



BISR9304 READINGS IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
Ph.D. Reading Colloquium
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Spring Semester 2016

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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. The core value focus for academic year 2015-2016 is *Mission Focus*. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

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 worshipping 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.

Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses six competencies directly and one indirectly.

1. **Biblical Exposition:** by preparing students to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** through study of historical and modern methods of interpreting Scripture, thus enhancing the development of theological and interpretive principles.
3. **Discipleship Making:** by modeling the principles of discipleship through classroom deportment.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** through interaction among students within the group.
5. **Servant Leadership:** by modeling and reflecting the attitude of Christ in the life of a disciple.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** through discussion and modeling of spiritual disciplines.

Course Description

This Ph.D. reading colloquium in Biblical Hermeneutics covers general works related to biblical interpretation as well as the specific area of Old Testament and New Testament hermeneutical studies. The student is expected to read thoroughly the assigned material and to participate actively in the discussions of the material. Written reviews and/or summaries of the works are expected.

Required Textbooks

General Works

1. Dockery, David S. *Biblical Interpretation Then and Now: Contemporary Hermeneutics in the Light of the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1992.
2. Klink, Edward W., III, and Darian R. Lockett. *Understanding Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
3. Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised and Expanded Edition. InterVarsity Press, 2006.
4. Porter, Stanley E., and Beth M. Stovell, editors. *Biblical Interpretation: Five Views*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Old Testament Studies

5. Broyles, Craig C., editor. *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.
6. VanGemeren, Willem A., editor. *A Guide to Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
7. Vanhoozer, Kevin, J., editor. *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

The following volumes from the Guides to Biblical Scholarship Old Testament Series

8. Habel, Norman. *Literary Criticism of the Old Testament*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship Old Testament series. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1971.
9. Overholt, Thomas W. *Cultural Anthropology and the Old Testament*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship Old Testament series. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.
10. Tribble, Phyllis. *Rhetorical Criticism*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship Old Testament series. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.
11. Tucker, Gene M. *Form Criticism of the Old Testament*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship Old Testament series. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1971.

New Testament Studies

12. Ehrman, Bart, and Michael Holmes, editors. *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research: Essays on the Status Quaestionis*. Second Edition. Boston: Brill, 2013.
13. Neill, Stephen and Tom Wright. *The Interpretation of the New Testament: 1861-1986*. 2d. ed. Oxford, 1988.
14. Rohrbaugh, Richard, editor. *The Social Sciences and New Testament Interpretation*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.

The following volumes from the Guides to Biblical Scholarship New Testament Series

15. Beardslee, William. *Literary Criticism of the New Testament*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship New Testament series. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1970.
16. Elliott, John H. *What Is Social Scientific Criticism?* Guides to Biblical Scholarship New Testament series. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
17. Krentz, Edgar. *The Historical-Critical Method*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship New Testament series. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1975.
18. Mack, Burton L. *Rhetoric and the New Testament*. Guides to Biblical Scholarship New Testament series. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.
19. Powell, Mark Allan. *What Is Narrative Criticism?* Guides to Biblical Scholarship New Testament series. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990.

Course Requirements

The student will:

1. Read and review the required texts as stipulated in the schedule below.
 - a. Each student will prepare two book reviews: one of the more lengthy books and one from the Guides to Biblical Scholarship series. The reviews will consist of the following: bibliographic data about the author, the thesis/purpose of the book, summary of development of the thesis, a critique of the book, and a synopsis of 2 reviews of the book from scholarly journals. The reviews of the more lengthy books should be 4-5 pages, single-spaced. The reviews of the books from the Guides to Biblical Scholarship series should be 2-3 pages, single-spaced.
 - b. Each student will read the books being reviewed by fellow students in order to discuss the books during the meeting.
2. Participate actively in the discussion of the readings.
3. Attend every meeting. Because of the nature of the course, no absences are allowed. If emergency situations dictate an absence, the student will schedule a make-up session with the professor. Work is still due the day scheduled even if the student is absent. Any student missing more than one meeting must repeat the colloquium.

Course Schedule

Meeting #1 - February 4; 6:00-8:00 PM

David Dockery, *Interpretation Then and Now*

Reviewer: ___ Casey Hough _____

Reviewer: ___ Kevin Cox _____

Reviewer: ___ Mario Melendez _____

Craig Broyles, *Interpreting the Old Testament*

Reviewer: ___ Michael Gill _____

Reviewer: ___ Paul Chung _____

Reviewer: ___ Jackie Taylor _____

Stephen Neill and Tom Wright, *The Interpretation of the New Testament: 1861-1986*.

Reviewer: ___ Derrick Wilson _____

Reviewer: ___ Chris Gates _____

Norman Habel, *Literary Criticism of the Old Testament* (GBS series)

Reviewer: ___ Casey Hough _____

Reviewer: ___ Kevin Cox _____

Reviewer: ___ Mario Melendez _____

Reviewer: ___ Michael Gill _____

William Beardslee, *Literary Criticism of the New Testament* (GBS series)

Reviewer: ___ Derrick Wilson _____

Reviewer: ___ Paul Chung _____

Reviewer: ___ Jackie Taylor _____

Reviewer: ___ Chris Gates _____

Meeting # 2 - March 10: 6:00-8:00 PM

Edward Klink and Darian Lockett, *Understanding Biblical Theology*

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Willem VanGemeren, *A Guide to Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Richard Rohrbaugh, *The Social Sciences and New Testament Interpretation*

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Thomas Overholt, *Cultural Anthropology and the Old Testament* (GBS series)

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

John Elliott, *What is Social Science Criticism?* (GBS series)

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Meeting # 3 - April 7; 6:00-8:00 PM

Grant Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral*

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Kevin VanHoozer, *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament*

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Phyllis Tribble, *Rhetorical Criticism* (GBS series)

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Burton Mack, *Rhetoric and the New Testament* (GBS series)

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Edgar Krentz, *The Historical-Critical Method* (GBS series)

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Meeting # 4 - May 5; 6:00-8:00 PM

Stanley Porter and Beth Stovell, *Biblical Interpretation: Five Views*

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Bart Ehrman and Michael Holmes, *The Text of the New Testament in Contemporary Research*

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Gene Tucker, *Form Criticism of the Old Testament* (GBS series)

Reviewer _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Mark Allen Powell, *What is Narrative Criticism?* (GBS series)

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

Reviewer _____

Reviewer: _____

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- Anderson, Cheryl B. *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies: The Need for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
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- Bartholomew, Craig G., and David J. H. Beldman, eds. *Hearing the Old Testament: Listening for God's Address*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.
- Bartholomew, Craig G., et al eds. "Behind the Text": *History and Biblical Interpretation*. In Scripture and Hermeneutics Series. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
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- Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study*. Revised and Enlarged. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
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