biblical Studies to be Co-Servants of the Word of God”  
<https://tftorrance.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/2020-GWD-2.pdf>

## Requirements and assignments

1. **Read the lessons.** They will be posted each Monday for ten weeks.
2. **Watch lectures by Mark Strauss.** The are posted at  
<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/learn/academy/nt110-a-guide-to-bible-study-methods#class--lessons>.
3. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 870 pages, or about 87 pages each week, or 12-14 pages per day. Schedule time each day!
4. **Participate.** 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. 15 percent of your final grade.
5. **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.
6. **Quizzes.** Open-book quizzes will help you review the readings and lessons. 10 percent of the grade.
7. **A 15-page paper, done in 8 parts.** The paper should analyze three major contexts of the passage: the historical context, the literary data, and the context in which we read. 60 percent of the final grade.
8. **A final exam.** This open book exam must be proctored. 10 percent of the final grade.