GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Hispanic Ministries Program
OT/NT 517 Interpreting the Bible
Course Syllabus
November 2012

Course Instructor: Dr. Alvin Padilla
Teaching Assistant: 

Class Meetings/locations:

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. 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.
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.
3. Be introduced to the discipline of theological studies.

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. (Zondervan, 1993)
   ISBN: 978-0310246046
   ISBN: 978-0310492573

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
1. Read the assign textbooks in their entirety. Please not that we might not cover all the material in the textbooks in the class presentations; however the student is responsible for all the material in these books.
2. Attendance at all class sessions. Please bring to class your Bible and all assignments due for that session. Plan on contributing to class discussions regarding the tools and concepts introduced in the texts and in class.
3. Assignments. There are ten (10) exercises due by the conclusion of the course. Each of these will take an average of 2 hours to complete. Any less time will compromise your
expertise in interpreting the Bible. They start out rather easy, but become more complex and time consuming as you move along the interpretative journey. Please do not work together on these assignments, they should be your individual effort. All assignments must be typed unless otherwise stated by the professor. For most of the exercises where research is expected, you should use at least to three standard, recommended reference works which must be listed in the bibliography of your work. It is important that you use as many different reference works as possible as this is an important part of your learning. Assignments should demonstrate a cumulative grasp of the interpretive journey; therefore you will be asked to include previously learned steps in certain assignments. As you develop more skills, remember to continue doing original work, then consult resources. Please make sure that your assignments are properly identified.

4. A **final paper** based on the suggested assignments at the end of chapters 16, 19, 20, or 21. The paper is due December 16, 2012.

**Ten Assignments:** Below you will find the required assignments per chapter. It would be to your advantage to a] read the textbooks before we begin class presentations, and, b] that you do as many of the assignments as possible. The instructions for the assignments, and the necessary skills to do them, can be found in the textbook.

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<th>Chapter</th>
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<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
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**Final research paper**

The exegesis paper should incorporate all the steps outlined in the textbooks and highlighted during our class discussions. It should be about 10 pages long, typed, double spaced, etc. Choose one from the following chapters and do the exegesis assignment noted at the end of that chapter:

*Chapter 16 or Chapter 19 or Chapter 20, assignment #3 or Chapter 21.*