

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute  
Fall 2021**

**Class Day & Time: Monday, 6:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Course Name & Number: BS600 Orientation to Biblical Studies**

**Instructor: Dr. Jennifer McNeel**

**Course Description**

This course will introduce students to academic tools and methods used to study the Bible, thus preparing students for future Bible courses and other theological study at the Ecumenical Institute. The course will focus on topics related to biblical study including: 1) the development and contents of the biblical canon; 2) the transmission and growth of biblical literature; 3) methods and tools for biblical study; and, 4) the exegetical process.

**Course Requirements**

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 800 pages of required reading and should be prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:**
  - Entrance and exit “tickets” (brief responses to weekly questions; 10% of grade)
  - Five short writing assignments (2 to 3 pages each; 25% of grade)
  - Final exegesis paper (about 10-12 pages; 30% of grade)
- **Other:**
  - Midterm exam (30% of grade)
  - Class participation (5% of grade)

**Required Texts:**

1. Michael J. Gorman, ed. *Scripture and Its Interpretation: A Global, Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible* (Baker Academic, 2017), ISBN: 978-0801098390
2. Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*, Third Edition (Baker Academic, 2020), ISBN: 978-1540960313
3. **One** of the following study Bibles:
  - a. The HarperCollins Study Bible (HarperOne, 2006), ISBN: 978-0060786847  
OR
  - b. The New Interpreter's Study Bible (Abingdon Press, 2003), ISBN: 978-0687278329  
OR
  - c. The Catholic Study Bible, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Oxford University Press, 2016), ISBN: 978-0190267230  
OR
  - d. The New Oxford Annotated Bible, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (Oxford University Press, 2018), ISBN:

978-0190276072 (4<sup>th</sup> edition okay, too)

*If a student already owns a different academic study Bible, he or she may ask the instructor if it will be acceptable for use in the class.*

**MAT Degree Outcome(s) Addressed by This Course:**

1. Interpret biblical texts and articulate Scripture's major theological themes

**MACM Degree Outcome(s) Addressed by This Course:**

1. A firm understanding of the Christian Scripture and pertinent Church Tradition through the ability to apply that understanding in analyzing and responding to pastoral / ministry encounters