Syllabus for *Introduction to Bible Study*
BI 411: Fall 2012

A course taken through the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary

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**Course Description:**

The description of this course according to the catalog (2012-14) is as follows: “A study of the devotional use of the Bible informs the student of the various methods and steps of inductive Bible study, including observation, interpretation, evaluation, and application.” Two textbooks will be used to uncover principles of interpretation and then applying those principles to biblical texts of the Old and New Testament for both devotional use, teaching, and preaching.

**Course Textbooks:**

- The Holy Bible (The NASB translation will be used in class, but the student may follow along with the version of their choice)


**Course Objectives:**

*By the end of this course, the student should be able to . . .*

- identify key rules of Bible interpretation.

- understand how to interpret different genre of Scripture.

- master the ability of studying a biblical text through observation, interpretation, evaluation, and application.

- create Bible studies for both teaching and preaching material using principles learned through this course.

- appreciate the Bible as the inspired Word of God from which dogmatic truth can be ascertained.
Course Assignments:

- The students will read both textbooks in their entirety according to the class schedule that will be given on the first day of class.
- The students will create three Bible studies according to the principles taught in this course. These assignments must be typed using Times New Roman 12 point font.
- The student will write a critical book review on John Phillips, *Bible Explorer’s Guide*, according to the critical book review rubric that will be given on the first day of class. This review is to be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12 point font.

Course Exams:

Two exams will be given in this course: a mid-semester exam and a final. The final exam is not cumulative. *The exams must be taken on the day they are scheduled.*

Class Attendance & Participation:

Part of the grade for this course involves class attendance and participation. Students are expected to attend each class session. According the seminary catalog, missing more than one-fourth of class sessions may place the student in danger of failing the course. Also, three tardies are equal to one absence. Missing class for any reason will result in a five point reduction in one’s class attendance and participation grade for each absence. Students are expected to pay attention during class and engage in class discussions. Computers are allowed in class for the purpose of taking notes only. Any abuse of this rule will result in the prohibition of electronic devices of any kind being used during class sessions.

Policy on Late Work:

Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time according to the class schedule given on the first day of class. Late work will be accepted, but such work will be deducted two percentage points for every day it is late.
Course Grading:

The grade for this class is based on a 1,000 point system. The grades will not be rounded up. For instance, if a student earns 909 points for the course, the percentage earned is 90.9%, which is a “B.” Students must earn both the next percentage and letter grade level. The point and percentage breakdown for this course is as follows:

- Mid-Semester Exam 200 pts. (20%)
- Final Exam 200 pts. (20%)
- Bible Studies 300 pts. (30%)
- Critical Book Review 100 pts. (10%)
- Reading 150 pts. (15%)
- Class Attendance & Participation 50 pts. (5%)

BMATS Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>91-100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81-90%</td>
<td>IIncomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-80%</td>
<td>WP Withdrawal while passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>61-70%</td>
<td>WF Withdrawal while failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 61%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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*The Professor reserves the right to make changes to this course and syllabus at his discretion.

*This class will meet at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Tyler, TX, tentatively on Monday nights from 6-9 PM beginning on August 27, 2012.
Course Syllabus Contract

I have carefully read through the syllabus for this course. I fully comprehend what is expected of me as a student in this course.

I have duly noted the due dates on the course schedule and agree that I will turn in all assignments on time.

If I am late for any assignments, I understand that they will be deducted 2 percentage points for every day they are late.

I understand that the final exam is scheduled for 2:00 PM on Friday.

I understand the 1,000 point grading scale for this course, and further understand that percentage points will not be rounded up.

I understand that attending class is vital to my seminary education, and that missing any class session may result in the failure to complete this course.

By affixing my signature below, I fully comply with the procedures for this course:

Date ____________  Printed Name _______________________

Signature ____________________