



Course: COS 121—Bible I: Introduction

PML – GROUP II

Date: October 25-26, November 8-9, 2019

Location: Missouri Conference UMC Office in Columbia Missouri

Instructor: Rev. Mark Statler [\(mstatler@moumethodist.org\)](mailto:mstatler@moumethodist.org) (573) 777-1223

Course Description

This course introduces both Hebrew and New Testament Bible as well as a basic introduction to Exegesis that leads to biblical interpretation for theological, spiritual, and faith formation of disciples for Jesus Christ. Attention is given to the inspiration, formation, and function of the canon and the use of interpretative methods 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 and the 21st Century Global Church will be central to the course.

Objectives for the Course

- A. Articulate the place of scripture in the life of the congregation and the role of the pastor in interpretation.
- B. Understand the inspiration and formation of the canon and its authority within the community of faith.
- C. Understand and apply historical, literary, and theological approaches to various types of literature in scripture using Genesis, Hosea and Amos, Mark, and Philippians.
- D. Develop a step by step exegesis process consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible and its influence on the Missional, Evangelical and Ecclesial context of the Church.

Required Text Books:

1. Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth* (Zondervan, Third or Fourth edition).
2. Michael Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers* (Baker Academic; Revised, Expanded edition (September 1, 2010). ISBN 978-0801046407.
3. The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version With the Apocrypha (Abingdon, May1, 2003) 978-0687278329.
4. Bernhard Anderson, *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible* (Augsburg Books; 4 edition (September 1, 2006) ISBN 978-08006335602.

Reference or Recommended Text Books

1. The Interpreters One-Volume Commentary
2. Harper Collins Bible Dictionary

Note: These are basic reference works which students use in this course and subsequent Bible courses in the Course of Study. Students should have *NRSV—New Interpreter's Study Bible* from a previous class or Licensing School.

Assignments: Due on November 1, 2019. Uploaded on Moodle by 11:59 PM

Using Michael Gorman's book, define what exegesis is and list the steps needed to have a well-grounded theological exegesis of the Bible, and in your response, summarize the 8 hermeneutical principles given by the author. Of these 8 principles, which one hermeneutical principle would you use to analyze and apply any of the Bible books. Give some reasons in relation to your choice of principle. (3 – 4 pages)

Read the texts: *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* and *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*. Using your study Bible, and the Harper Collins Bible Dictionary, write separate summary paragraphs for Genesis, Amos, Mark, Luke, Acts and Philippians. For each book, please include: information on authorship, dating of the book, life circumstances of the people to whom the writing is addressed, major themes in the book, and distinguishing characteristics of each book. Cite the references you use in the paper. (4 – 5 pages)

Discuss with your clergy mentor how she/he does biblical exegesis. Write a summary of her/his process. Write 2-3 paragraphs on how this might be useful to your own exegetical process. (2 – 3 pages)

Grading Scale based on 100%

A	100-95	B-	64-55	D	24-15
A-	94-85	C+	54-45	F	10-14
B+	84-75	C	44-35		
B	74-65	C-	34-25		

Inclusive Language:

Acknowledging the power of language to create as well as describe ideas and attitudes, Saint Paul School of Theology COS recognizes that language has often been used to perpetuate discriminatory biases and stereotypes among persons and groups. The Seminary is committed to the proclamation that God's grace is extended equally to all persons. In our effort to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we believe that language itself can become a witness. The Seminary, therefore, urges students, faculty, and staff to exercise responsible and ethical use of inclusive language when referring to gender, race, ethnicity, age or physical ability.

Evaluation of Work:

Grades will be based on quality of papers, exegesis, methodology, and to the extent possible, class participation. This includes thoroughness, depth, and critical engagement of text, and theological sensitivity. This is graduate work, and the expectations will be high on any work done in and outside of class. Attendance at all class is expected.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Academic integrity demands that a student acknowledges all sources employed in the preparation of written assignments, whether in the use of exact quotations or in substantial reproduction of ideas. Plagiarism will result in a failure grade.

Documentation:

In documenting your work, follow the format found in;

Turabian, K. L. *A manual for writers of Term papers, Thesis, and Dissertations*. 5th or 6th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1987/1996).

An Excellent Exegetical Paper should evidence both a close reading of the text and critical engagement with the range of primary and secondary resources appropriate to the study. The paper should also have a clearly stated thesis – supported and well developed in conjunction with the passage being investigated. Good style, organization, grammar, and spelling are crucial components of a well-researched paper. Since this is an exercise on application, students should demonstrate how their work will apply to their ministry context.

Policy on late Papers:

Students should submit written materials on time, late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be dropped one whole letter grade. Please plan your work during the beginning of the semester so that all papers will be on time.

Schedule for our time together at the Missouri Conference Center, 3601 Amron Ct, Columbia, MO

Friday, October 25th

Orientation:

9: 00 – 9:50 am: Registration and Names Tags - Jenny
10:00 – 10:30: Spiritual Formation and Chapel Time

Class Schedule:

11:00am-12:00pm: Introductions, Intro. to Syllabus
1:00pm-5:00pm: Introduction to the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy)
6:00pm-8:00pm: Overview of Israel's History

Saturday, October 26th

8:00am-11:00am: Introduction to Wisdom Literature
11:00am-12:00pm: Introduction to Exegesis and Exegetical Process and Discussion of Assignments

Friday, November 8th

10:00am – 10:30am: Spiritual Formation and Chapel Time

Class Schedule:

11:00am-12:00pm: Introduction to the World of the New Testament
1:00pm-5:00pm: Introduction to the Gospels
6:00pm-8:00pm: Introduction to Pauline Literature

Saturday, November 9th:

8:00am-11:00am: The Book of Acts and Book of Revelation
11:00am-12:00pm: Review of the Exegetical Process, Discussion of Assignments and Course Evaluation

Final Assignments: Due November 22nd at 11:59pm on Moodle

Instructions for Exegesis Papers

1. Short paper text (Choose one): Matthew 5: 1 - 16; Mark 8: 27-33; Luke 1:39 - 56 (*Read and Use Gorman, pp., 63-81*) and Using Synopsis Gospel Parallels compare your passage with the other gospel periscopes and note the unique features of each of the three passages. In one or two paragraphs, state which one of the differences among the three accounts seems the most significant to you and why.
2. Long paper text (Choose one): Ephesian 1:15-23; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; Romans 6:1b-11; John 21: 15 - 17 or a passage of your choice with the permission of the instructor (*Read and Use Gorman, pp.127-166, 252 - 264*).

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, NOTE:

An exegesis paper is simply a research paper using a passage from the Bible as your topic. All the skills and knowledge you have about how to write a graduate level research paper are applicable to the writing of an exegesis paper. That said there are some things that are distinctive to this genre of writing. The instructions below will guide you through the process.

Always do your own work on the passage (see section #1) before you go to the commentaries, the textbook, and Study Bible notes. After each step, take note of questions that will require further research. Do not use Internet resources except to compare versions of the Bible.

ASK QUESTIONS AND SEEK YOUR OWN ANSWERS

Read the text inquisitively and determine what questions you have about it. Make every attempt to answer those questions through your own work with the text. The steps below will help you in this:

1. Initial Step – You and the Text: Read the passage in at least four translations

Read the text in the NRSV (but don't read any annotations yet) and at least three other translations of your choice (use can use blueletterbible.com or *unbound.biola.edu* to compare several versions). You want to note the differences in wording and why they might be significant to the interpretation of the passage. If you hear this text in worship, what in the text would strike you? Record your first impressions.

2. Outline the passage

How do the verses work together to make a point or points? What is the climax to which the text is building? Do not simply summarize the passage, but rather find its structure or organization.

3. Examine the literary context of the passage

What precedes this passage? What follows it? What is going on in the book as a whole? Consider narrative flow, plot, character development, and/or rhetorical aim. Why might the author have placed this passage in this location in the book?

4. Examine the historical context of the passage

What was going on historically when the passage was set and/or written (generally speaking)? What is the social context of the passage? How does the passage refer directly to the social or historical context? What social-historical questions remain for you about this passage?

5. Move into the text itself

What are the key words in the passage, i.e. those that are repeated or seem to be significant in terms of the meaning of the passage? Are these same key words used elsewhere in this book of the Bible? Consult a concordance, which tells every verse where a particular word occurs in the Bible (check the reference section of the library). How does this help you gain a sense of what the author means by those words in your particular narrative? To what other biblical passages does this text refer? Check the cross-reference notes in your Study Bible. Do any of these passages illuminate the meaning of your passage? If so, how?

6. Focus on the primary themes in the text.

What are the main themes in the text? What main idea is the author trying to convey? The key words you have already studied may point toward the main themes. (*Gorman, pp. 63-81, 127-166 will be a great resource for these assignments, please read and use it when working on these papers*)

READING THE COMMENTARIES, STUDY BIBLE NOTES, ARTICLES, ETC.

Seek out answers to your questions about the passage through research in secondary sources. Be diligent about taking notes in your own words and citing where your material is coming from.

You should have at least five sources including:

- a) Two standard commentaries. Good choices include:

Anchor Bible Commentary, Sacra Pagina, New Interpreters' Bible Commentary,

Hermeneia Commentary, Word Biblical Commentary. Avoid Barclay, Matthew Henry, and anything on Internet.

- b) One contextual commentary – These interpret from a particular perspective. Good choices include:

The Global Bible Commentary; Africa Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary Written by 70 African Scholars, The Women's Bible Commentary (2012); True to Our Native Land: An African American Commentary on the New Testament; Postcolonial Commentary on New Testament Writings; and The Jewish Annotated Bible. (Ask a reference Librarian or your instructor if you need help with these resources).

- c) At least one peer reviewed journal article (found by searching the EBSCO host/ATLA database on the library web page. Ask a reference librarian or your instructor for help).

- d) Gospels parallel, if applicable to your passage, otherwise use an additional article or commentary.

Use commentaries written since 1980 (1990s-2000s preferable), and books, essays, and articles written since 1990.

Biblical scholarship has changed dramatically over time, and reading older material, except in special instances, will make your own work outdated.

SYNTHESIS and WRITING

Before you begin writing the paper, determine the main points that you want to make about the passage and arrange them in outline form. Develop solid, clear arguments for those points based on your research by interacting with the material relevant to those points. Integrate the work you have done, being clear about the ownership of each point you state (cite your sources). You will have some research that you do not include in your paper, which is okay. Organize your research and thought into a well-written paper structured in four parts as follows:

INTRODUCTION

In the first two or three paragraphs, tell the reader of what the paper is about (*Read Gorman, pp. 66, especially the last two paragraphs*). Very briefly summarize the passage, state the main points and the central issues concerning the passage that you will cover in the exegesis. You may also include information about the book of the Bible (author, date, etc.) and some general historical context.

EXEGESIS

Begin this section with your outline of the passage. Matters concerning the passage as a whole, such as genre and literary context should appear at the beginning of this section. Deal with particular issues about the passage as they arise from the beginning to end of the text. Throughout this section you will be in dialogue with the secondary literature; both your work from part one and your research from part two should be reflected in your paper. Do not make it a cut-and-paste of quotes from commentaries. That would be a boring one-sided conversation and would warrant a low grade. Also, do not write the paper like a commentary delineating each verse but follow the outline of the passage that you created to structure this section.

Citing your sources

- Be sure to cite with properly formatted footnotes any information, ideas, or concepts, that are not your own. This includes:
- Putting *quotation marks around any phrases or sentences* drawn directly from the Bible or a secondary source, and citing with a footnote.
- Footnoting any paraphrase or ideas/concepts drawn from the Bible or secondary sources, *even if you put the idea or concept in your own words*.
- Cite the Bible using a parenthetical citation i.e. (Luke 2:41-52). Cite secondary sources using footnotes. Carefully follow the “Citing Biblical Sources” handout on Moodle. This is based upon the Chicago Manual of Style, from which Turabian is drawn.

MINISTRY APPLICATION: Exegetical Focus:

In one well-organized paragraph, discuss how you would preach or teach this passage and what your primary focus would be. What are the primary concerns of this text? What does this text say about God, the world, and humanity? What faith, spiritual and theological themes will be emphasized in your communication of this passage/periscope?

CONCLUSION: Communicate the text’s theological message to a contemporary audience:

Here you will reiterate the main points for which you presented evidence in the Exegesis section. Also, in this section, make connections between “what it meant” and “what it means.” In other words, ask yourself: Considering the reading and research and thought I have done regarding this passage, what do I think it might mean for people in today’s world? The message should be rooted both in the text itself and in the needs of people today. Your comments need to directly arise from your exegetical work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Include a bibliography at the end of the paper. Your bibliography needs to be in alphabetical order and the citations conform to the Citing Biblical Sources handout or Turabian Style.