

BSCM1300 HERMENEUTICS

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Leavell College
South Florida Extension
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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the interpretation of the Holy Bible while seeking to provide a Christ-centered, historical perspective and reliable principles with which to study, perform sound exegesis, interpret and apply to Scripture. This course is a prerequisite for all interpretation classes and upper-level preaching courses.

Student Objectives

By the end of the semester, the student will:

1. Acquire an understanding of various hermeneutical terms, concepts & principles.
2. Be introduced to the history of interpretation of the Scriptures.
3. Learn various hermeneutical principles of interpretation.
4. Recognize structural elements within the biblical text.
5. Apply principles of detailed observation to a verse, a paragraph and greater units.
6. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in biblical interpretation.
7. Discuss the role of context and historical/cultural background in determining meaning.
8. Interpret and apply texts from the various biblical genres.

Course Textbook

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Course Methodology

The principal means of instruction will be through lecture and discussion. Some audiovisual presentations will be utilized to supplement the classroom lectures and discussion. Additionally, the student will be involved in the completion of an exegetical project.

Course Requirements

1. **CLASS PARTICIPATION.** Attendance in class is a crucial part of instruction in this course. Students are allowed a maximum of nine absences during the semester. Three tardies count as one absence. The student will receive an automatic "F" when the tenth absence has occurred; this is in accordance with seminary policy.
2. **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS.** Weekly assignments will be required so as to meet the weekly third hour requirement. These assignments will serve to reinforce the assigned course

readings and the material covered in class. It is imperative that these assignments are completed on time. Late assignments will receive a penalty. On the first day of class, a list of scholarly journals will be provided to you. Each Thursday, you will be given a portion of scripture, a concept, term or reference to methodologies related to the course. You will prepare a one to two page paper addressing the weekly assignment utilizing the resources provided to you from the scholarly journal list and/or citing other relevant academic materials you have used to prepare your answer.

3. HISTORICAL CULTURAL STUDY. The student will complete a historical cultural study of an assigned passage. The paper should be 2-3 pages in length (typed and double spaced). A minimum of 5 resources should be consulted in writing the paper. The paper should consider the author, audience and specific issues within the passage being studied.
4. EXEGETICAL STUDY. Early in the semester the student will be assigned a passage to study throughout the semester. Various daily assignments will require the student to apply certain interpretative principles to the selected passage. At the end of the semester the student will write a paper that will bring together applications of the principles studied and the actual investigation carried out during the semester. The paper is required to be 4-6 pages, typed and double spaced. More information regarding the paper will be discussed in class. **The paper will be due on Thursday, October 10, 2013, at the commencement of class.** Late papers will be penalized.
5. MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS. Two exams will be given during the semester. The material covered on each exam will be from class lectures, notes, and the readings from the textbook. Each student is required to take the mid-term when scheduled. If the student misses the mid-term exam, he/she must reschedule the exam within one week of the original date given. Students who miss a scheduled exam must contact the professor or Leavell College office prior to the exam; otherwise, the student will be assessed a penalty on the make-up exam. In addition, the professor will assess a penalty for all late exams. The final exam must be taken on the day scheduled unless permission has been granted through the Leavell College office.

Evaluation The final grade will be determined in the following way:

10%	Historical Cultural Study
10%	Class Participation and Quizzes
20%	Daily assignments
20%	Exegetical study
20%	Mid-term exam
20%	Final exam

Course Schedule

	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Textbook Reading Assignment</i>	<i>Y Completed</i>
8/22	Introduction to the Course		
8/29	The Hermeneutical Model		
9/5	The History of Interpretation		
9/12	Chpts 1, 2 & 3		
9/19	Chpts 4, 5 & 6		
9/26	Chpts 7, 8 & 9		
10/3	Chpts 10 & 11		
10/10	MIDTERM EXAMINATION		
10/24	Chpts 12, 13 & 14		
10/31	Chpts 15, 16 & 17		
11/7	Chpts 18, 19 & 20		
11/14	Chpts 21 & 22		
11/21	Review for Final		
12/5	FINAL EXAMINATION		

Selected Bibliography

- Black, David Alan, and David S. Dockery, eds. *Interpreting the New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001.
- Bray, Gerald. *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Carson, D.A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.
- Corley, Bruce, Steve W. Lemke, and Grant I. Lovejoy, eds. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture*. 2d ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996.
- Couch, Mal. *An Introduction to Classical Evangelical Hermeneutics : A Guide to the History and Practice of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.
- Dockery, David S. *Biblical Interpretation: Then and Now*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Efird, James M. *How to Interpret the Bible*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1984.
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Fountain, Thomas E. *Keys to Understanding and Teaching Your Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983.
- Hendricks, Howard G., and William D. Hendricks. *Living by the Book*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.
- Kaiser, Walter C., and Moises Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Klein, William W., et. al. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1993.
- McQuilkin, Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1983.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1991.
- Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3d ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Terry, Milton. *Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.

Thomas, Robert. *Evangelical Hermeneutics: The New Versus the Old*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There a Meaning in this Text?: the Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Knowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.