



Bible 101 - Course Syllabus

Course Title: *Biblical Study and Interpretation (3 Credits)*

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the best practice methods for biblical study and interpretation. This includes a focus on the historical, cultural, literary, and geographical context of a given passage. The student will learn to apply sound exegetical methods in relation to topics such as textual criticism, genre issues, and contextualization. Introduction to Bible study tools and Bible software will also be covered. The course will be structured with weekly readings, discussion boards, and quizzes. Students will also select a hermeneutically challenging passage and perform written assignments throughout the semester that will build towards a final exegetical paper.

Prerequisites: None

Instructors:

- Professor: Nathan Williams
 - Email: nathan@woodhavenbible.com
 - Phone: 734-945-2569

Course Materials:

- The Bible: Unless otherwise specified, you may use the Bible version of your choice as your primary source of scripture, however in this class you will be required to compare your primary translation against other translations.
- Duvall, Scott J., *Grasping God's Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-310-10917-4
- Software: You will be using the required version of "Logos" software. This software will be used to provide you with multiple translations of scripture and many tools to assist you through your journey of Bible study.
- StepBible app. This is a free downloaded app that allows you to compare translations and look up word definitions in the original languages.
<https://www.stepbible.org/downloads.jsp>

Class Time: Class will meet once weekly on Sundays from 7pm-10pm. Class will take place in Room 105 at Hope Community Church, located at 2100 Ellsworth Rd. Ypsilanti, MI, 48197.

Assignments:

- **Reading and Class Participation** - Each week, students will be expected to keep up with the given reading assignments from the course textbook: *Grasping God's Word*. Regular attendance is also expected and students who miss a given class time are expected to watch the lecture recording. Students are also expected to communicate with the teaching staff if they will be absent. The final grade for this assignment will be based on your attestation to your reading and the instructor's discretion based on class attendance and participation.
- **Homework from Course Textbook** - Each week the students will be expected to complete the selected assignments from the textbook. The purpose of the assignments is to provide you with a working understanding of the material you read, as well as provide you with the tools you will need to assist you in the final exegetical paper. The weekly assignments will also be the center of the Discussion Boards. The assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of each class. In the weeks that there is more than one assignment the combined assignments will be assessed as a single weekly grade. Grades will be posted on Canvas.
- **Quizzes** - There will be 13 quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will generally take place at the beginning of class time each week and will cover the previous week's study materials. The quiz format will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer-style questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to provide the students with regular graded feedback on their understanding of the course material. The quizzes will be based on the reading assignments, homework assignments, and the prior week's lecture. The quizzes also ensure a student's regular and on-time attendance for the weekly class time. The lowest quiz score for each student will be dropped.
- **Discussion Boards** - The discussion boards will be based on the prior week's homework assignments from the textbook, and the scope of the discussion will be decided by the instructor. The original post is not to exceed 250 words and the responses are not to exceed 150 words. To receive a grade for each week's discussion board, you will have had to complete the prior week's homework from *Grasping God's Word*, post your original post (by Wednesday, 11:59 pm), and provide at least two (2) responses to others' original postings (by Friday, 11:59 pm). No credit will be granted for late discussion board posting unless otherwise approved by the instructor.

Discussion boards are, by nature, the interaction between students and peers to be completed during the week for which they are assigned. When students do not participate in discussion boards, they essentially rob not only themselves but their peers of the learning opportunity. This is a disservice to everyone.

- **Written Assignments** - There will be nine written assignments over the course of the semester. There will be two short written assignments at the beginning of the semester. Then six more short written assignments throughout the semester leading to a final exegetical paper that will be due at the end of the semester. You will choose from the following list the passage that will lead you through the semester and resulting in your final paper:
 - Genesis 22:1-9
 - Deuteronomy 6:1-25

- Psalm 51:1-19
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Job 28:1-28
- Luke 15:1-32
- Acts 15:1-29
- Romans 7:7-25
- Revelation 12:1-17

The short written assignments will each be 2-3 pages in length and will be due in a roughly by-weekly basis throughout the semester. The short written assignments are as follows:

- Favorite Passage paper
- Jonah Paper
- Observation Paper
- Working Bibliography
- Word Study Paper
- Historical and Literary Context Paper
- Application Paper
- Exegetical Outline

The final exegetical paper will be due at the end of the semester and will be a minimum of 12 pages, double spaced, not including your bibliography and Title page.

Canvas: Canvas is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of assignments and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents. Further details on how to set up a Canvas account and access this course can be found in the appendix to this document.

Assessment: Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Reading/Class Participation	13%	Submission of an attestation to completed readings and regular attendance. Due 12/8/2024
13 Quizzes	12%	Drop your lowest quiz grade
Short Written Papers	22%	Paper grading will be explained on the first day of class
Final Exegetical Paper	23%	Due 12/8/24. Submission in-class. Minimum 12 pages double

		spaced
Homework assignments from *Grasping God's Word"	20%	This will be turned in during class
Discussion Boards	10%	Weekly discussion boards on Canvas based on week's readings and in-class discussion.

We will use the following thresholds to convert raw scores in the course into letter grades:

- A+: $\geq 98\%$
- A: $\geq 92\%$
- A-: $\geq 90\%$
- B+: $\geq 88\%$
- B: $\geq 82\%$
- B-: $\geq 80\%$
- C+: $\geq 78\%$
- C: $\geq 72\%$
- C-: $\geq 70\%$
- D+: $\geq 68\%$
- D: $\geq 62\%$
- D-: $\geq 60\%$
- F: $< 60\%$

Depending on the distribution of raw scores at the end of the semester, these thresholds may change; however, the final thresholds will be no stricter than the current thresholds. For example, if you receive a raw score of 85% in the course, you will be guaranteed a letter grade of at least B; however, it may happen that you receive a higher letter grade depending on the overall distribution of raw scores.

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Study Material	Assignments Due
9/1/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome - Introduction to LOGOS - Review Syllabus - Writing an Exegetical paper <p>LECTURE - Introduction to Hermeneutics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read: GGW 3-35 - Assignments 1-1 through 2-3 - Read all 9 of the passages listed above as options for your exegetical paper. - Choose the passage you would like to study this semester -Favorite Passage Paper 	
9/8/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments - Explanation of the Book of Jonah & Jonah Paper <p>LECTURE - Words: Linguistics, Semantics, and Exegetical Fallacies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 37-56 - Assignments 3-1 and 3-3 - Jonah Paper 	<p>-Favorite Passage Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -9/4/2024 Discussion Board Post #1 Due by Midnight -9/8/2024 Respond to Other Students Posts by Midnight - Assignments: 1-1 through 2-3
9/15/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Context: Grammar, Syntax, and Discourse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 57-80 - Assignments: 4-1 and 4-4 	<p>- Jonah paper due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9/11/2024 Discussion Board Post #2 Due by Midnight - 9/15/2024 Discussion Board Post Responses due by Midnight - Assignments: 3-1 and 3-3
9/22/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - The Historical Context of the Bible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 81-106 - Assignment: 5-2 - Observation Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9/18/2024 Discussion Board Post #3 Due by Midnight - 9/22/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: 4-1 and 4-4

9/29/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - The Modern Context: What We Bring to the Table</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 107-135 - Assignments: 6-1 or 6-2, 6-3 or 6-4, and 6-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observation Paper - 9/25/2024 Discussion Board Post #4 Due by Midnight - 9/29/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignment: 5-2
10/6/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Literary Context: OT Canon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 137-164 - Assignments: 7-1, 8-1 and 8-2 - Working Bibliography for paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10/2/2024 Discussion Board Post #5 Due by Midnight - 10/6/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: (three in total) 6-1 or 6-2, 6-3 or 6-4, and 6-5
10/13/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Literary Context: NT Canon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 165-192 Assignments: 9-1 through 9-5 (pick 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working Bibliography for Paper - 10/9/2024 Discussion Board Post #6 Due by Midnight - 10/13/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: 7-1 discussed only. - 8-1 and 8-2 handed in
10/20/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Theology: Bridging the Gap</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 191-225 Assignments: 10-1 through 10-3 and 11-1 - Historical and Literary Context Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10/16/2024 Discussion Board Post #7 Due by Midnight - 10/20/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: 9-1 through 9-5 (pick 3)
10/27/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Theology: Application and Ethics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 227-254 Assignments: 12-1 or 12-2, 13-1,2,3 (pick one) - Word Study Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historical and Literary Context Paper - 10/23/2024 Discussion Board Post #8 Due by Midnight - 10/27/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: 10-1 through 10-3 and 11-1

11/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Literature: NT Epistles & Apocalyptic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 255-278 Assignments: 14-1 and 14-2 - Exegetical outline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Word Study Paper - 10/30/2024 Discussion Board Post #9 Due by Midnight - 11/3/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: 12-1 or 12-2, 13-1, 2, 3 (pick one)
11/10/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Literature: NT Historical Narrative (Gospels)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 279-350 Assignments: 15-1 and 15-3, 16-1, pick one from 17-1 through 3 (for 15-3 Fee and Stuart is available in your Logos package) - Application Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exegetical Outline - 11/6/2024 Discussion Board Post #10 Due by Midnight - 11/10/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: 14-1 and 14-2
11/17/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Literature: OT Historical Narrative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 351-434 Assignments: Pick one from 18,19, and 20 (these must be written assignments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application Paper - 11/13/2024 Discussion Board Post #11 Due by Midnight - 11/17/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: 15-1 and 15-3, 16-1, pick one from 17-1 through 3
11/24/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Literature: Wisdom Literature & Prophecy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 435-461 Assignment: 21-1, 21-2, or 21-3 (pick one) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11/20/2024 Discussion Board Post #12 Due by Midnight - 11/24/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignments: 18,19, and 20 (pick one from each. These must be written assignments)
12/8/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Quiz - Discussion on homework assignments <p>LECTURE - Communicating God's Word: A Brief Introduction to Teaching the Bible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GGW 463-490 Assignment: 22-1 or 22-2 (pick one) Read appendix 1 and 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12/4/2024 Discussion Board Post #13 Due by Midnight - 12/8/2024 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignment: 21-1, 21-2, or 21-3 (pick one)

12/15/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review readings - Discussion on homework assignments - Presentation of final papers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Exegetical Paper - 12/11/2024 Discussion Board Post #14 Due by Midnight - 12/15/24 Discussion Board Responses Due by Midnight - Assignment: 22-1 or 22-2
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Late Policy:

Assignments are expected to be submitted prior to the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances outside of the student's control, they may request an extension from the teaching staff.

Additionally, it is often the case that due to any number of other circumstances, a student finds that they are unable to adequately complete a given assignment. In such cases, the student is welcome to submit the assignment after the due date, up to the end of the semester; however, a late penalty will be given for such a late assignment. The standard late penalty is a 20% flat reduction in grade for the given assignment. This late penalty is meant to penalize late submissions and encourage timeliness, while still allowing the student to still finish the given assignment to the best of their ability even if they are unable to complete the assignment for some time due to any extended circumstances.

This late policy is subject to instructor discretion. The 20% late penalty policy is intended to allow for unique or difficult but not extraordinary circumstances. Any student who abuses this policy, per the instructor's discretion, is liable to have this policy revoked and the grade revert to either a zero or that based on any submission prior to the due date.

Appendix: How to set up your Canvas Account

This course will use the free version of Canvas. This means that you will be able to set up a Canvas account with your regular email and will be able to access the course on Canvas with a simple course invitation sent to your email. Please perform the following steps to set up your Canvas account:

- Check your email for a course invitation to Canvas.
- Click the “Get Started” button, which should redirect you to a Canvas page.
- Accept the course invitation. Upon accepting, it should redirect you to a page that will allow you to either set up a new Canvas account or link a current Canvas account.
- If you do not already have a free Canvas account, proceed to create a new account. To create a new account, it will set your login to be your email, you simply need to set your password and accurate time zone.

Your new account should be all set. To log in to Canvas in the future, go to the following URL: <https://canvas.instructure.com/login/canvas>

Use your email and password to log in. Then click on your Bible 101 course.

To use the mobile Canvas app, you’ll want to download the Canvas app. Upon downloading and opening the app for the first time, it will prompt you to “Find my School.” Select this option and put in “Free Canvas Accounts.” Select this option and proceed to log in with your email and password associated with your free Canvas account.

Appendix: How to submit assignments on Canvas

From the course’s Canvas home page, navigate to the assignments tab. Select the specific assignment from the list of assignments. Follow the instructions for the different cases of typed and handwritten submissions.

For typed documents:

- Click “Start Assignment” (“Submit Assignment” in the mobile app)
- Click “Upload File” (“Files” in the mobile app)
- Click “Choose File” (simply select the file in the mobile app)
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by selecting “Add Another File”

For handwritten documents:

You may use a scanner, scanner app, or simply take photos of your work and submit the files by following the same steps outlined for typed documents. The best option may be to use the Canvas mobile app to submit the assignment and use the scanner feature as an option after selecting “Submit Assignment.”

Please note, you may submit as many times as you would like prior to the assignment deadline. The most recent submission will count as your graded submission.

Appendix: Academic Integrity

Students are expected to hold themselves to a Christian standard of ethics in all matters. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from any forms of plagiarism, cheating, sharing or acquiring any materials that would give a student an unfair advantage, or any dishonest representation of one's work. Below are outlined the consequences for an infringement of academic integrity for a given assignment:

- First offense – A grade of zero is given for the assignment; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file.
- Second offense – A grade of F is assigned for the course; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file. The Dean of Students and/or Registrar will notify faculty of students who incur a second offense in this area.
- Third offense – The professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file and the student may be suspended or dismissed from this institution.

Appendix: Policy on Use of Generative Language Models For Written Assignments

The use of generative language models, such as ChatGPT, is not strictly prohibited and in some cases is very much encouraged as a research and brainstorming tool. However, all written assignments submitted as your own work should reflect your own personal writing. This prohibits copy and paste use of such tools, however, you may feel free to quote such tools provided that you make clear it is a quotation.

In general, you should treat generative language models as equivalent to speaking to another person. You may gain insight from them and be able to improve your value and productivity, but you should not misrepresent someone else's work as your own. These tools may also be treated somewhat like calculators in a math class. You may use them when appropriate and assignments may even assume their use in some ways, but all submitted work must be your own unless specified otherwise.