



BSHM5310 Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics

Fall 2019

Tuesday/Thursday: 2:00 - 3:20 pm

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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.

2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of

God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.

3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.

4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.

5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment. The core value focus for this academic year is Doctrinal Integrity.

This year's emphasis is on **Spiritual Vitality**

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competency addressed in this course is biblical exposition.

Course Description

This course is a study of the principles of biblical interpretation, an introduction to the major resources available for biblical interpretation, and an exegetical study of selected passages from the various types of biblical literature. The major focus of the course is practical--the course goal is that the students develop sound methods of exegesis and application of biblical texts.

Objectives

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the guidelines for interpreting the various genres of the Bible.
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how solid exegesis is essential for accurate proclamation and teaching of the message of the Bible.
3. Students should acquire the ability to apply sound exegetical method for interpreting the text.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will be able to understand the principles guiding the exegetical process for biblical interpretation.
2. The student will be able to use appropriate tools, resources, and methods to apply sound exegetical principles toward biblical interpretation.
3. The student will be able to communicate clearly the meaning of the biblical text to a contemporary audience.

Course Teaching Methods:

The goals of this course dictate in large part the teaching methods. Readings and lectures are central to covering the knowledge base needed for the course. Handling numerous texts from the Bible in class discussion and student groups helps build an appreciation for sound exegesis of the Bible. Elaborating word studies, background studies, and an exegetical project/paper aids in the use and development of the student's skills as an exegete.

Textbooks:

The basic texts include the following:

- Bible in modern translation: RSV, NRSV, NASB, ESV, NIV, GNB, NLT, NET, CSB
- Fee and Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (=FS)
- Klein, Blomberg, and Hubbard, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (=KBH)

Each student should acquire a Bible Software program, with one required for those in a specific Biblical Studies degree (like the MA in Biblical Studies, or the MDiv in Biblical Studies or Biblical Languages). The following are recommended by the Biblical Studies Division: Logos and Accordance. For those not majoring in Biblical Studies or in a Biblical

Studies degree program, a free program from online can be used such as mywsb.com, crosswire.org, and e-sward.net. Please consult with the professor if you have questions on this, and know that special discounts on the two major programs are available for NOBTS students.

Course Requirements

The student will:

1. Read the textbooks in preparation for each class period (see schedule below). The student will turn in a reading report with the Stage Two paper.
2. Complete a **background study** of an assigned topic. The study should include primary and secondary sources and the student's evaluation of the subject in light of the sources. The study is to be 2-3 pages, single-spaced, 12 point Times, one-inch margins. NO COVER PAGE. (*Copies should be uploaded to Blackboard by 5:00 PM on 9/19/2019*)
3. Complete a **topical/thematic study** of the assigned passage (see passage assignment page). Please discuss all of the topics or themes that occur in your text first. Then, focus on THE topic that your Stage 1 and Stage 2 papers will focus on. Assignment should be 2-3 pages, single-spaced, 12 point Times, one-inch margins. NO COVER PAGE. (*Copies should be uploaded to Blackboard by 5:00 PM on 10/3/2019*)
4. Complete a **word study** of an assigned word using the tools discussed in the course. The study should be 2-3 pages, as above. NO COVER PAGE. (*Copies Due should be uploaded to Blackboard by 5:00 PM on 10/22/2019*)
5. Complete an exegesis paper on an assigned passage, which is to be produced in two stages. Specific instructions are found at the end of the syllabus.
 - a. **Stage One** is a thorough exegetical study that is to follow the attached guidelines, approximately 12-15 pages in length, single-spaced. At the end of this stage, the student should have gathered all the essential knowledge from the text and be ready to begin the task of constructing a sermon or a teaching lesson. (Copies should be uploaded to Blackboard by 5:00 PM on November 14)
 - b. **Stage Two**. Please note that the Second Stage paper will serve as the *embedded assignment*. Stage Two is a polished, written paper, 5-8 single-spaced pages in length, presenting the summarized essence of the information gathered in the first stage in ready-to-deliver form. The purpose of this stage is to synthesize the data gathered in the first stage into a well-written presentation. The paper may take one of two forms: (1) a sermon manuscript, i.e., written out word-for-word, ready to deliver orally, or (2) a teaching article, e.g., an article for the Biblical Illustrator. In either case, this stage should have an interesting introduction, developed body, and a conclusion that ties the paper together. This stage contrasts with the first stage, in that the first stage is a step-by-step distillation of the findings of the research, whereas the second stage is a finished and polished work.

Be sure to consider the audience in choosing the format of the paper and in shaping the material for presentation. (*Copies should be uploaded to Blackboard by the time of the final exam*)

Stage One Guidelines

1. **Text:** Write out the text of the passage chosen, including verse numbers *and* indications of your own paragraph division, from one of the following translations (ASV, NASB, RSV, NRSV, NIV, NJPSV, REB, RAB, NLT, NET, CSB, HSCB). NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (.5 page).
2. **Historical Background:** Focus here is on information not directly gathered from the text itself or its literary contexts (i.e. things such as dates, international situation, etc.). Focus should be on the wider historical background (historical, cultural topical studies). Outside sources (such as the Bible, commentaries, dictionaries, encyclopedias, or histories) should be used here. You should also devote attention to the topic assigned for your passage. (2 pages).
3. **Literary Context:** (1) Discuss the *placement* of the passage in its immediate and larger contexts within the book, and (2) justify the paragraph divisions you have provided above. Look for clues in the immediately preceding and following context (the surrounding paragraphs and chapters) that show how the passage you are considering fits into its context (e.e, why it is where it is). NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (.75 page)
4. **Paragraph Analysis:** Identify the theme of each paragraph in one sentence per paragraph. The theme may be a key sentence taken directly from the text or a statement in your own words. *Justify your judgment in each case (i.e., give your reasons for it)*. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (.5 page).
5. **Verse Analysis:** Comment here on important features of individual verses. (In a longer passage, focus on each paragraph instead of each verse.) Do not merely summarize each verse or paragraph or re-state the obvious. Do comment on the flow of the argument or story-line from verse to verse (or paragraph to paragraph), including addressing why certain things may be stated in a particular way, why certain statements are included where they are, why omissions of expected material occur, etc. Comment as needed on important theological words or ideas. Notice where else in the book or in other biblical books certain words or ideas are found. You may use concordances or theological wordbooks here, including any cross-referencing guide you like (such as that found within most Bibles themselves), but, you MAY NOT USE A COMMENTARY HERE. Do your own work. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (1-2 Pages).
6. **Theme:** Based upon the various stages of your detailed analysis above, and especially building upon your statements of theme for each paragraph, provide a one-sentence statement of the theme of the entire text (i.e., what is the author's main point in this section?). Explain the basis for your decision. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (1.5 page)

7. **Word Study:** Include here the major results of your sample word study (not the raw data you presented earlier). Also remember that you probably will need to do other word studies for this larger project. (.5 page)
8. **Outline:** Present an "exegetical" ("historical") outline of the text, reflecting the theme. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (.5 page)
9. **Homiletical (Sermon or Teaching) Outline:** This outline should derive from the exegetical outline. Also include a one-sentence re-statement of the theme (point "6." above), a desired audience response, and a concluding challenge. NO COMMENTARY PERMITTED. (.5 page)
10. **Commentary Comparison:** Include here any additional essential insights gleaned from three exegetical commentaries. *These must be insights that you did not already uncover in your own work.* You may include these insights into the body of your work in Stage Two of your paper, but here, be sure to do the work asked for in the order requested. (.5 page)

NOTE 1: The use of commentaries is to be limited to the specific instructions for the Project; the only points at which you are to use them are in the Historical Background step and in Step 10 of Stage One. The reason for this restriction is to help you to see how commentaries can be most helpful to you in your work, rather than becoming an unhealthy crutch and a hindrance to developing you own spiritual insight.

NOTE 2: Page lengths here are suggested guides only. The major concern is that you accomplish the required work. However, the final product should be no less than eight (8) and no more than twelve (12) pages.

Late penalty is five points per day after the due date.

DOMAIN	LEVEL	INQDEQUAT E (0 POINTS)	BASIC (1 POINT)	COMPETENT (2 POINTS)	GOOD (3 POINTS)	EXCELLENT (4 POINTS)
UNDERST ANDING The Student:	Understood the principles guiding the exegetical process for biblical interpretation					
APPLICAT ION The Student:	Used appropriate tools to apply sound exegetical principles toward biblical interpretation					
COMMUNI	Communicated					

<p>CATION The Student:</p>	<p>clearly the meaning of the biblical text to a contemporary audience</p>					
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Course Evaluation

The student’s grade will be computed as follows:

- Attendance & Participation (15%)
- Reading Report (10%)
- Background Study (15%)
- Topic Study (12%)
- Word Study (13%)
- Stage one Exegetical Paper (20%)
- Stage Two Paper (15%)

GRADING MATRIX

NAME _____

Grammar15%		Content.....40%	
Spelling	10.....	Appropriateness of answers (75%)	
Punctuation	50.....	Directly addressed the question	20.....
Fragments		Answered essential components	20.....
FS; CS		Degree of thoroughness	20.....
Run Ons		Accuracy of answers	20.....
Sentence Structure; clarity	10.....	Reasoning	20.....
Verb Tenses	10.....	Utilization of resources.....	(25%)
Misplaced/Dangling phrases	10.....	Adequacy of Interaction	50.....
Split Infinitives, etc.	10.....	Quality of source analysis	50....
General Composition Concerns.....15%			
Paragraph flow	25 ____	Style (readability);	25 ____
Focus (completeness)	25 ____	Depth of Analysis	25 ____
Mechanics (Turabian adherence).....10%		Documentation20%	
Title Page	25.....	Footnotes	15.....
Table of Content	25.....	Style/Form	10.....
# Subheading levels		Punctuation	5
Proper outlining		Frequency of Notation	35.....
Period leaders		Quality of Sources	25.....
Page #s/		Primary	
SubHeadings	25.....	Secondary	
Margins	25.....	Journals (req'd)	
Block Quotes, etc	9.....	Bibliography	25.....
Top/Bottom	8.....		
Left/Right	8.....		
FINAL PROJECT GRADE ====>>>			

08/29/14; grading matrix.eot.reviesed.wpd

NOTE: For any area not required (e.g., subheadings), simply enter the max points to the matrix subunit.

Course Schedule (FS=Fee & Stuart; KBH=Klein, Blomberg, & Hubbard)

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	8/20	Introduction and Components of a Model (Syllabus Day)	Syllabus	
	8/22	Developing a Philosophy of Interpretation, the History of Biblical Interpretation	FS pp 17-32 KBH ch1	
2	8/27	The History of Biblical Interpretation cont'd	KBH chs 2-3	
	8/29	Library Practicum; Basic Tools for Interpretation		Meet in Library for Class
3	9/3	Crossing Cultures and Worldviews to Interpret the Bible		
	9/5	Principles and Process of Interpretation	KBH chs 5-6	
4	9/10	Interpreter, Goal, and Application	KBH chs 11-12	
	9/12	Translations, Basic Principles	FS pp 33-54, 265- 275	
5	9/17	Background Studies: A Review of Various Types and Levels	KBH chs 4, 7, & review the annotated biblio at the end of the book	
	9/19	General Rules for Interp., Practicum on Bible Software		Background Study Due
6	9/24	MID-TERM EXAM		
	9/26	Interpreting OT Narrative	FS pp 89-106	
7	10/1	Interpreting OT Narrative	KBH ch 9 (Narratives)	
	10/3	Interpreting Epistles	FS pp 55-88	Topic Study Due
9	10/8	Interpreting Epistles	KBH ch 10	

	10/10	Interpreting Law	FS pp 163-180 KBH ch 9 (Law)	
10	10/15	Fall Break - No Class		
	10/17			
11	10/22	Interpreting Law/Prophets	KBH ch 9 (Prophecy) FS pp 187-211	Word Study Due
	10/24	Interpreting Prophecy/Wisdom	KBH ch 9 (Wisdom) FS pp 233-257	
12	10/29	Interpreting the Gospels	KBH ch 10 (Gospels)	
	10/31	Interpreting the Gospels	FS pp 149-162	
13	11/5	Interpreting the Parables	KCH ch 10 (Parables)	
	11/7	Interpreting NT Narrative: Acts	KBH ch 10 (Acts) FS pp 112-131	
14	11/12	Interpreting Psalms	KBH ch 9 (Poetry)	
	11/14	Interpreting Psalms	FS pp 212-232	
15	11/19	ETS - No Class		
	11/21			
16	11/26	Thanksgiving Break - No Class		
	11/28			
	12/3	Interpreting Apocalyptic	KBH ch 9 (Apocalyptic Prophecy)	

17			KBH ch 10 (Revelation)	
	12/5	Interpreting Apocalyptic	FS pp 258-274	Stage Two Paper Due
18	12/10	<i>Final Exam Week</i>		Take Home Final Due At Exam Time
	12/12			

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