

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

OT/NT 517 Interpreting the Bible Course Syllabus

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Office hours: Mon.-Tues. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and Thurs. 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

COURSE LOCATION: Orlando, Florida

DATES AND TIMES: January 31, 2017-February 4, 2017

Wednesday-Thursday 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m., Friday-Saturday 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers the student an introduction to the discipline of biblical interpretation. The student will become cognizant of the various methodologies and steps necessary in biblical exegesis of numerous literary genres and texts. He/she will be introduced the basic tools necessary for the proper use of Scripture in Christian life and ministry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course the student shall:

1. Acquire skills necessary for the understanding of Scriptural texts in their original literary and historical context by the critical use of appropriate reference tools. (Cf. M.Div. degree goals: 3., 4. MAR degree goal: 1.)
2. Acquire a deeper appreciation for the Christian Scriptures as s/he learns how to apply these texts to contemporary contexts without losing sight of the original message intended by the inspired writers. (Cf. M.Div. degree goals: 2., 5. MAR degree goal: 1.)
3. Be introduced to the discipline of theological studies. (Cf. M.Div. degree goals: 4., 6. MAR degree goal: 1.)

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

1. Bible in a modern language (NASB, NRSV, ESV)

2. D. Stuart and G. Fee, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 4th edition (Zondervan, 2014). ISBN-10: 0310517826. Approx. \$12.00.

3. J.S. Duvall and J.D. Hays, *Grasping God's Word*. 3rd edition (Zondervan, 2012). ISBN-10: 0310492572. Approx. \$25.00.

4. J.S. Duvall and J.D. Hays, *Grasping God's Word Workbook*. 3rd edition (Zondervan, 2012). ISBN-10: 0310492599. Approx. \$15.00.

GRADING

The student's final grade will consist of the following: Homework Assignments 50%, Exegetical Paper 40% and Hebrew and Greek alphabet quiz 10% Grading scale is a 100% scale (90=A-; 92.5=A; 98.5=A+).

There are a total of 25 homework assignments that account for 50% of your grade. Students should not delay in completing their homework. Late homework will receive a grade penalty. All homework is due by Feb. 11. The exegesis paper is due by Feb. 25. The Hebrew and Greek alphabet quiz will occur on February 4. Course grades will be submitted to the registrar by March 25.

Class One January 31, 2018

- Lectures 1-4
- Homework: Read chs. 1-4 in *Grasping God's Word*, start reading *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth*. Complete workbook assignments 1.1, 1.2; 2.1, 2.2, 2.3; 3.1, 3.3; 4.1 and 4.2.

Class Two February 1, 2018

- Lectures 5-9
- Homework: Read chs 5-9 in *Grasping God's Word*, continue reading *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth*. Complete workbook assignments 5.2; 6.1, 6.3; 7.1; 8.1 and word studies assigned by the Professor.

• Class Three February 2, 2018

- Lectures 10-12
- Homework: Read chs. 10-12 in *Grasping God's Word*, finish reading *How to Read*

the Bible for all its Worth. Complete workbook assignments 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 12.1.

Class Four February 3, 2018

- Lectures 13-18
- Homework: Read chs. 13-18 in *Grasping God's Word*, finish reading *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth*. Complete workbook assignments 13.2; 14.2; 17.1 and 18.1.

Session Five February 4, 2018

- Lectures 19-22
 - Homework: Read chs. 19-22 in *Grasping God's Word*, finish reading *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth*. Complete workbook assignments 19.1 and 21.2.
- Read pg. 177 on exegetical paper guidelines.

Additional Bibliography (students do not have to purchase these books)

Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles van Doren. *How to Read a Book*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972.

Brown, Jeannine. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Dockery, David S. *Biblical Interpretation: Then and Now*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Dorani, Daniel M. *Putting the Truth to Work: The Theory and Practice of Biblical Application*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2001.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Third Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Goldingay, John. *Models for Interpretation of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Hendricks, Howard G., and William D. Hendricks. *Living by the Book*. Chicago: Moody, 1991.

Johnson, Elliot E. *Expository Hermeneutics: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Kaiser, Walter C., and Moisés Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*.

- Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Klein, William W., Craig Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised Edition. Dallas: Word, 2004.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Richard D. Patterson. *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of history, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2011.
- Kuhatschek, Jack. *Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Lundin, Roger, Clarence Walhout, and Anthony C. Thiselton. *The Promise of Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids and Cambridge: Eerdmans and Paternoster, 1999.
- Mickelsen, A. Berkeley, and Alvera M. Mickelsen. *Understanding Scripture*. Revised Edition. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1992.
- Morgan, Robert, and John Barton. *Biblical Interpretation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 1991.
- Porter, Stanley E., and Jason C. Robinson. *Hermeneutics: An Introduction to Interpretive Theory*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Ramm, Bernard. *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970.
- Strauss, Mark L. *How to Read the Bible in Changing Times: Understanding and Applying God's Word Today*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011.
- Tate, W. Randolph. *Biblical Interpretation*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1991.