

***Introduction to Bible Study***  
**Fall 2007, CHR 113**

**Dr. George H. Guthrie**



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*The Spirit convinces God's people of the truth of the biblical message and convicts and enables them to live consistently with that truth. But the Spirit's help does not replace the need to interpret biblical passages according to the principles of language communication. . . . To avoid interpretation that is arbitrary, erroneous, or that simply suits personal whim, the reader needs rules or principles for guidance. W. Klein, C. Blomberg, R. Hubbard, Jr.*

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15*

**I. THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE**

Christians need to learn an approach to studying and interpreting the Bible. This course is intended to teach you to read and interpret the Bible well, through a step-by-step process of Bible study.

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The student will:

- A. Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in Biblical Interpretation.
- B. Recognize and depict how the text is organized to make sense.
- C. Learn the purpose and "rules" for each kind of literature of the Bible.
- D. Learn to "observe" the text carefully.
- E. Learn how to study and interpret words, sentences, paragraphs, and discourses in their contexts.
- F. Learn to evaluate various interpretations for their validity.

- G. Learn how to make responsible applications from the biblical text.
- H. Learn a step-by-step process of Bible study.
- I. Enjoy doing all of the above!

### III. TEXTBOOKS & SOFTWARE

#### **Required:**

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Dockery, David S. and George H. Guthrie, *The Holman Guide to Interpreting the Bible*. Broadman and Holman, 2004.

#### **Other Tools:**

*Bible Study* Software Program and/or Reference Tools

### IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Class Attendance & Attitude

Regular class attendance and a positive attitude are mandatory for you to get as much as possible out of this course. Missing excessive class time will be penalized as follows:

| <u>Misses</u>     | <u>Deduction from Final Grade</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>4-6 hours</i>  | <i>1 half letter grade</i>        |
| <i>7-8 hours</i>  | <i>1 letter grade</i>             |
| <i>9-10 hours</i> | <i>2 letter grades</i>            |

Bring written excuses for absences due to sickness, emergencies, etc. It is your responsibility to notify Dr. Guthrie in advance or immediately upon your return of the reason for your absence. The professor reserves the right to determine the validity of all non-college approved absences. Also, three times late to class equals an absence.

B. Final Course Grading:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Daily Projects/Assignments        | 30% |
| Midterm (Detailed Course Outline) | 20% |
| The “Five” Bible Studies          | 30% |
| Capstone Bible Study              | 20% |

C. Daily Projects

Numerous daily projects/assignments will be completed. These assignments embody the heart of the course, and are critical to you learning Bible study and interpretation.

These projects parallel the material covered in class, so it is imperative that they be completed and turned in on time. One daily project will be dropped at the end of the course. **Late papers, no matter how late, begin with a 20 POINT PENALTY!**

The Daily Projects will be assessed a grade as follows:

- 100 – extraordinary work; extremely thorough, demonstrating a masterful grasp of the concepts addressed by the project.
- 95 – excellent work; thorough and neat, demonstrating a good grasp of the concepts addressed by the project; very strong effort, well above average.
- 90 – good work; fairly thorough, showing good effort, though more work is needed in areas; above average; may be somewhat messy
- 85 – average work; basic assignment completed but seemed rushed with only basic effort and thought given; may be messy
- 80 – below average work; assignment only partially completed; little effort; may be messy; OR a very good assignment turned in late
- 75 – poor work; bare minimum effort; may be messy
- 60 – inadequate; OR an average assignment turned in late.
- 0 – assignment not turned in

D. “The Five” Bible Studies & the Capstone Bible Study

The last five weeks of the term will consist of a “lab” in which we will take a different passage each week through the whole process of Bible study. These Bible studies will be graded according to the same standards (listed above under “C”) used for determining grades on the daily projects. The goal here is to produce thorough studies on each passage, which are sound in interpretation and specific in application.

Also, you are to do a thorough Bible study of the passage of your choice, which will be turned in at the end of the term. The study will be graded for how well it depicts the steps to Bible study learned in the class. It is suggested that the student study the passage throughout the term, as each step in the Bible study process is learned. The capstone Bible study should be typed.

E. Mid-term Course Outline

At Mid-term the student will turn in a major, detailed outline of the course notes, as well as the course projects completed thus far in the term. The outline will be graded for clarity and thoroughness. The purpose of this outline is to give the student an opportunity to further assimilate the principles and practices of Bible Study, and to provide a ready tool for the student to use in teaching Bible Study in the context of the local church.

F. Grading Scale - letter grades will be given in accordance with Union's grading policy and as follows:

**A=95-100      B=85-94      C=75-84      D=65-74      F=BELOW 65**

V. ACCOMODATION STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I will make appropriate accommodations to meet documented needs. In addition, beyond the scope of ADA, there may be other accommodations that I would be willing to make given your individual situation or need. Please talk with me about your individual request following the first class meeting.

VI. APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PROFESSOR

I am available to meet with you for any reason and want to help you in any way I possibly can. If you need to meet with me, please make an appointment and pay

attention to my weekly schedule posted on my door. If you have an emergency or an immediate prayer need, feel free to come by my office (ext. 5264), or call me at home (783-1413). My prayer is that we will grow in our knowledge of God's Word this term with the view that we will grow in the ***practice*** of His Word. I am looking forward to the adventure with you. Let's work hard and have a great time together!!