

WSBM exists to equip God's people – head, heart, and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry.

COURSE: WSBM 130 Introduction to Biblical Studies

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. J. Bryan Born, Pastor Brody Loewen

DATE: Tuesdays | April 22-June 17, 2025 | 7-9pm

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

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- Appreciate the Bible as the inspired, infallible Word of God, and the authoritative guide for faith and practice
- Utilize practices and tools to aid in personal study of the Bible
- Identify and describe the main historical, literary and canonical elements of the Old and New Testaments
- Capably pursue 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 READING

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

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
April 22	Approaching the Word of God	
April 29	Introduction to the Bible	
May 6	No class – Prayer Summit week	Reasons to Study the Bible
May 13	The Interpretive Process	
May 20	Big Picture and Key Details	An Apologetic for the Bible
May 27	Considering the Context	
June 3	Old Testament Literature	Textbook Reading Report
June 10	New Testament Literature	
June 17	Applying the Bible to Life	
June 24		Exegetical Study

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Reasons to Study the Bible** (20%)

Use the following verses to create a chart of at least 20 reasons why a believer should study the Bible. Use only the verses; do not use outside sources: Psa. 19:7–11; Psa. 119:1–16; 1 The. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:14–17; Heb. 4:12; 5:11–14; 1 Pet. 2:2–3.

Due: May 6, 2025

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: May 20, 2025

3. **Textbook Reading Report** (20%)

Write a 600-word review of Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind. The review should summarize the author's main points (300 words), and include personal responses to the book (300 words). How is this book useful or not useful? Would you recommend this book? Why or why not? How has the material in the book most affected you?

Due: June 3, 2025

4. **Exegetical Study** (40%)

Study two of the following Scripture passages, showing your work for each of the five steps of Bible study discussed in class. Use first-person for application ("I will...", etc.).

- Exodus 33:12–23
- Psalm 62
- Isaiah 58
- Acts 9:9–25
- Philippians 4:2–9

Due: June 24, 2025