



***Interpreting the Bible (NT 517)***  
***Gordon-Conwell Seminary***  
***Mandeville, Jamaica May/2-5/2019***

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**Course objectives:**

The aim of this class is to obtain a deeper comprehension of the array of tools that are incorporated for the task of Biblical interpretation. In order to achieve this hermeneutical task, we will explore various methodologies of Biblical interpretations. Once this is successfully culminated, the student will have a clearer picture of the essential procedures within the praxis of the hermeneutical process. Subsequently, the student will be able to engage both exegetically and theologically with any Biblical texts under investigation both during class and in future hermeneutical tasks.

***The student must be prepared to participate in class discussion. This is a significant component of this course. All the reading assignments must be completed before the first day of class.***

***Reading assignments for the class of interpreting the Bible:***

- ❖ Trent C. Butler, *Six Ways to Study the Bible*. Saint Louis: Chalice Press, 2014 (ISBN # 9780827234703).
- ❖ Walter C. Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2006 (ISBN # 0801021979).
- ❖ Walter C., Kaiser, and Moisés Silva, *Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2009 (ISBN # 9780310279518).

- March 2019, p. 1 – pp. 84 (Trent C. Butler).
- March 2019, pp. 85 – 150 (Trent C. Butler).
- March 2019, p. 7 – pp. 66 (Walter C. Kaiser Jr.).
- April 2019, pp. 69 – 147 (Walter C. Kaiser Jr.).
- April 2019, pp. 149 – 247 (Walter C. Kaiser Jr.).
- ***The monograph: Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning, must be incorporated in its entirety with the above reading assignments.***

**Bible readings:**

- March 2019, Genesis 1-5 (chapters).
- March 2019, 2 Kings 1-9 (chapters).
- March 2019, Psalms 137 -142 (chapters).
- April 2019, Isaiah 56-66 (chapters).
- April 2019, Mathew 1-6 (chapters).
- April 2019, Ephesians 1-6 (chapters).

**Class evaluation:**

*The following section, step by step shows the percentage by which the student will be evaluated once the class of hermeneutics is culminated.*

- **Reading assignments (30%):**
  - a) Trent C. Butler, *Six Ways to Study the Bible*. Saint Louis: Chalice Press, 2014
  - b) Walter C. Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2006.
  - c) Walter C., Kaiser, and Moisés Silva, *Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2009.
  
- **Participation in class (20%).**
  - a) Students are expected to participate to contribute to the development of the class. In this sense, the students will experience a reciprocal learning process that will enhance their ability to assimilate complex theological and hermeneutical concepts interconnected both within the O.T. and the N.T. corpus.
  
- **Group presentation (25%).**
  - a) The students will make a presentation of Biblical interpretation on the final day of class. This pedagogical task will be achieved by selecting students to form several groups.
  
- **Final paper (25%).**
  - a) The final research paper can be between 15-20 pages (Times Romans [12]). The subject of the paper can be decided with the approval of the instructor during class.

This investigation must have substantial footnotes and bibliography. The bibliography is not part of the pages of the research paper. The bibliography must be of academic level.

***Grade criteria:***

A / 100 - 95 %  
A- / 94 - 90 %  
B+ / 89 - 87 %  
B / 86 - 84 %  
B- / 83 - 80 %  
C+ / 79 - 77 %  
C / 76 - 74%  
D+ / 69 - 67 %  
D / 66 - 64 %  
F / 63 - 0 %

***Further readings:***

Barton, John. *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation*. Cambridge [etc.]: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

....., *Reading the Old Testament: Method in Biblical Study*. London: Darton Longman and Todd, 2003.

Broyles, Craig C. *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids (Mich.): Baker academic, 2002.

Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

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

Klein, William W., Craig Blomberg, Kermit Allen Ecklebarger, and Robert L. Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas, Tex: Word Pub, 2004.

Kugel, James L. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

McKenzie, Steven L. *How to Read the Bible: History, Prophecy, Literature--Why Modern Readers Need to Know the Difference and What It Means for Faith Today*. New York: Oxford University Press, Incorporated, 2009.

McKenzie, Stephen L., and Stephen R. Haynes. *To Each Its Own Meaning: An Introduction to Biblical Criticisms and Their Application*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999.

Tate, W. Randolph. *Interpreting the Bible: A Handbook of Terms and Methods*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson Publishers, 2007.