

## WSBM 130 Introduction to Biblical Studies

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Wednesdays, 7 – 9 PM

*Equipping the people of God – head, heart and hands – through the Word of God,  
helping them know Jesus personally and carry on his mission.*

### Course Description

The message of the Bible comes to us in a wide variety of literary genres. This core course introduces students to the historical, literary, theological and confessional importance of the Old and New Testaments. Basic principles and practices of exegesis and hermeneutics helpful for deeper Bible study and correct interpretation of Scriptures are explained and illustrated. Special attention is also given to the Bible's origin, collection, and preservation.

### Course Objectives

1. **To encourage** an appreciation of the Bible as the inspired, infallible Word of God, and the authoritative guide for faith and practice.
2. **To develop** practices and tools to aid in personal study of the Bible.
3. **To identify** and describe the main historical, literary and canonical elements of the Old and New Testaments.
4. **To inspire** the pursuit of life-long biblical study.

### Required Reading

- *The Holy Bible* (in any quality translation – ESV, NIV, NRSV, NLT).
- Longman III, Tremper. *Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind*, (NavPress, 1997).

### Recommended Resource

- Fee, Gordon D. Fee & Stewart, Douglas. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, (Zondervan, 2014).
- *Bible Project Bible Book Videos*, <https://bibleproject.com/explore/>.

### Course Outline

*Session One: Approaching the Word of God*

*Session Two: Introduction to the Bible*

*Session Three: The Interpretive Process*

*Session Four: Big Picture and Key Details*

*Session Five: Considering the Context*

*Session Six: Old Testament Literature*

*Session Seven: New Testament Literature*

*Session Eight: Applying the Bible to Life*

### **Student Projects & Grading**

#### 1. Reasons to Study the Bible (20%):

Use the following verses to create a list in chart form of at least 20 reasons why a believer should study the Bible. Do not go to outside sources, but just use these verses: Psalm 19:7–11; Psalm 119:1–16; I Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:14–17; Hebrews 4:12; 5:11–14; 1 Peter 2:2–3.

#### **Sample Chart**

<b>Passage/Verse</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
	1.
	2.
	3.
	4. etc...

*Due:* Upload to the Moodle course site on or before **May 1, 2024**.

2. An Apologetic for the Bible (20%): A friend has written and asked you why you believe the Bible is worth reading and following its guidance. Write a letter (3 pages maximum) back to your friend, describing why you believe the Bible is the authoritative word of God, and how God's Word has shaped your life. You will want to describe the importance of inspiration, infallibility, and the sufficiency of the Bible. Be sure to include both Scripture passages and historical evidence in your letter.

*Due:* Upload to the Moodle course site on or before **May 15, 2024**.

3. Textbook Reading Report (20%): Write a 600-word (maximum) review of *Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind*. The review should summarize the author's main points (approximately 300 words), and then include some personal responses to the book (approximately 300 words). Consider the following questions: How is this book useful or not useful? Would you recommend this book? How has the material in the book most affected you?

*Due*: Upload to the Moodle course site on or before **May 29, 2024**.

4. Exegetical Study (40%): Choose and study two of the Scripture passages below, using the five steps of Bible study. Be sure to include in your submission all the work you have done for each step. Make applications from the passages in the first person (i.e., for yourself).

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm 62

Isaiah 58

Acts 9:9-25

Philippians 4:2-9

*Due*: Upload to the Moodle course site on or before **June 20, 2024**.