

Division of Bible Exposition

2018-2019
COURSE CATALOG



THE MASTER'S SEMINARY

*We envision a day when every town has a
faithful church, and every church, a faithful preacher.*

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DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Division of Bible Exposition is designed to give you an accurate explanation and foundational comprehension of Scripture. The courses in this division will teach you to apply grammatical-historical principles of interpretation throughout the vast genres and settings of the Bible. By the end of your studies, you will understand and be able to articulate the central themes, outlines, purposes, and developments of every book of the Bible.

Our Bible Exposition courses include survey studies in both the Old and New Testament; in-depth studies of individual books; syntheses of biblical teaching relating to the Bible's themes, topics, and genres; and background studies on issues such as biblical cultures, geography, and chronology. This curriculum provides essential background materials for Old and New Testament courses in exegesis as well as for your theological studies.

GRAMMATICAL HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

Faculty at The Master's Seminary will teach you to interpret the entire Bible with a grammatical-historical approach. This method of interpretation seeks to discover the author's intention in every passage through grammatical principles, historical facts, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Grammatical Principle

The task of grammatical-historical interpretation necessitates a thorough grasp of the grammatical structure of the Bible's original languages. By asking even simple grammatical questions of the text, the meaning of the author can often readily be understood.

The Historical Principle

The time and circumstance in which an author wrote should be studied in order to better understand the author's intention and how the original audience would have received this message.

Expository preaching is
the proclamation of the
truth of God as mediated
through the preacher.

John F. MacArthur



SAMPLE CURRICULUM CALENDAR

A sample calendar for Master of Divinity students completing their degree in three years. Bible Exposition courses are labeled “BI.” Further study in this division can be pursued through elective courses.

Junior Year

1st Semester

BI 501 - OT Studies
BI - 505 - Hermeneutics
NT 501 - Beginning Greek I
TH 507 - Historical Theology 1
PM 501 - Foundations of Exp. Preaching
PM 505 - Grammar, Research & Writing
PM 511A - Foundations of Pastoral Ministry

2nd Semester

BI 502 - OT Studies II
NT 502 - Beginning Greek II
PM 714 - Prayer and the Pastor
TH 508 - Historical Theology II
PM 512A - Pastoral Counseling
- Elective 1

Middler Year

1st Semester

BI 601 - NT Studies
NT 603 - Greek Exegesis I
TH 605 - Theology 1

PM 601 - History of Preaching
OT 503 - Hebrew Grammar 1
- Elective II
- Elective III

2nd Semester

TH 602 - Apologetics & Evangelism
NT 604 - Greek Exegesis II
TH 606 - Theology II
PM 602 - Exp. Preaching Mechanics
PM 604 - Expository Preaching Workshop
OT 504 - Hebrew Grammar II

Senior Year

1st Semester

BI 705 - Advanced Hermeneutics
OT 796 - OT Introduction
TH - 705 Theology III
PM 703 - Expository Preaching Lab
OT 603 - Hebrew Exegesis
NT - Elective IV (Greek Exegesis)

2nd Semester

BI 701 - Ordination Preparation
PM 712 712 - Practice of Pastoral Ministries
NT 796 - NT Introduction
OT - Elective V
- Elective VI
- Elective VII

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BI 501, 502 • Old Testament Studies I and II

Includes a survey of the entire Old Testament, with a focus on understanding the major contents of each book. Examines literary structure, historical backgrounds, geographical settings, and parallel passages to enhance comprehension and application to contemporary issues and concerns. The first semester covers Genesis through Esther. The second semester covers Job through Malachi.

BI 504 • Biblical Exposition of Prayer

A study of Old and New Testament prayers and of the scriptural teaching regarding prayer. The course is designed to impact the personal prayer life of the students and also to equip them for the responsibility of leading a congregation of believers in its prayer worship and ministry. Issues relating to the tensions with regard to the sovereignty of God, the responsibility of humans to pray and respond, and the role of the Holy Spirit, are evaluated.

BI 505 • Hermeneutics

An introduction to the science and art of hermeneutics. Surveys the major interpretive approaches to the Bible, both historical and contemporary. Attempts to establish both general and special principles of interpretation by examining parables, types, prophecies, poetry, and a great variety of figurative constructs. Elucidates the principles of normal, cultural, and historical interpretation.

BI 601 • New Testament Studies

A survey of the entire New Testament, devoting special attention to the major lessons of each book. Also examines the historical, cultural, and geographical setting for the New Testament and for each book. Emphasizes both the understanding of the text and the applications to Christian living, and evaluates the major problems associated with each book.

BI 626 • The Life and Mission of Paul

A study of life and missionary journeys of the apostle Paul, with special emphasis placed on his ministry principles and practices as described in the book of Acts and the two biographical portions of his letters.

BI 667 • Samuel, Kings & Chronicles

An expositional study of the prophetic record and evaluation of the rise and decline of the monarchy of Israel. Particular emphasis will be given to the Davidic Covenant as it is revealed, and lessons to benefit a life of godliness.

This is the true nature of preaching. It is the man of God opening the Word of God and expounding its truths so that the voice of God may be heard, the glory of God seen, and the will of God obeyed.

Steven J. Lawson

BI 651 • Old Testament Backgrounds

An orientation to the world of the Old Testament in which the cultural and political history of the ancient Near East is surveyed from the perspective of its contributions to understanding the Old Testament. Includes a survey of important geographical and archaeological considerations.

BI 652 • Historical Geography of Israel

A careful study of the geographical layout of ancient Israel with a view to understanding the changes that occurred throughout Israel's history. The topographical and geological features of Israel will also receive treatment.

BI 653 • Historical Geography of Israel Field Studies

As part of the seminary's field studies program, the student will travel to Israel and examine key site related to Biblical history and archaeology, particularly the Old Testament and the Life of Christ. Field education and lectures from the college's extension campus program in Israel (IBEX) and other guest lecturers will expose students to the socio-religious issues in modern Israel, the history of the land, and the rich cultural and ethnic diversity. Prerequisite: BI652.

BI 655 • Genesis

An expositional treatment of this foundational book of biblical revelation. The key events that shaped the remainder of history, such as creation, the fall, the flood, and the Abrahamic covenant, are given special attention.

BI 656 • Exodus and Leviticus

An analytical exposition of these two key Old Testament books, with special consideration of historical background, theme, interpretational difficulties, and the redemptive plan of God as evidenced and illustrated in the various aspects of the law, the priesthood, and the tabernacle. The theological dimensions of the books will be evaluated in the light of textual, historical, archaeological, and cultural perspectives.

BI 657 • Numbers and Deuteronomy

An expositional study of the books relating to God's preparation of Israel for entrance into the land of Canaan. Major interpretive issues will be considered, along with personal and homiletical applications.

BI 658 • Ezekiel

A study of the life and times of Ezekiel, together with an exposition of the book. Solutions to key interpretive problems are evaluated, with applications to believers today highlighted.

BI 659 • The Minor Prophets

A study of the role and significance of the prophets in Israel's history, a survey of each book, including its political, social, and religious milieu, and an exposition of the message of each

prophet.

BI 659A • Preaching the Minor Prophets

A study of these often neglected books, including the authors, themes, and historical backgrounds. Special attention is given to how to preach each of the books.

BI 662 • Ezra and Nehemiah

An expository study of the post-exilic experience of Israel as described by Ezra and Nehemiah. The major interpretive and applicational issues of these books will receive special attention.

BI 665 • Proverbs

An expositional study of the Book of Proverbs, with attention to the nature of Hebrew wisdom literature, the genre of proverbs, and the various hermeneutical approaches to this literature. Also emphasizes personal and homiletical applications to contemporary issues and relationships.

BI 672 • New Testament History

A study of the historical backgrounds for understanding the New Testament, including an introduction to the literature, culture, and history of New Testament times. Special attention is given to understanding the political and social milieu of the Hellenistic period. Requires reading in both primary and secondary sources (see NT 672).

BI 675 • Life of Christ

A survey of the key events in the Life of Christ considered through the exposition of the pertinent narrative passages in the gospels. Important themes in the biblical narrative of the gospels and theologically significant aspects of the Life of Christ are highlighted.

BI 677 • Gospel of Mark

A study of the second Gospel with special emphasis on Mark's portrayal of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God and the Suffering Servant. The concept of discipleship seen in this gospel will also receive detailed consideration.

BI 678 • Gospel of Luke

A study of the third Gospel with special attention devoted to the infancy narratives, the kingdom of God as in the parables, the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem, and the events leading to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

BI 679 • Gospel of John

A study of the fourth Gospel in the light of the author's stated purpose (20:31), with emphasis on the self-revelation of Christ with regard to His own person and His saving and sanctifying ministries.

The goal of expository preaching is to represent or expose to view or plainly reveal what God and the authors of Scripture meant by what they said, exactly and entirely.

Jack Hughes

BI 681 • Parables

Surveys the use of parables in Scripture with primary attention to the parables of Jesus. Examines dispensational and alternative interpretations of the parables and evaluates proposed hermeneutical principles for understanding their meanings and applications.

BI 701 • Ordination Preparation

Beginning with the biblical basis for ordination, the practical process for ordination is outlined. A thorough review is conducted of the student's biblical knowledge, including code outlining, code themes, key chapters, key verses, and important people. It is designed to functionally prepare the TMS senior to enter ministry after graduation at the highest level of excellence. This class, without exception, is limited to those who will graduate the following May. Prerequisites: BI 501, 502, 601.

BI 705 • Advanced Hermeneutics

An apologetic for the Grammatical-Historical method of interpretation. This course will explain why the Grammatical-Historical method can be applied to understanding New Testament use of the Old Testament, evaluating theological systems, and addressing contemporary issues in hermeneutics. Prerequisite: PM 505, BI 505.

BI 715 • A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament

This class develops a pathway that begins with the hermeneutical principles for interpreting the Old Testament. With the Bible as the primary text, the course highlights the cohesion of the God's Word as traced through the biblical covenants, with a view toward the advent of the Messiah in the New Testament .

BI 716 • Biblical Theology of the New Testament

This class develops a pathway that begin with the hermeneutical principles for interpreting the New Testament and culminates with preaching the riches of the Scriptures. With the Bible as the primary text, the course highlights the cohesion of the God's Word as traced through the biblical covenants.

BI 745 • Biblical Manners and Customs

A close look at manners and customs in the biblical setting and their contribution toward interpreting and understanding specific passages. The focus is directed toward aspects of culture in the habits of the people, not aspects of physical geography such as topography, climate, and rivers.

BI 751 • Acts

A course designed to acquaint the student with the genesis and progression of early Christianity. Devotes special attention to evangelistic methodologies and to the tensions and confusions with regard to that which is normative or commanded versus that which is transitional or occasional.

Also includes a study of the chronology of key events in the life of the Apostle Paul.

BI 755 • 1 and 2 Thessalonians

An expositional approach to these early epistles with careful attention to their context in culture and history. Special emphases focus on the personal, pastoral, and prophetic elements that combine for a unique study. Appropriate applications for the contemporary church will be drawn.

BI 756 • Selected General Epistles

A study of James, 1 Peter, and Jude, with special attention given to the occasion, purpose, structure, contents, and message of each epistle.

BI 757 • Galatians

An exposition of the book, including the date, historical situation, and purpose. Special emphasis is given to the development of the argument and its relationship to the book of Romans.

BI 758 • Johannine Epistles

An in-depth study of these three epistles with special attention to John's "tests of life" for identifying and evaluating true fellowship and false pretense or personal deception. A treatment of the authorship of John's Gospel and his Epistles is included.

BI 762 • Daniel

An expository study, including an examination of the historical background, literary structure, prominent system of interpretation, and thematic development. Emphasis is placed on the prophetic chronology presented, and on the relationship with other prophetic portions of Scripture—in particular with the Olivet Discourse of our Lord.

BI 764 • Archaeology Residency

The Master's Seminary, as a research partner with Associates for Biblical Research participates in excavations in sites in Israel that are of vital importance for Biblical Studies. In this residency students are exposed to the basics of archeological field work and are assigned a "square" to work under the direction of an area supervisor. Students gain invaluable hands on experience and interaction with other scholars from around the world.

BI 765 • Biblical Archaeology

An introduction to the history, methodology and apologetic value of biblical archaeology, including a survey of the most significant finds in the last century. Emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of the archaeological data and its proper role in the exegetical process.

BI 770 • Jeremiah and Lamentations

An expositional study of the message of these often-overlooked books. Known as the weeping

‘What saith the Lord’ is the alpha and omega of expository preaching. It begins in the Bible and ends in the Bible and all that intervenes springs from the Bible.

Merill F. Unger

prophet, Jeremiah's life and character is examined, as well as the historical milieu of his riveting message. Key interpretive problems are discussed and evaluated. Special attention is given to the prophecies of Israel's future as well.

BI 777 • Pastoral Epistles

An expositional analysis of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, with emphasis on the practical application of the instruction of these epistles for contemporary Christian living and pastoral responsibilities.

BI 779 • History of Israel

An examination of the history of God's chosen nation, Old Testament chronology, international relations, great national leaders, and the place of the prophets, beginning with the call of Abraham and ending with the Persian period (see OT 779).

BI 780 • Biblical Ethics

This course treats both the theory and the practice of ethical and moral decision-making. An examination is also made of the key ethical passages in the Scriptures with special application to the issues raised in modern life (see TH 780).

BI 784 • History of the English Bible

The English Bible, both in scope and volume, has been the most significant translation of the Bible in the history of the Church. With new versions of the Bible in English appearing almost annually, this course is designed to study the history of the Bible in English, examining genuine copies of the eight significant English Bibles. Additionally, the theological and practical issues related to Bible translation, evaluation of Bibles, and the Bible in worship will be engaged.

BI 799 • Research in Bible Exposition

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required.

Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary course work, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office.

Prerequisite: two years of seminary study (60 hours) with at least one year at The Master's Seminary (30 hours). Number of hours (not to exceed four) to be determined, prior to

registration, by the faculty member involved.

BI 822 • Hermeneutics in Contemporary Issues

Based on BI 505 (Hermeneutics), this course develops and hones the student's skill in using principles of interpretation. Principles are applied to contemporary issues such as the Health and Wealth Gospel, Signs and Wonders, Spiritual Warfare, the New Age Movement, Women's Lib Movement and other relevant issues. Prerequisite: BI 505.

BI 829 New Testament Use of the Old Testament

An examination of how the New Testament writers quote and apply the Old Testament. This course looks at the ramifications of New Testament uses of the Old Testament for both hermeneutics and theology (see TH 829). Prerequisites: BI 505, OT 504 and NT 603.

BI 834 • The Pastoral Epistles (seminar)

A penetrating investigation of passages in the Pastoral Epistles pertaining to church matters, e.g., eldership, women's role in Christian service, discipline, marriage and divorce among leaders, principles of godliness and leadership, and other crucial areas.

BI 837A • Thesis Introductory Methods

This class is primarily an independent study, with initial and intermittent guidance provided by the student's thesis adviser. The class entails topic selection and approval, development of a prospectus (title page, outline, bibliography, and general synopsis of argument), and the introductory chapter. Deadline for completing this class is by the end of sixteen weeks.

BI 838 • Th.M. Thesis

As the culmination of their Th.M. program, a student must write a Th.M. thesis. Building on the work submitted for BI 837A, this thesis must contain not fewer than 100 nor more than 150 pages of text material. Approval will be based upon literary quality and theological content. Prerequisite: BI 837A.

BI 842 • Resolving Problem Passages

Views and solutions on selected key passages in both testaments in a variety of problems are dealt with. Examples include alleged contradictions, passages that have been interpreted various ways, matters of history, chronology, grammar and science.

BI 847 • Pentateuch

Study of the major biblical and historical development of the first five books of the Old Testament.

BI 851 • Gospel of Matthew

An analysis of the first Gospel with special attention devoted to the kingdom concept, the person of Christ, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables of the kingdom, and the Olivet

The true idea of
expository preaching is
that the preacher should
become a mouthpiece
for his text, opening it up
and applying it as a word
from God to his hearers.

J.I. Packer

Discourse.

BI 853 • Hebrews

An analysis and exposition of the text, with attention given to authorship, date, theme, and interpretive difficulties. Special emphasis is also given to Christ's fulfillment of the types and shadows of the Old Testament sacrificial system.

BI 862 • Isaiah

An analytical study of the words of this great prophet. Examines his life and character, as well as the historical background of his message, with special emphasis on messianic predictions.

BI 864 • Romans

An exposition of the book, with careful attention given to background, theme, and doctrinal issues and solutions. Relevant practical applications are also presented.

BI 874 • Revelation

An expository study of this book, including an examination of the historical backgrounds, literary structures, prominent systems of interpretation, and thematic development. Emphasis is placed on the prophetic chronology presented by the book, and on the relationships with other prophetic portions of Scripture—in particular with the Olivet Discourse of our Lord.

BI 899 • Research in Bible Exposition

A limited number of credit hours may be earned by satisfactory completion of guided independent research. The special problem or area of investigation must relate closely to the course title, must be precisely stated in written form and must be pursued under faculty supervision and with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Administration. A fully documented research paper and a reading report are required. Because instruction and interaction within a classroom setting are significant elements of seminary coursework, research courses are permitted only when a particular course that is needed for graduation or for additional expertise is not offered, or when a faculty member recommends such a course as an aid both to himself and to the student. Information regarding requirements, procedures, and grading is available from the Administration office.

RESOURCES

[Fundamentals of Expository Preaching - Free Course with John MacArthur and Steve Lawson](#)

[“Expository Preaching: The Mandate of Biblical Inerrancy” by John MacArthur](#)

[Institute for Church Leadership: Online Lay Training for the Local Church](#)

[The Master’s Seminary Academic Calendar](#)

Become an *Expositor*



Whether God calls you to preach from a pulpit, teach from a lectern, or evangelize on the mission field, the Master of Divinity program will prepare you to faithfully deliver the Word of God.

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