

INDIANA EXTENSION COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL

The United Methodist Church

Meeting at the University of Indianapolis and online

COS 121 Bible 1, Introduction

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NOTE: This is a preliminary syllabus to give you an idea of the required work and reading. Some specifics of this syllabus are subject to change up to a month prior to the course start, but the volume of work and reading will remain the same.

This course introduces biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the inspiration, formation, and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture. The importance of the Bible as a witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity will be emphasized. Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the place of scripture in the life of the congregation and the role of the pastor in interpretation.
2. Understand the inspiration and formation of the canon and its authority within the community of faith.
3. Understand and apply historical, literary, and theological approaches to various types of literature in scripture using Genesis, Amos and Zephaniah, Mark, and Philippians.
4. Develop a method of exegesis consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible.

Required Textbooks: Please note that the required Study Bible, Dictionary and Commentary will be used in this class and in future COS classes, as well as being valuable additions to your pastoral library. You may already own the some of these from License to Preach School.

- Enns, Peter. *The Bible Tells Me So: Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It*. Reprint edition. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2015. ISBN: 0062272039 \$11
- Harrelson, Walter J. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003 ISBN 0687278325 [NISB] \$31
- Hayes, John H., and Carl R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. 3 edition. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. ISBN: 0664227759 [BEBH] \$16
- Powell, Mark Allan ed. *The Harper-Collins Bible Dictionary*. Harper: SanFrancisco, 2011. ISBN: 0061469068 [HCBD] \$31
- Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Petersen, eds. *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary*. Abingdon Press, 2010. ISBN: [NIOVC] \$53

Supplemental Textbooks:

Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. Grand

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| Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2010 (may show as 2008 in Amazon). | \$16 |
| Powell, Mark Allan. <i>Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey</i> . Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2009. ISBN: 080102868X | \$25 |
| Matthews, Victor Harold, and James C Moyer. <i>The Old Testament: Text and Context</i> . Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012. | \$25 |

Note that the abbreviations in brackets [] are used in the syllabus to indicate that resource. An advantage of the NISB is its introductory articles to books of the Bible and also the excursuses*. I will assign these in reading assignments. An intro to a biblical book is at the beginning of that book in this study bible. Excursuses appear throughout this book. The list of excurses by subject is found on pg. xxiv - xxv. A list by title of the particular excursus follows on pg. xxv - xxvi. (* an excursus is a useful article set apart from the main text that explains an aspect of the text or a related issue.)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING PAPERS

- 1) For the Reading Questions, read the text assignments, take notes and answer the questions completely in your own words, using complete sentences (unless otherwise noted). Do not quote extensively from the text that you read. Rather, digest the ideas and information, and then put them in your own words. Follow the approximate length that is given for each item of written work, using one-inch margins.
- 2) Format your written work for 8 ½ x 11 paper, double-spaced. Use 12 point font. Do not use script, condensed, or all caps print.
- 3) Citation Rules:
 - a) If you *quote* from a text, you must use *quotation marks* and note the source (including page numbers at the end of each usage). Quotations less than five lines should be enclosed in quotes. Quotations five or more lines should be single spaced and indented 1.5 Inches from the left margin.
 - b) As much as possible, ideas and information should be stated in your own words and sentence structure, not in the words or sentence structure of the authors you have read.
 - c) Whenever you use *information or an idea* from another source, whether that is a direct quotation or a restatement in your own words, *always cite the source*. You may footnote, or use the in text method (Author's last name Year, page/s) for example: (Powell 2011, 400). For assigned texts, you may abbreviate the titles by using the abbreviations in the syllabus. If you refer to books that are not listed on the class reading list, then provide full bibliographic information in a bibliography at the end of the paper. Author. Title. Place of publication: publisher, date. I will be providing a handout of examples for properly citing sources.
- 4) Submit the papers to the instructor via the assignment upload page by midnight of the due date. Submit the file in MS Word format (*.doc or *.docx) or Rich Text Format (*.rtf, in most all word processing programs you can save a document in this format using the "save as" command). Attach that file to your e-mail and submit it to me.
- 5) When you submit the reading questions place the following information on a cover page:
 - a) The course number
 - b) Name of the course
 - c) Your name

- d) Date the paper is due
- 6) When you submit the Exegesis Paper place the following information on a cover page:
 - a) The course number
 - b) Name of the course
 - c) Your name
 - d) Paper's title (if you choose to title it)
 - e) Passage being discussed
 - f) Date the paper is due
- 7) Papers are returned in PDF (Adobe Acrobat) format with comments attached.
- 8) NOTE: Using other people's language or intellectual property without acknowledgment or documentation, whether from a book, journal, teacher, another student, sermon service, or lectionary aid, is unacceptable behavior. Such stealing, otherwise known as plagiarism, usually means failure for the course with notification sent to the Conference Course of Study Registrar and the Division of Ordained Ministry.

Participation in the required discussion forum/s for each week:

1. This is akin to showing up for class in an online environment.
2. Posts should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the readings and other posted material.
3. Posts should follow the guidelines stated for each discussion forum.
4. Replies should reflect genuine engagement with the post to which you are replying in relation to the readings and other posted material.
5. Posts and replies do not need to be lengthy (actually concise is better) but should reflect familiarity with the readings and other posted material.
6. The minimum for these will be one post and one reply *unless* otherwise stated in the particular discussion forum.
7. All *initial* posts will be **due by Thursday 11:59 pm** so students will have time to reply to those initial posts.
8. Replies to initial Posts will be due by Saturday 11:59 pm.

CLASS PREPARATION AND STUDY

Study habits are important. Clergy should have good study habits. Persons who have college or university experience should have developed good study habits. Persons who have not had such experience should pay special attention to observing them. One rule that students in college learn is the "twofer" one. One should study two hours outside of class for each hour in class. The COS assumes 20 hours of class time and about 20 pages of writing.

As a best practice read the assigned readings and work through the activities and videos etc. earlier in the week in order to be able to intelligently participate in the discussion forums and respond to the reading questions.

It frequently helps to read text material twice. The first reading is to see the general ideas and progress

of the author’s thinking, the issue that is taken up, the thesis and conclusions and reasons for whatever thesis or conclusion that is claimed. Then ask: Is the thesis justified? Is something important omitted? Is the argument sound and convincing? Are there other solutions to the issue? Are such conclusions better than those of the author? It may be helpful to make notes. For example, outline the text by writing one sentence that summarizes a paragraph or section.

Grading: Letter grades are assigned.

The final grade for the course is based upon how well the student fulfills all the requirements of the course. Attendance in all of the sessions is required. See the “Course Expectations” chart below.

Course Expectations:

| Assignment | % Value |
|---|---------------------|
| Exegetical Paper (around 10 pages) | 43 |
| Readings Questions (6 sets total, each about 2 pages) | (7% per set x 6) 42 |
| Participation in discussion forums | 15 |
| Total | 100 |

Course Schedule

Saturday opening session (May 18)

Topics

- The Christian Canon of Scripture
- The Text of the Bible
- Biblical Social World
- Exegetical papers to be explained and passages assigned
- What is Exegesis
- Biblical Studies Resources

Readings (to be completed **prior to** the face to face session)

- HCBDB article entitled: Canon
- NIOVC: Under General articles: How the Bible Was Created; Canon of the OT; Canon of the NT
- Article: Texts, Versions, Manuscripts, Editions (**available on course website**)
- BEBH: Chapter 1 (required); Chapter 2 (not required)
- Enns, Chapters 1-2

Have completed prior to coming to class:

- From the course website under the module: Resources for Saturday Opening Session:
 - Activity: How did we get our bible?
 - Ancient Cosmology video resources
 - Lesson: Introducing Exegesis

[Note that for the online engagement the week starts on Monday]

Online Week 1 (5/20-26)

Topics

- Genesis
- Exegesis: formal analysis – the genre of a book and the forms within

Readings

- Book of Genesis
- Enns, Chapter 3
- Enns, Image of God PDF (available in this week's module)
- HCBDB articles entitled: Genesis
- NISB: Introduction to Genesis; All the excursuses listed under Genesis on pg. xxiv
- NIOVC: Overview to Genesis
- NIOVC: Under General Articles: Hebrew Narrative
- BEBH: Chapter 6

Assignments Due

- Reading Questions on Canon and Text of Scripture
- Reading Questions on Genesis

Online Week 2 (5/27-6/2)

Topics

- Amos
- Exegesis: historical context – the historical situation of the passage

Readings

- Book of Amos
- Enns, Chapter 4
- HCBDB articles entitled: Prophet; Amos
- NISB: Introduction to Amos
- NIOVC: Overview of Amos
- NIOVC Under General Articles: Prophetic Literature
- BEBH: Chapter 3
- Handouts: historical context

Assignments Due

- Reading Questions on Prophecy and Amos

Online Week 3 (6/3-9)

Topics

- Mark
- Synoptic Problem
- Exegesis: literary context – what comes before and after a passage

Readings

- Book of Mark
- Enns, Chapter 5
- HCBDB articles entitled: gospel; The Gospels; Synoptic Problem; Mark, The Gospel According to
- NISB: Introduction to Mark
- NIOVC: Overview of Mark;
- NIOVC Under General Articles: Narratives of the New Testament;
- BEBH: Chapter 5
- Handouts: literary context

Assignments Due

- Reading Questions on Gospels and Mark

Online Week 4 (6/10-16)

Break for Annual Conference

Online Week 5 (6/10-23)

Topics

- Zephaniah
- Exegesis: close reading/detailed analysis – the details and the internal logic of a passage

Readings

- Book of Zephaniah
- Enns, Chapter 6
- HCBDB articles entitled: Zephaniah, Book of
- NISB: Introduction to Zephaniah
- NIOVC: Overview of Zephaniah
- NIOVC under General Articles: review Prophetic Literature
- BEBH: Chapter 4
- Handouts: close reading/detailed analysis

Assignments Due

- Reading Questions on Zephaniah

Online Week 6 (6/24-28)

Topics

- Philippians
- Exegesis: Putting it all together

Readings

- Book of Philippians
- HCBDB articles entitled: Philippians, Letter of Paul to the; Philippi; Letter; Epistle
- NISB: Introduction to Philippians
- NIOVC: Overview of Philippians
- NIOVC under General Articles: Letters
- BEBH: Chapter 12
- Handouts: writing an exegesis paper
- Exegetical readings and handouts (available in Week 6 course module)

Assignments Due

- Reading Questions on Letters and Philippians

Saturday Closing Session (6/29)

Topics

- Bible and Ministry Formation

- What's up with that Peter Enns guy anyway!?

Readings

- Enns, Chapter 7
- NOT required: BEBH: Chapter 13

Assignments Due

- Exegesis Paper (around 10 pages, see assignment page for instructions)
- None