

Syllabus
Hermeneutics (BH 5100)
Spring 2015

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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.

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