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BS 503 Introduction to Biblical Studies: Inductive Bible Study

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AIS Course Information Sheet

Course: BS503 W1 (FA 2010)

Title: Intro to Biblical Studies: Inductive Bible Study

Hours: 2.00

Published: Yes, on 08/16/2010

Prerequisites: None

Department: Biblical Studies

Faculty: Dr. Joe Dongell



Email: joe.dongell@asburyseminary.edu

Office:

SPO: 782

Meetings:

During 09/07/2010 to 12/17/2010 on Wednesday from 8:00a to 9:45a in AD302.

Maximum Registration: 32

Catalog Description: This course offers a concise introduction to inductive bible study for students in the master of arts programs. Students will be introduced to a systematic, comprehensive approach to bible study. The course will treat the entire bible study process from initial observation and interpretation of texts in the literary, historical, and canonical contexts to the contemporary appropriation of these texts. The course will focus upon the application of bible study method to three biblical books that represent both testaments and a range of literary forms and theological perspectives within the canon. Attention will be given to the significance of the interpretation and appropriation of the biblical text for ministerial vocations.

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ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
School of Biblical Interpretation and Proclamation

BS 503 Introduction to Inductive Bible Study 2 hours credit
No Prerequisites; Enrollment Limit: 32
Fall, 2010

Instructor: Dr. Joseph R. Dongell
BC 337
Office Hours: Available by Appointment

I. Course Description

This course offers a concise introduction to Inductive Bible Study for students enrolled in the professional Masters of Arts programs. The purpose is to introduce students to a systematic, comprehensive approach to Bible study. The course will treat the entire Bible study process from initial observation and interpretation of texts in their literary, historical, and canonical contexts to the contemporary appropriation of these texts. In accord with the principle that students can best understand hermeneutical issues and develop exegetical skills as they engage in rigorous study of specific texts, the course will focus upon the application of Bible study method to several biblical books that represent both testaments and a range of literary forms and theological perspectives within the canon. Attention will be given to the significance of the interpretation and appropriation of the biblical text for the ministerial vocations represented in the various professional Masters of Arts programs.

II. Course Objectives

The student will acquire a basic understanding of biblical hermeneutics and will demonstrate the ability to observe, interpret, and engage in contemporary appropriation of the biblical text and to discuss in specific and concrete ways the significance of this interpretation and application of the biblical text for his/her ministerial vocation. Specifically, the student will be able

- To identify the macrostructure of a biblical book (including the structural development of the book in terms of its units and sub-units, and major structural dynamics within the book) and show the significance of these insights for the interpretation of individual passages within the book and of the book-as-a-whole;
- To engage in a “close reading” of individual passages so as to make relevant observations useful for interpretation;
- To become conversant with and employ in practice various kinds of exegetical determinants, e.g., literary context, word usage, historical background, literary genre, the history of interpretation, for the interpretation of the biblical text;
- To make use of considerations from the interpretation of the passage for specific and creative contemporary appropriation;
- To discuss the major issues in hermeneutics (i.e., will be able to identify these issues, articulate the main contemporary positions surrounding these issues, and present in a reasonable and informed fashion his/her own perspective regarding these issues), and will demonstrate the ability to make use of these hermeneutical insights in the actual interpretation and appropriation of the biblical text.
- To articulate the issues involved in the integration of the study of the biblical text for the life of the community of faith and demonstrate rudimentary ability to integrate the study of the Bible with the area of his/her vocational interest.

III. Course Texts:

A. Required

1. **Bibliography:** Bauer, David R. An Annotated Guide to Biblical Resources for Ministry. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2003. 1-56563-723-2 [Available new from Amazon, \$15.75]
2. Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit and Tremper Longman, eds. Dictionary of Biblical Imagery. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998. 0-8308-1451-5 \$50.00

IV. Course Requirements:

- A. **Projects:** Most learning happens in the very doing of the Projects. They must be:
1. On Time: Projects must be submitted at class time, on the date given in this Syllabus.
 2. Legible: Projects may be typed or handwritten. If written, writing must be legible.
 3. Stapled: Please do not turn in loose sheets, or sheets fastened "creatively".
 4. With Cover sheet: Fill out and use the provided Cover Sheet for each Project.
- B. **Participation.** Strong class participation will contribute to effective learning. We will commit ourselves to these categories of participation:
1. Regular, punctual class attendance is an essential part of the instructional design of this course, providing occasion for direct instruction, guidance, feedback, modeling, answering of questions, etc.
 2. Cooperative, engaging, and creative input in (the in-class) small group sessions.
 3. We also expect students to take fairly clear and complete notes of class sessions.
- C. **Notebook:** This course will generate a variety of materials and resources. The value of this course can be preserved and extended through the maintenance of a notebook as a place to house together these resources for future use.
1. **Physical Recommendations:**
 - 3-ring binder [1.5" "D-ring" binders work great]
 - Student Last Name and Course Title clearly on front cover and spine
 2. **Contents and Arrangements:** 6 Sections [8-section dividers work great]
 - 1-Syllabus
 - 2-Class Participation Rubric: filled out by student
 - 3-Daily Class Notes: (dated, complete, can be read and understood);
 - 4-All Handouts
 - 5-Projects (as returned to student after grading);
 - 6-Music [Provided by Instructor]

V. Grading Policies:

A. Grade Calculations:

The final grade for the course will be the numerical average of the four (4) graded **Assignments** with a fifth grade, the **Notebook**. [The four graded assignments will constitute 4/5ths of the grade, and the Notebook grade will constitute 1/5th of the grade.]

The **Class Participation Rubric** will be filled out by the student at the close of the semester, and included in the Notebook when turned in at the close of the semester. It will be considered to be part of the Notebook, for grading purposes. The Rubric will reflect the student's own assessment of the quality of his or her class attendance (including tardiness), participation in plenary class discussion and small group discussion, and positive contribution to the morale of the one's peers. [Timeliness and regularity in attendance, along with punctual completion of assignments, relate directly to the communal nature of Biblical Interpretation as described above.

The quality of our work in small groups is directly affected by these dimensions of student participation.]

B. Related Matters:

1. **The ATS Catalog's description of grades and their values will apply.**

The letter grades within this course will be averaged arithmetically by converting them to the numerical values below:

A 97; A- 92; B+ 88; B 84.5; B- 81; C+ 78; C 74.5; C- 71; D+ 68; D 64.5; D- 61;

F 50 (if an assignment is completed, but at a failing quality); F 0 (if no work is submitted).

The final numerical average will be assigned a final letter grades according to this range of values:

A 100-95; A- 94-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D+69-67; D 66-63; D- 62-60; F 59-0

2. **Exceptional work will exhibit these characteristics:**

precision, accuracy, specificity, depth, insight, clarity, freshness, thoroughness, and balance. It must me remembered that merely “good and accurate” work does not necessarily merit an “A”.

3. **Late Lessons:** A lesson turned in late (any time after the due date) will be received, but reduced a full letter grade (e.g. from B+ to C+). Of course, if there is an appropriate reason (serious illness, family emergency) then no penalty will be assessed.

4. **Independence:** Assignments must reflect the independent work of each student unless otherwise specified in an assignment. Study groups (which are encouraged) must exercise special care to preserve the independence of each member. Group members may encourage each other and provide accountability for study, but may not produce group projects, nor nurse each other along with specific content-related guidance and suggestions. *Violation of "Independence" constitutes cheating, and may result in loss of credit for the entire course.*

VI. The Calendar Lesson Due Dates

Project A Due	Sept. 15	credit/no credit
Project B Due	Sept. 22	credit/no credit
Project C Due	Sept. 29	graded
<u>[No Project Due]</u>	Oct. 6	-----
Project D Due	Oct. 13	credit/no credit
Project E Due	Oct. 20	credit/no credit
Project F Due	Oct. 27	graded
<u>[No Project Due]</u>	Nov. 3	-----
Project G Due	Nov. 10	credit/no credit
<u>[No Project Due]</u>	Nov. 17	-----
No Class	Nov. 24	[Fall Break]
Project H Due	Dec. 1	graded
<u>[No Project Due]</u>	Dec. 8	-----
Project I Due	Exam Period	graded

We will treat our Exam Period as a regular class session, with lecture and discussion on important summary issues related to Bible study (though we will not take a test). Please bring **Project I**, your **Notebook** (with its completed **Class Participation Rubric**) to class.

Class Participation Rubric (Student Name) _____

Each student begins with the score of 100, which should reflect (in principle) excellent class participation. Such excellence will involve full involvement in all class sessions (attendance), promptness in attendance, acceptable completion of all (credit/ no-credit) assignments, positive small group participation, and compilation of a usable and organized notebook. From the initial score of 100, subtractions will be made according to the following factors:

I. Un-excused Absences: Excused absences are those caused by sickness, serious family emergency, death in the family, or required meeting with ordaining boards. By ATS policy, all other absences, including those related to ministry responsibilities or other class assignments, are generally not excusable.
[5 points subtracted for each unexcused absence] _____

II. Tardiness constitutes not being present and “ready to start” when the class period officially begins. This is not a judgment call based on “when one feels the class business really begins” but rather is measured by the official (clock) starting time of the class.
[2 points subtracted for each tardiness] _____

III. Flagged or Missing (credit/ no-credit) Projects:
[5 points subtracted for each credit/no-credit Project later, or flagged as inadequate]
[10 points subtracted for each credit/no-credit Project not turned in at all] _____

IV. Less-than-ideal Group Participation: [points subtracted by student’s self-evaluation]
•weakness in encouraging other group members with a positive and open attitude toward learning
•weakness in offering one’s best thoughts, insights, and ideas to others
•weakness in listening to and valuing the contributions and ideas of others
•weakness in expressing disagreement without becoming hostile or demeaning
•weakness in the quality and depth of the content of one’s contribution to the group
•weakness in receiving comments of disagreement without becoming defensive or hostile
•weakness in valuing communal reflection as a necessary component of healthy Christian living
•weakness in making room for the contributions of others in the group
[Up to 20 points total deduction] _____

V. Less-than-ideal Notebook Compilation: [points subtracted by the judgment of the student]
•lack of calendar dates marking each class period
•weakness in neatness or organization of notebook
•weakness in clarity and readability of notes
[Up to 20 points total deduction] _____

VI. Total Number of Points Subtracted (add I through V above) _____

VII. Final Numerical Score for Class Participation (subtract VI from 100) _____

Class Participation Rubric (continued...)

The role of small-group discussion in student learning makes it necessary for each student to be prepared to discuss the assigned projects meaningfully. This means that projects must be completed on time, so that each student's contribution flows out of actual work done on the passage according to the instructions of the assignment at hand. Accordingly, timeliness is an important component in an effective learning community, and is therefore a necessary part of this course.

Place a check in the appropriate column to the right of each Project.

<u>Project</u>	<u>On Time</u>	<u>Late</u> (with approval)	<u>Late</u> (without approval)	<u>Not Submitted</u>
A	_____	_____	_____	_____
B	_____	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	_____
D	_____	_____	_____	_____
E	_____	_____	_____	_____
F	_____	_____	_____	_____
G	_____	_____	_____	_____
H	_____	_____	_____	_____
I	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please
Staple
Here

Student Name_____

Group Name_____

Project #_____

Time Invested_____

Course_____

Time of Class_____

******* Project handed in on time?*******

Yes_____ No_____

******If Late, have these items below filled in:**

Date actually turned in:_____

Professor's signature_____

BS 503 Project Cover Sheet for Dr. Dongell

The following material is required to appear in all ATS syllabi:

Accessing Information Commons Materials

1. General Questions:

a. The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here: <http://private.asburyseminary.edu/information-commons>

2. Materials Requests:

a. To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: <http://private.asburyseminary.edu/information-commons>

b. Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

c. Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

3. Research Questions:

a. Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

4. Online Databases:

a. To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to <http://private.asburyseminary.edu/information-commons> and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

Plagiarism

Academic integrity is expected from every student. Plagiarism, that is, "presenting...another's ideas or writings as one's own," is considered a serious violation of trust and not acceptable. Detailed information including penalty for plagiarizing is to be found in the Student Handbook.

Copyright Policies

The copyright law of the United States (title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specific conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction

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