Instructor and Contact Information: Dr. Catherine McDowell  
(cmcdowell@gordonconwell.edu)

Teaching Assistant: Anna Gissing (agissing@gordonconwell.edu)

Office Hours: Dr. McDowell will hold virtual office hours on the following days and times: Tues May 14 from 7:30-8:30 pm, Mon June 10 from 12:00 -1:00 pm, and Thurs July 18 from 8:00-9:00 pm. Additional times via Google hangout, Skype, Facetime or by phone are available by appointment.

Course Description
This course introduces students to the issues, tools, and methods involved in interpreting the Bible in English. It is designed for those who will not be taking Greek and Hebrew or other courses in OT and NT interpretation. **Prerequisites:** OT 500 and NT 501 or successful completion of the Bible competency exams, and IS 502.

Relationship to the Mission of Gordon-Conwell
This course, which seeks to maintain academic excellence in the highest tradition of Christian scholarship (GCTS Missions Statement, Article 2), helps students to become knowledgeable of God’s word and competent in its interpretation (GCTS Missions Statement, Article 1). This will contribute to the students’ development of a vision for God’s redemptive work in the world and to formulate strategies that will lead to effective missions, evangelism, and discipleship (GCTS Missions Statement, Article 6). **Being rooted in God’s word and knowing how to interpret and apply it is essential to these tasks.**

Relation to Curriculum
OT/NT 517 is a required course for students in the MA-Christian Leadership, MA-Christian Counseling, and the hybrid MAR degree programs. It introduces the basic tools and methods necessary for the proper interpretation of Scripture for use in Christian life and ministry.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will

1. be able to interpret scripture in its historical, literary, and theological contexts by the critical use of appropriate reference tools.
2. be able to apply scripture to contemporary contexts by using sound principles of interpretation.
3. be able to analyze and apply methods contained in the required readings for the course.
4. be able to evaluate, analyze and assess secondary sources.
5 refine his or her skills in research and writing through targeted assignments and by applying rubrics.

These objectives will be measured by the course requirements (assignments, reading, participation) listed below.

**Unit and Module Topics**

**UNIT 1 Introduction and Contexts**

Module 1 (Week 1): Preparation: The Who, Why, and How of Interpretation

Module 2 (Week 2): The Context of Scripture: History

Module 3 (Week 3): The Canon of Scripture

**UNIT 2 The Genres of the Old and New Testaments**

Module 4 (Week 4): Narrative & Law

Module 5 (Week 5): Poetry

Module 6 (Week 6): Wisdom Literature

Module 7 (Week 7): Prophecy

Module 8 (Week 8): Gospels, Parables and Acts

Module 9 (Week 9): Epistles

Module 10 (Week 10): Apocalyptic Literature

**UNIT 3 Language**

Module 11 (Week 11): The Importance of Context (Grammar, Syntax, Discourse)

Module 12 (Week 12): The Meaning of Words (Linguistics, Semantics, & Exegetical Fallacies)

**UNIT 4 Theology and Application**

Module 13 (Week 13): A Way of Speaking (Interpreting Figurative Language)

Module 14 (Week 14): The Goal – Theology; Application and Proclamation: God’s Word Coming to Life
Required Materials


Course Requirements
Achievement of the course objectives will be measured through a variety of activities as described below. The successful completion of these activities will require each student to spend at least 160 hours devoted to coursework, both in class and out of class. Descriptions of the assignments are listed below.

Learning Activities

**Reading**
You must complete about 1650 pages of reading. The schedule for this reading is listed in the modules and the Course Schedule. You will submit a Reading Log at the end of the course.

**Video Presentations**
You must view/listen to the video and powerpoint presentations as listed in the modules and Course Schedule.

**Discussion/Interaction**
There will be one live discussion forum, and eleven asynchronous discussion forums. These discussions are an important part of the course. They provide an opportunity for us to engage in thoughtful discussion on various topics related to interpretation, and for us to get to know each other a bit better. *The deadline for each week’s submission is Friday at noon.*
Homework Assignments/Learning Activities

Please submit all homework assignments (listed under “Learning Activities”) as attached files in PDF format. Assignments should be double spaced with 1” margins on all sides of each page, and should be printed in Times New Roman 12 point type or another font of similar size and appearance. Citations should preferably follow SBL style, although Turabian or APA style is also acceptable. Assignments must be submitted electronically by posting them in Sakai. Hard-copies will not be accepted.

Grading Rubrics will be provided for most assignments. You can find them starting May 1 in Sakai under “Resources” > “Grading Rubrics”.

Grading Policy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Total Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Log</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper or Project</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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Grading Scale

A  94-100  C+  78-80
A-  90-93  C   74-77
B+  87-89  C-  70-73
B   84-86  D   66-69
B-  81-83  F   65 and below

Instructor Feedback

I will attempt to respond to questions or messages within 24-48 hours, excluding Sundays. I will provide feedback on assignments within one week of submission. I will post grades in the grade book within two weeks of submission.

Late Work

*Late work is not accepted* except in the case of an emergency or extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances will be considered as appropriate. Questions
about extensions should be directed to the registrar’s office. If you anticipate a problem, contact me as soon as possible.

**Netiquette**

Gordon-Conwell does not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the online communications in any course. Students should review the netiquette policy in the *Student Handbook* and this website: [http://www.albion.com/netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette).

**Additional Seminary Policies**

For additional seminary policies that may pertain to this course, please refer to this *[Syllabus Addendum]*.