

GREEK EXEGESIS: HEBREWS

NTGK6316, Spring 2015

Dr. Charlie Ray

Office: Dodd 207
email: cray@nobts.edu

Teaching Asst.: Josh Browning
Office: Phone: 816-8010

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.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. The core value for this year is Spiritual Vitality.

Course Description:

This course gives consideration to text-critical, grammatical, syntactical, literary, and historical issues through text analysis of the letter to the Hebrews. The course will emphasize sound hermeneutical principles for discovering the meaning of the text and for applying that meaning in teaching and preaching.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- Be familiar with the structure, background and the critical problems connected with Hebrews
- Understand the central message of Hebrews by reading the text of the letter and at least two commentaries on Hebrews in the process of interpreting the text for himself or herself
- Develop and hone exegetical skills that can be applied to the study of other New Testament books by completing a research project drawn from Hebrews
- Recognize the importance of proper interpretation in proclamation of the Bible by developing an oral presentation based on the research project

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- The material for each lesson will be introduced in a lecture format
- Students will read material in the textbooks and journal articles related to the background of the letter and related to the exegesis of the contents
- Students will participate in class discussion and group exercises during class sessions
- Students will practice the skills and reinforce the content discussed in class through classroom exercises and by completing the assigned research project

Texts:

The Greek New Testament

DeSilva, David. *Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

One additional commentary on Hebrews chosen from the list below.

Requirements:

1. Outline of Hebrews. See explanation below. (10%)
2. Journal Articles. See explanation below. (15%)
3. Commentary Reading. The final exam will provide a place to indicate the percentage of commentary reading that you completed. (10%)
4. Translation. The student will turn in a written translation at the beginning of each class period. A daily grade will be given on translation and classroom participation. (10%)
5. Research Paper. See explanation below. (20%)
6. Oral Presentation. See explanation below (15%)
7. Final Exam. A final exam will be given covering background material, the translation and parsing from the assigned passages, and the commentary material and classroom discussion on the related passages. The questions for the final exam will be handed out no later than the last day of class. (20%)

Assignments:

Week 1 January 20, 22

T: Introduction to Course

R: Introductory Material

Read the introductory material in both commentaries for this week.

Conclusions," *Trinity Journal* 13 (Spring 1992): 21-59. This article is available in a digital format through EBSCO Host.]

R: Translation: 2:1-4

Week 2 January 27, 29

T: Overview of Hebrews

Outline Due

R: Translation: 1:1-4

Week 4 February 10, 12

T: Translation: 2:10-18

R: Exegesis: Chapters 1-2

Research Question Due

Week 3 February 3, 5

T: Warning Passages [Read Scott McKnight, "The Warning Passages of Hebrews: A Formal analysis and Theological

Week 5 February 17, 19

T: Mardi Gras

R: Translation: 3:12-19

Week 6 February 24, 26

T: Exegesis: Chapters 3-4

R: Translation: 5:1-10

Week 7 March 3, 5

T: Exegesis: Chapter 5

R: Translation: 6:4-12

Week 8 March 10, 12

T: Exegesis: Chapter 6

R: Translation: 7:23-28

March 17, 19

T: Exegesis: Chapter 7

R: Translation: 8:1-7

Week 9 March 24, 26**SPRING BREAK****Week 10 March 31, April 2**

T: Exegesis: Chapter 8-9

R: Translation: 10:26-31

Week 11 April 7, 9

T: Exegesis: Chapter 10

R: Translation: 11:1-4, 39-40

Week 12 April 14, 16

T: Exegesis: Chapter 11

R: Translation: 12:1-4, 7-13

April 21, 23

T: Translation: 12:25-29

R: Exegesis: Chapter 12

Week 13 April 28, 30

T: Translation: 13:1-8

R: Translation: 13:9-16

Week 14 May 5, 7

T: Exegesis: Chapter 13

R: Oral Presentations**FINAL EXAM:****Thursday, May 14 at 2:00 P.M.**Commentary Reading

Each student will be read DeSilva's commentary on Hebrews. Each student will select an additional commentary to read from the commentaries listed in bold type in the bibliography. Students should email their first three choices to the professor no later than Thursday, January 22. Assignments will be made from those lists, attempting to give students their first or second choices.

Outline of Hebrews Due Tuesday, January 27 at the beginning of class

Read Hebrews in four different translations, each time at one sitting. Chose two translations from Group 1 and two from Group 2. As you are reading, note what the letter reveals about the author, the readers, and the situation. Based on these readings, summarize the content of the letter. Compare the paragraph divisions in the four translations you read. Decide where you believe the natural breaks in the text occur. Write a sentence or two summary of each paragraph. Use the summary to build a detailed outline of the letter. Do not consult study Bibles, commentaries, or other tools in constructing these summaries and outlines; the summary and outline should be the student's original work. Include a statement of the translations read at the beginning of the outline.

Group 1

King James Version
New King James Version
New American Standard Bible (95)
Revised Standard Version
New Revised Standard Version
English Standard Version
Holman Christian Standard Bible

Group 2

New International Version
Contemporary English Version
Today's English Version
Living Bible
New Living Translation
New Century Version
New English Translation

Journal Articles

The student will read and write a one-page, single-spaced abstract of five journal articles, turned in on a single sheet of paper. The articles must be from scholarly journals, that is, those indexed in ATLA or a similar scholarly database (check with the library on how to access EBSCO Host, if you don't know how to access these databases). The student will select five articles related to the selected research topic or articles related to the up-coming reading in Hebrews

The articles will be due at the beginning of class on 2/5, 2/19, 3/12, 4/2, 4/16.

An abstract should include the bibliographic information about the article, a sentence or two about the author, a paragraph explaining the thesis and arrangement of the article, a short summary of the major sections, and finally a summary of the author's conclusions.

Research Paper Due May 7 at the beginning of class

The paper should be 15-20 pages double-spaced. Use the *SBL Handbook of Style* (the *Student Supplement for the SBL Handbook of Style* is available as a free PDF at sbl-site.org/publications/publishingwithsbl.aspx) or Turabian for footnotes and style or formatting issues. Include a table of contents and a selected bibliography (all works cited, plus selected additional works that are found to be helpful). The content of the paper should be as follows:

1. Describe the problem that you are addressing
Chose a problem that relates to Hebrews. It can either be an exegetical problem within Hebrews or a problem within the seminary, church, or larger society the solution to which can be found in Hebrews (or at least an understanding of Hebrews will advance a solution to the problem).
Be specific rather than general.
2. Outline the existing research
Summarize how other writers have deal with your problem. Be sure to include commentaries, but also include journal articles and other books. Include assigned readings and class lecture/discussion, but do not limit yourself to these sources.
3. Propose a solution
The solution must be your own, though you can show how other writers influenced you. Be specific.

Students must turn in a preliminary research question no later than Thursday, February 12.

Oral Presentation

Develop a fifteen-minute oral presentation that explains your problem, what you did to solve it, and summarizes your findings. Be creative. You may use media. Be sure to stay within your time limit.

Bibliography

Allen, David L. *Hebrews*. The New American Commentary. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010.

_____. *Lukan Authorship of Hebrews*. New American Commentary Studies in Bible and Theology. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010.

Attridge, Harold W. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1989.

Bateman, Herbert IV. *Four Views on the Warning Passages in Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

Bruce, F.F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Rev. ed. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Buchanan, George Wesley. *To the Hebrews: Translation, Comment and Conclusions*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972.

DeSilva, David A. *Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle "to the Hebrews"*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 200.

Ellingworth, Paul. *Commentary on Hebrews*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

Guthrie, Donald. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Guthrie, George H. *Hebrews*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

_____. *The Structure of Hebrews: A Text-Linguistic Analysis*. Biblical Studies Library. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.

Hagner, Donald A. *Hebrews*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1983, 1990.

Hobbs, Herschel H. *Hebrews: Challenges to Bold Discipleship*. Nashville, Broadman Press, 1971.

Johnson, Luke Timothy. *Hebrews: A Commentary*. New Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006.

Johnson, Richard W. *Going Outside the Camp: The Sociological Function of the Levitical Critique in the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 209. London: Sheffield Press, 2001.

Koester, Craig R. *Hebrews: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Bible 36. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

Lane, William L. *Hebrews*. 2 vols. Word Biblical Commentary 47 A. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1991.

Lane, William L. *Hebrews*. 2 vols. Word Biblical Commentary 47 B. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1991.

Lindars, Barnabas. *The Theology of the Letter to the Hebrews*. New Testament Theology. Cambridge: University Press, 1991.

Manson, William. *The Epistle to the Hebrews: An Historical and Theological Reconsideration*. The Baird Lecture, 1949. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1951.

Montefiore, Hugh. *A commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. New York : Harper & Row, 1964.

O'Brien, Peter T. *The Letter to the Hebrews*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

Phillips, John. *Exploring Hebrews*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1977.

Stedman, Ray C. *Hebrews*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992.