

NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: HEBREWS (NTGK9446)
2011 Spring SEMESTER
DR. CHARLIE RAY

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.

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:

By the end of the semester the student should

- be able to explain the critical issues related to the background of and current research in the book of Hebrews
- understand the central message of Hebrews by translation the text of the letter and reading at least three commentaries on Hebrews in the process of interpreting the text for himself or herself
- value the process of intertextual studies as a tool for interpreting the text
- apply information gained through dissertation reading to the development of a research project that can be presented at a professional society

Course Teaching Methods:

This course will involve students reading assigned books and journals, preparing assigned reports, participating in scholarly discussion, and writing and presenting assigned papers. The professor will guide the students in completing this process.

Seminar Requirements:

1. Attendance at the weekly seminar meeting. There are no unexcused absences. All absences must be cleared with the professor in advance. In the case of emergencies, the professor may be informed of the absence by email, text, or phone call. Any student who is absent more

than once must schedule a meeting with the professor to determine whether he or she will be allowed to continue in the seminar.

2. Each student will download from ProQuest a dissertation related to Hebrews. No dissertation may be reviewed by more than one student. The student should select dissertations written within the last seven years at non-SBC institutions. Students will request approval from the professor for their dissertation by e-mail, including in the email the title of the dissertation, the institution, and the date of the dissertation. Dissertations will be approved on a first-come basis. Each student will write an 8-10 page, double-spaced abstract and a critique of the dissertation. Copies of the review will be distributed on the day the dissertation is discussed. Each student will lead the seminar in a 35-40 minute discussion of the dissertation emphasizing the research problem, state of research, methodology, conclusions reached, and contributions to the study of Hebrews.
2. Each student will be in charge of leading class discussion on the translation/exegesis for one passage. About 40-45 minutes will be allotted for each section. The written assignment will be an outline of the passage and a bullet outline for the exegetical issues. The written assignment will be distributed to all students on the day the passage is discussed. (All students will also be responsible for the translation and commentary readings of the assigned portions of Hebrews each day.
4. Each student will prepare and present a major research paper on a topic approved by the professor. A written problem statement and sub-problems must be turned in before a topic can be approved. An exegesis of a section of Hebrews will not be approved. Topics should be selected and papers written with a focus toward presentation in a scholarly society meeting.

Copies of the paper will be distributed to the seminar members one week before the paper is to be presented.

5. Each student will be responsible for responding to another student's major paper. The written response will be 3-8 pages, single-spaced. A copy of the response will be submitted to the student whose paper is being critiqued and to the professor by noon on the day before the paper is to be presented. Responses may be submitted by email. The response should include a brief (no more than one page) summary of the paper, an evaluation and critique of the paper, an errata list, and at least three questions for discussion. The purpose of the response is to sharpen research and writing skills, so students should expect to give and receive frank, specific critiques of the presentation. However, the dialogue will always be conducted in a spirit of Christian love and humility.

Grading:

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| 1. Attendance and participation | 5% |
| 2. Dissertation Review | 15% |
| 2. Teaching Project | 15% |
| 4. Paper Response | 25% |
| 5. Major Paper | 40% |

Any work which is not in the seminar room by the beginning of class on the day it is due will be considered late, and the grade will be dropped one letter. An incomplete paper turned in on the date it is due will also be dropped one letter grade. Work that is over five days late (not distributed to students and professor by Tuesday noon after it is due) will be dropped two letter grades. Any work over one week late will not be considered for a grade.

Required Texts

Commentaries

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

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

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

Monographs

Bauckham, Richard, ed. *The Epistle to the Hebrews and Christian Theology*. Eerdmans: 2009.

Schedule:

Week 1

January 20

Introduction to Seminar

Discussion of background issues in Hebrews: authorship, date, community, structure, etc. Read the background information in the three required commentaries.

Week 2

January 27

Dissertations 1-3

Week 3

February 3

Dissertations 4-6

Week 4

February 10

Dissertations 7-11

Week 5

February 17

Translation Hebrews 1
Hebrews 2
Hebrews 3-4

Week 6

February 24 (Greer-Heard)

Week 7

March 3

Translation Hebrews 5
Hebrews 6
Hebrews 7

- Week 8** **March 10**
 Translation Hebrews 8-9
 Hebrews 10
- SPRING BREAK** **March 14-18**
- Week 9** **March 24**
 Translation Hebrews 11
 Hebrews 12
 Hebrews 13
- Week 10** **March 31**
 Discussion of *The Epistle to the Hebrews and Christian Theology*
 Paper 1
- Week 11** **April 7**
 Paper 2
 Paper 3
- Week 12** **April 14**
 Paper 4
 Paper 5
- Week 13** **April 21**
 Paper 6
 Paper 7
- Week 14** **April 28**
 Paper 8
 Paper 9
- Week 15** **May 5**
 Paper 10
 Paper 11

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.
- Bauckham, Richard, ed. *The Epistle to the Hebrews and Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids:

Eerdmans: 2009.

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.

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.

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 47A-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.

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