

BSCM1300-01 HERMENEUTICS
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Leavell College
Dr. Mike Wetzel
Fall 2011

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the interpretation of the Bible, seeking to provide a historical perspective and reliable principles with which to study, interpret, and apply Scripture. This course is a prerequisite for all interpretation classes and upper level preaching courses.

Student Objectives

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student, by the end of the course should:

1. Comprehend biblical hermeneutics.
2. Value the process of hermeneutics in the interpretation of the Scriptures.
3. Be able to apply the principles of biblical hermeneutics to the interpretation of Scripture.

Course Textbook

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

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 all classes is mandatory, this is in accordance with seminary policy.
2. DAILY ASSIGNMENTS. Numerous daily assignments will be required. These assignments constitute the heart of the course and are extremely important. They also parallel and complement the material covered in class. It is imperative that these assignments be completed on time. These assignments will be collected and graded randomly throughout the semester. Late assignments will receive a penalty.

3. HISTORICAL CULTURAL STUDY. The student will complete a historical cultural study of an assigned passage. The paper should be 3-5 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 November 28th.** 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 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:

5%	Historical Cultural Study
10%	Class Participation and Quizzes
25%	Daily assignments
20%	Exegetical study
20%	Mid-term exam
20%	Final exam

Course Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Textbook Reading Assignment</i>	<i>Completed</i>
<u>Oct 10</u>	Introduction to the Course Discussion of Hermeneutics		
	The Hermeneutical Model	pp. 409-419	
	The History of Interpretation		
	Chapt. 1: The Interpretive Journey	pp. 19-27	
	Chapt. 2: How to Read the Book – Sentences	pp. 28-44	
	Chapt. 3: How to Read the Book – Paragraphs	pp. 45-64	
	Chapt. 4: How to Read the Book – Discourses	pp. 65-83	
	How to Read the Book - Ex. Phil. 4:13		
	Chapt. 5: What Do We Bring to the Text?	pp. 86-97	
	Chapt. 6: The Historical-Cultural Context	pp. 98-118	
<u>Oct 24</u>	Chapt. 7: The Literary Context	pp.119-131	
	Chapt. 8: Word Studies; Chapt. 9: Bible Translations	pp. 132-156; pp. 157-172	
	Chapt. 9: Bible Translations; Review		
	Mid-Term Exam		
	Chapt. 10: Who Controls the Meaning? HCC DUE	pp.174-183	
	Chapt. 11: Levels of Meaning	pp. 184-204	
	Chapt. 12: The Role of the Holy Spirit	pp. 205-212	
	Chapt. 13: Application	pp. 213-224	

<u>Nov 7</u>	Theological Principles Due; Chapt. 14: New Testament – Letters	pp. 226-243	
	New Testament Letters - Ex. 1 Thess. 5:22		
	Chapt. 15: New Testament – Gospels	pp. 244-264	
	Chapt. 16: New Testament – Acts	pp. 265-281	
	Chapt. 17: New Testament – Revelation	pp. 282-301	
	Chapt. 18: Old Testament – Narrative	pp. 304-327	
	Old Testament Law - Discussion		
<u>Nov 28</u>	Chapt. 19: Old Testament – Law	pp. 328-345	
<u>Nov 28</u>	Chapt. 20: Old Testament – Poetry	pp. 346-367	
<u>Nov 28</u>	Chapt. 21: Old Testament – Prophets Major Paper Due	pp. 368-387	
<u>Nov 28</u>	Chapt. 22: Old Testament – Wisdom; Wrap-up	pp. 388-408	

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