

Syllabus
Hermeneutics (BH 5100)
Spring 2015

Jere Phillips, Ph.D.

jphillips@mabts.edu

office phone: 901-751-3035

home phone: 901-317-7070

cell phone: 901-828-8091

Course Description

A survey of the science of interpreting the Bible. The major focus is on the historical-grammatical principles of interpreting the biblical text, though some attention is given to contemporary issues in hermeneutics.

Course Requirements

1. Reading:

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hayes, *Grasping God's Word* (ISBN: 2012 978-0310492573)

_____ *Grasping God's Word Workbook 2012* (ISBN 978-0310492597)

Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Zondervan 2003 (ISBN: 978-0-310-24604-6)

2. Written Interpretation. The student will submit a written interpretation of a Scripture passage. (10 pages, double spaced). This assignment is intended to be practical in orientation but is to be typed and presented in acceptable form. The Scripture text (minimum of ten verses) will be selected from one of the major biblical genres: historical narrative, parable, poetry, prophecy (apocalyptic), and epistolary. The student will examine the passage using contextual analysis, historical-cultural analysis, grammatical-syntactical analysis, theological analysis, and practical application. The submitted interpretation must reflect the process followed in the class. (50% of the term grade) due: April 29.

3. Practice Exercises. The student is expected to complete exercises assigned in the class. These will be graded & the total will be computed as a part of the course grade.

Course Objectives

1. The students will acquire skills in using an exegetical process for the interpretation of the Bible.
2. The students will gain a new appreciation for the correct study of the Bible.
3. The students will adopt a disciplined approach to their treatment of the biblical text.

Testing: Students will take one final exam.

Grading:

1. Textbooks (complete reading and report) – 20%
2. Hermeneutical paper – 50%
3. Weekly exercises – 30%

Late Assignments: Ministers should be responsible individuals. Assignments turned in late will receive a 1/3 letter grade reduction for each day late. No material will be accepted more than one week after the due date without specific approval by the professor.

Participation: Due to the nature of the course, daily participation is imperative. Students are expected to be present, on time and engage in class discussion. Students with two or fewer absences will receive a 1/3 letter grade improvement to their final grades. Students should demonstrate responsibility by being prompt to class daily. Students are expected to refrain from studying any other materials during class.

Decorum: Students should refrain from bringing food or drinks to the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off before entering the classroom.

Availability: In office by appointment. You may call the professor by cell phone at 901-828-8091.

Bibliography

- Adler, Mortimer J. and Charles van Doren. *How to Read a Book*, rev. ed. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972.
- Angus, Joseph. *The Bible Hand-Book. An Introduction to the Study of Sacred Scripture*. London, 1853.
- Aune, David E., ed. *Greco-Roman Literature: Selected Forms and Genres*. Society of Biblical Literature Resources for Biblical Study. Atlanta: Scholars, 1988.
- _____. *The New Testament in Its Literary Environment*. Library of Early Christianity, ed. Wayne A. Meeks. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1987.
- Barr, James. *The Semantics of Biblical Language*. London: Oxford University Press, 1961.
- Barthes, Roland et al. *Structural Analysis and Biblical Exegesis: Interpretational Essays*. Pittsburgh: Pickwick, 1974.
- Berkhof, Louis. *Principles of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1950.
- Black, David Alan. *Linguistics for Students of New Testament Greek: A Survey of Basic Concepts and Applications*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- Black, David Alan and David S. Dockery. *New Testament Criticism & Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Blomberg, Craig L. "The Diversity of Literary Genres in the New Testament." In *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*, ed. David Alan Black and David S. Dockery, 507-532. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

- Bray, Gerald. *Biblical Interpretation Past and Present*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Bruce, F. F. "Interpretation of the Bible." In *Evangelical Dictionary of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
- Bruns, Gerald L. *Hermeneutics Ancient and Modern*. Yale Studies in Hermeneutics. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1992.
- Bullinger, E. W. *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible: Explained and Illustrated*. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1898; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1968.
- Caird, G. B. *The Language and Imagery Of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1980.
- Carson, D. A. *Biblical Interpretation and the Church*. Paternoster, 1984.
- _____. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
- Carson, D. A. and John C. Woodbridge, eds. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- _____. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Conn, Harvie M., ed. *Inerrancy and Hermeneutic: A Tradition, A Challenge, A Debate*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- Corley, Bruce, Steve W. Lemke and Grant I. Lovejoy. *Biblical Hermeneutics*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2002.
- Cotterell, Peter and Max Turner. *Linguistics and Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1989.
- Danker, Frederick W. *Multipurpose Tools for Bible Study*. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1960.
- Dockery, David, Kenneth A Matthews, and Robert S. Sloan. *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1994.
- Dockery, David S. "New Testament Interpretation: A Historical Survey." In *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*, ed. David Alan Black and David S. Dockery. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Draper, James, et al. *The Proceedings of the Conference on Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Broadman, 1988.
- Dunbar, David G. "The Biblical Canon." In *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*, ed. D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge, 295-360, 424-46. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Duvall, J. Scott & J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Ellis, E. Earle. *Prophecy and Hermeneutic in Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978. 2d ed., 1993.
- Epp, Eldon J. and George W. MacRae, eds. *The New Testament and Its Modern Interpreters*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989.
- Erickson, Millard J. *Evangelical Interpretation: Perspectives on Hermeneutical Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Fairbairn, Patrick. *The Typology of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, n.d.
- Farrar, Frederic. *History of Interpretation*. 1885; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1961.
- Fee, Gordon D. *Gospel and Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1991.
- _____. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, rev. ed. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1993.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth: A Guide to Understandings the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

- Frege, Gottlob. "On Sense and Meaning," tran. Max Black. In *Translations from the Philosophical Writings of Gottlob Frege*, 3d ed., ed. Peter Geach and Max Black, 56-78. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1980.
- Garland, David E. "Background Studies and New Testament Interpretation." In *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*, ed. David Alan Black and David S. Dockery, 349-76. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Goppelt, Leonhard. *Typos: the Typological Interpretation of the Old Testament in the New*. Translated by Donald H. Madvig; foreword by E. Earle Ellis. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1982.
- Hirsch, E. D., Jr. *Validity in Interpretation*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1967.
- Johnson, Elliot E. *Expository Hermeneutics: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- Johnson, S. Lewis. *The Old Testament in the New Testament*. Zondervan, 1980.
- Juhl, P. D. *Interpretation: An Essay in the Philosophy of Literary Criticism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1970.
- Julian, Ron, David Crabtree and Jack Crabtree, *The Language of God: A Common Sense Approach to Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Back Toward the Future: Hints for Interpreting Biblical Prophecy*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989.
- _____. "Legitimate Hermeneutics." In *Inerrancy*, ed. Norman L. Geisler, 117-147. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1980.
- _____. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas: Word Books, 1993.
- Kubo, Sakae and Walter F. Specht. *So Many Versions? Twentieth-century English Versions of the Bible*, rev. & enl. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Kuhn, Thomas S. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1970.
- Kummell, W. G. *The New Testament: The History Of the Investigation of Its Problems*, tran. S. M. Gilmour and H. C. Kee. Nashville: Abingdon, 1972.
- Larkin, William J., Jr. *Culture and Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- Lindars, Barnabas, SSF. "The New Testament." In *The Study and Use of the Bible*, ed. Paul Avis, 229-397. *The History of Christian Theology*, vol. 2. Basingstoke: Marshal Pickering and Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Longman, Tremper, III. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- Louw, J. P. *Semantics of New Testament Greek*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1982.
- Lundin, Roger, Anthony C. Thiselton, and Clarence Walhout. *The Responsibility of Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.
- Lyons, John. *Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968.
- Marshall, I. H., ed. *New Testament Interpretation: Essays on Principles and Methods*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.
- McCartney, Dan and Charles Clayton. *Let the Reader Understand*. Wheaton: Victor, 1994.

- McKim, Richard K., ed. *A Guide to Contemporary Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.
- McKnight, Scot, ed. *Introducing New Testament Interpretation*. Guides to New Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989.
- _____. *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels*. Guides to New Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.
- McQuilkin, J. Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible: An Introduction to Hermeneutics*. Chicago: Moody, 1983.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *The Canon of the New Testament: Its Origin, Development, and Significance*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.
- Michaels, J. Ramsey. *Interpreting the Book of Revelation*. Guides to New Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- Mickelsen, A. Berkeley. *Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963.
- Moo, Douglas J. "The Problem of *Sensus Plenior*." In *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*, ed. D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge, 179-211, 397-405. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Neill Stephen and Tom Wright. *The Interpretation Of the New Testament 1861-1986*, 2d ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Nichols, Bruce J. *Contextualization: A Theology of Gospel and Culture*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity, 1979.
- Ogden, C. K. and I. A. Richards. *The Meaning of Meaning*, 10th ed. London: Routledge & Kegan, 1960.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: Intervarsity, 1991.
- Packer, J. I. "Infallible Scripture and the Role of Hermeneutics." In *Scripture and Truth*, ed. D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge, 325-56, 412-19. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Parsons, Mikeal C. "Canonical Criticism." In *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*, ed. David Alan Black and David S. Dockery, 255-94. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Peterson, Norman R. *Literary Criticism for New Testament Critics*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Radmacher, Earl D. and Robert D. Preus, eds. *Hermeneutics, Inerrancy, and the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Ramm, Bernard. *Protestant Biblical Interpretation: A Textbook of Hermeneutics*, 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970.
- Ricoeur, Paul. *Interpretation Theory*. Fort Worth: Texas University Press, 1976.
- Rogerson, John. "The Old Testament." In *The Study and Use of the Bible*, ed. Paul Avis, 3-150. *The History of Christian Theology*, vol. 2. Basingstoke: Marshal Pickering and Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.
- Ryken, Leland and Tremper Longman III, eds. *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Schreiner, Thomas R. *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*. Guides to New Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Bakers 1990.
- Searle, R. *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1969.

- Silva, Moises. *Biblical Words and Their Meaning: An Introduction to Lexical Semantics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- _____. *Has the Church Misread the Bible?: The History of Interpretation in the Light Of Current Issues*. Foundations Of Contemporary Interpretation. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- Snodgrass, Klyne. "The Use of the Old Testament in the New." In *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*, ed. David Alan Black and David S. Dockery, 409-34. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Stancil, Bill. "Structuralism." In *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*, ed. David Alan Black and David S. Dockery, 319-44. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Stibbs, Alan M. *Understanding God's Word*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity, 1950.
- Tan, Paul Lee. *The Interpretation of Prophecy*. Winona Lake: BMH, 1974.
- Tate, W. Randolph. *Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Thiselton, Anthony C. *New Horizons in Hermeneutics: The Theory and Practice of Transforming Biblical Reading*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- _____. *The Two Horizons: New Testament Hermeneutics and Philosophical Description with Special Reference to Heidegger, Bultmann, Gadamer, and Wittgenstein*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- Thomas, Robert L. *Evangelical Hermeneutics: The New Versus the Old*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.
- Turner, Nigel. *Christian Words*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1980. Reprinted 1997.
- Ullmann, Stephen. *The Principles of Semantics*, 2d ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 1957.
- _____. *Semantics: An Introduction to the Science of Meaning*. New York: Barnes and Noble, 1962.
- Van Til, Cornelius. *The New Hermeneutic*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1974.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. "The Semantics of Biblical Literature: Truth and Scripture's Diverse Literary Forms." In *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*, ed. D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge, 53-104, 374-83. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.
- Virkler, Henry A. *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Walvoord, John F. *Inspiration and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957.
- Yoder, Perry B. *Toward Understanding the Bible: Hermeneutics for Lay People*. Newton, Kan.: Faith and Life, 1978.
- Zuck, Roy B. *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor.

Each course has different requirements – usually a mix of qualifications, subject or exam grades. Learn more about them here. They set the entry requirements for each course to ensure you have the right skills and knowledge to successfully complete the course. These include: qualifications, subjects, and exam grades – usually A levels, Advanced Highers or equivalent-level qualifications, are sometimes converted into UCAS Tariff points. Most courses will also expect you to have some pre-16 qualifications, such as GCSE English and maths, or their equivalents. your suitability – course descriptions often mention skills, interests, or experience it’s good to have, so look out for these details because applications can be