

INDIANA EXTENSION COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL
COS 121 Bible 1, Introduction

The United Methodist Church
Meeting at the University of Indianapolis
(Fall 2022, September 8, 9; October 14; November 11)

Instructor: Rev. Britt Leslie Ph.D.

Cell: 219-201-1623

E-Mail: prof.bleslie@gmail.com

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.

Format: This is an in-person web assisted course. This means that there will be no aspect of the course that will be required to complete for a grade. For example you will not have to complete a discussion forum that will be graded. There will be material such as handouts, videos, and guided lessons that will be available to you. Most of which you will be required to read/watch/complete just like you are expected to complete textbook readings.

Required Textbooks: I know this is a hefty startup price but 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. *How the Bible Actually Works: In Which I Explain How An Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers—and Why That’s Great News*. Reprint edition. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2020. \$15
ISBN: 978-0062686756
- *Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Petersen, eds. *The New Interpreter’s Bible One-Volume Commentary [NIOVC]*. Abingdon Press, 2010. \$62
ISBN: 978-0687334117
- *Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2020. \$21

ISBN: 978-1540960313	
*+Harrelson, Walter J. The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha [NISB]. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-0687278329	\$42
*Powell, Mark Allan ed. The Harper-Collins Bible Dictionary [HCBD]. Harper: San Francisco, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0061469060	\$33
Total:	\$173.00

* Will be used in *all* COS Bible courses

+ You should already own this from License to Preach School

Supplemental Textbooks:

Yeh! Like you need another book to buy! \$0

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.)

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)	25
Readings Questions (6 sets total, each about 2 pages) (10% per set times 6)	60
Attendance and Participation in Class Discussion	15
Total	100

Course Schedule

Assigned readings for a session shall be completed *prior to* that session, including those in September.

Friday, September 8th, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Topics

- The Christian Canon of Scripture
- The Text of the Bible

- Exegetical papers to be explained and passages assigned

Readings/Preparation:

- Textual Criticism Handout – on website
- Activity: How did We Get Our Bible – on website

Saturday September 9h, 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Topics

- What is Exegesis
- Biblical Studies Resources
- Genesis
- Exegesis: Overview

Readings/Preperation

- Video: Interpreting Scripture in the Methodist Tradition
- Enns: 1-5
- Book of Genesis
- 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
- Gorman: Chapter 1, 2, 3, 5

Saturday October 14th, 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Topics

- Amos
- Mark
- Synoptic Problem
- Exegesis:

Readings/Preparation

- Engage the web activities and videos under the Second Saturday module
- Enns, Chapters 6-10
- Book of Amos
- Book of Mark
- HCBDB articles entitled: Prophet; Amos; Gospel; The Gospels; Synoptic Problem; Mark, The Gospel According to
- NISB: Introduction to Amos; Introduction to Mark
- NIOVC: Overview of Amos; Overview of Mark;
- NIOVC Under General Articles: Prophetic Literature; Narratives of the New Testament;
- Gorman: Chapter 4, sections titled: Historical, Sociopolitical, and Cultural Contexts; Literary and Rhetorical Contexts

Assignments Due

- Reading Questions for October – Due midnight two Fridays prior to this session (9/30). Questions to be provided.

Saturday November 11th, 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Topics

- Zephaniah
- Philippians

Readings/Preparation

- Engage the web activities and videos under the Third Saturday module
- Enns, Chapters 11-14
- Book of Zephaniah
- Book of Philippians
- HCBD articles entitled: Zephaniah, Book of; Philippians, Letter of Paul to the; Philippi; Letter; Epistle
- NISB: Introduction to Zephaniah; Introduction to Philippians
- NIOVC: Overview of Zephaniah; Overview of Philippians
- NIOVC: under General Articles: Letters; review Prophetic Literature
- Gorman: Chapters 6-7

Assignments Due

- Reading Questions for November – Due midnight two Fridays prior to this session (11/4). Questions to be provided.
- Exegesis Paper – Due midnight the Friday *after* this session (11/18).
 - Details to be provided.
 - Possible Passages:
 - Genesis 15:1-6
 - Amos 5:18-24
 - Mark 10:35-45
 - Philippians 3:7-11