

**NEWMAN BIBLE ACADEMY
ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS
By Dr. Willis C. Newman**

Course Title: Bible Interpretation

Abbreviation: BI 104.

Credit Hours: 3 **Instructional Hours:** 30

Instructor: Dr. Willis C. Newman.

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Catalog description: This introductory course covers the basic concepts concerning the interpretation of the Bible. The major sections covered include personal preparation steps, kinds of interpretation, procedures for interpretation, rules of interpretation, types of biblical literature, special forms of literature, and personal application of Bible truths. There is an introduction to many Bible study tools. There is an emphasis on the literal method, which means to interpret the Bible in a plain, literal, straightforward manner using the normal rules of literature interpretation.

Student Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the purpose and definition of hermeneutics, the nature of the Bible, personal preparation, special issues, and Bible study tools. .
2. Gain an understanding of the various types of Bible interpretation used through history.
3. Describe and apply the literal interpretation of Bible interpretation.
4. Evaluate the procedures for Bible interpretation.
5. Understand nine rules for Bible interpretation.
6. Identify the use of figurative speech, and different genres of literature.
7. Comprehend the special forms of interpretation such as poetry, types, parables, symbols, and prophecy.
8. Demonstrate an ability to apply the scripture to personal life.
9. Expand the student's knowledge for a greater understanding of God, His purposes, and relations to the believer's spiritual life.
10. Gain a greater appreciation for the urgency of the Great Commission.

Course Requirements.

Students have 10 weeks to complete the following course requirements. Final grades will be based on the total accumulated points from the examination plus the analysis papers.

1. The reading and understanding of the assigned ebook text, *How to Understand the Bible: A Study Manual*. I will email the ebook to you by email attachment in pdf format.

2. Examination. Required is one examination. The exam consists of 150 questions worth 1 point each. The examination will be sent to you by email along with the study manual, and the study materials. You fill out the answers. The exam is open book. On a Word

document, type out your answers to each question, then email it back as an attachment to me at drwillisnewman@gmail.com. Here is an example.

Give your name and course at the top of the page.

Your Name _____

Course: BI 104 Bible Interpretation.

Answers:

1. d

2. a

3. Write out your choice of answer for any fill in questions.

4. Write out True or False for any questions that calls for such an answer .

5. c.

The exam answers can be found in ebook listed above under requirement one, plus the Bible.

3. Analysis Paper: You are required to complete and submit an eight (8) page paper on the literal method of Bible interpretation. Use the summary instructions on pages 110-114 of the manual for the steps to follow. The required format for the paper is found on page 114 under the heading: Scripture Analysis Summary: Observation Interpretation, Application. The selected Scripture is Galatians 2:11-21. Fill it out, and send it to drwillisnewman@gmail.com, along with the completed examination. An example of the format is as follows.

SCRIPTURE ANALYSIS

Student name: _____

Course: BI 104 Bible Interpretation

Scripture selection: Galatians 2:11-21.

I. Observation

II. Interpretation

III. Application

IV. Main morsel

4. Recommended Reading. The preferred English Bible translations for the student to use are the New American Standard Bible, or the New King James Bible. Recommended study Bibles are The Ryrie Study Bible (Moody Press), and the Nelson Study Bible, NKJV (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Earl Radmacher, general editor). You may use a Bible in your

own mother language. If you do not have a Bible, you can access one online at the Christian Classics Ethereal Library at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.html>.

5. Research sources. For your own benefit, I recommend that you go to the Christian Classics Ethereal Library at <http://www.ccel.org/>.

6. Total possible points:

Examinations:	150
Analysis paper:	<u>100</u>
Total	250

7. Course schedule:

The following schedule will enable you to finish the course in 10 weeks. It is important to stay on schedule so you do not get overwhelmed at the end of the course. These dates are guidelines, not deadlines.

Weeks one - two: Read/study ebook text, chapters 1, 2.
Complete appropriate portion of examination.

Weeks three, four: Read/study ebook text, chapters 3, 4.
Complete appropriate portion of examination.

Weeks five, six: Read/study ebook text, chapters 5, 6.
Complete appropriate portion of examination.

Weeks seven, 8: Read/study ebook text, chapters 7, 8.
Complete appropriate portion of examination.

Week nine, ten: Read/study ebook text, Appendix.
Complete examination.
Complete paper analysis
Submit to drwillisnewman@gmail.com.

Grading/Method of evaluation: Your grade is determined by adding together all your earned points, then dividing that number by the total points possible. That results in a percentage number. The following chart indicates your grade.

GRADE SCALE:

%	GPA	Letter	%	GPA	Letter
95%	4	A	87%	3.2	B+
94%	3.9	A-	86%	3.2	B
93%	3.8	A-	85%	3.2	B
92%	3.7	A-	84%	3.1	B
91%	3.6	A-	83%	3.1	B-
90%	3.5	A-	82%	3.1	B-
89%	3.4	B+	81%	3.1	B-
88%	3.3	B+	80%	3.0	B-

79%	2.9	C+	69%	1.9	D+
78%	2.8	C+	68%	1.8	D+
77%	2.7	C+	66%	1.6	D+
76%	2.6	C	65%	1.5	D+
75%	2.5	C	64%	0.9	D
74%	2.4	C	63%	0.8	D
73%	2.3	C-	61%	0.7	D
72%	2.2	C-	60%	0.7	D
71%	2.1	C-	0%	0	F
70%	2.0	C-			

Technical requirements. You will need a computer, printer, email account, and Microsoft Office 2003 – 2007. I would recommend that you use a free gmail account from Google for your email, and Internet Explorer or Mozilla for a browser. You will also need an adobe reader. If you don't have one, you can download one free from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Purpose of Newman Bible Academy: This Academy exists to train men and women for worldwide Christian ministry as pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay-workers. Our goal is to train students by strengthening their Christian faith, in order to proclaim and defend the teachings of the inerrant Word of God. This purpose is pursued through training in Bible, theology, and practical ministry, plus the development of personal spiritual maturity and zeal. Our existence is grounded in the Great Commission, which is to proclaim the gospel of Christ to the entire world, and make disciples of all those who respond to Christ. The Academy is global in nature, and designed to provide training for those who can least afford it anywhere in the world.

Study tips: It is suggested that the student carefully study each reading. First, read through the assigned section to get a general overview. Reread the section, and write down important concepts as you read along. Review. Review. Review. Rehearse and visualize the contents. Memorize key concepts. Take the exam. The exams are open book, but realize that you must know the material very well to complete the exams within the time limit allowed.

Book acquisition: You do not need to purchase any books as everything you need is found on the internet. Of course, you will need a Bible.

