

Syllabus for
GBIB 507-MAY—Biblical Hermeneutics
3 Credit hours
NICL Cohort
Summer 2014 – May 20-23, 2014
CityPlex Towers, 21st floor

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the problems and methods of Biblical interpretation, including the factors of presuppositions, grammatical relationships and historical context, vocabulary, and figurative language.

This course aims at exploring the motivation for studying Scripture, including the perspective of Christian experience and respect for the Bible's authority.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Employ responsible principles and tools of biblical interpretation for the various genres encountered in the Bible.
- B. Direct the use of hermeneutical skills and insights toward the goals of Christian discipleship.
- C. Use literature related to the field of hermeneutics.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Master the principles of hermeneutics and apply them properly in the interpretation of Scripture.
- B. Define the authority and inspiration of Scripture; indicate how these influence interpretation.
- C. State the importance of responsible hermeneutics for Christian discipleship.
- D. Compare and evaluate various English translations of the Bible.
- E. Illustrate the importance of literary and historical contexts of scriptural passages.
- F. Employ appropriate tools for illuminating the historical and cultural context.
- G. Identify important persons and developments in the history of interpretation.
- H. Identify figures of speech used in Scripture: simile, metaphor, personification, euphemism, hyperbole, irony, etc.
- I. Apply pertinent principles of interpretation to the various genres in the Bible:
 - 1. Historical narratives in the Old and New Testaments.
 - 2. Old Testament laws, including their relevance for today.
 - 3. Poetic material in the Psalms and elsewhere.
 - 4. Wisdom literature (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job).
 - 5. Prophetic material in the Old Testament.
 - 6. The Gospels, their similarities and distinctiveness; parables and allegories.
 - 7. Epistles of the New Testament.
 - 8. Apocalyptic literature (Daniel, Revelation).
- J. Define typology and distinguish it from allegorical interpretation.
- K. Discuss the use of the OT in the NT and the problems and insights for hermeneutics provided by the relationship between the Testaments.
- L. Employ principles of hermeneutics for applying Scripture in doctrine, worship, behavior, and growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ.
- M. Write an exegetical paper that demonstrates principles of biblical interpretation.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Holy Bible (A modern translation of the Bible is required. Acceptable translations include NIV, NASB, KJV, NKJV, RSV, and the NRSV. Paraphrased translations that are not recommended for this course are the Living Bible, the Amplified Bible, Good News for Modern Man, the Message, and other paraphrases.)

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. ISBN: 9780310246046

Virkler, Henry A. and Karelynne Gerber Ayayo. *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007. ISBN: 9780801031380

2. Other

Plummer, Robert L. *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2010. ISBN: 9780825434983

Research and Writing Manual. Tulsa, OK: Oral Roberts University Graduate School of Theology and Ministry, rev. 2013.

Whymeister, Nancy Jean and Terry Dwain Robertson. *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN: 9780310514022

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Journey into God's Word: Your Guide to Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008. ISBN: 9780310275138

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word Laminated Sheet*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. ISBN: 9780310275145

Kostenberger, A. J. and Patterson, R. *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011. ISBN: 9780825430473

Stein, Robert H. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011 ISBN: 9780801033735

2. Other

None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video,

multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
2. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
3. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
4. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
5. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures—Modular and Distance Education Program

1. The module will be held in the City Plex Towers, 21st floor, room A. Sessions are Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will also be some evening sessions required for Research and Assessment classes. Students are to make travel arrangements accordingly and confirm course location prior to arrival.
2. **Students must submit all pre-course assignments to D2L dropbox 15 days prior (May 5, 2014) to the first day of the course.** Overdue assignments will be penalized one letter grade (10 points) for each assignment.
3. Following a modular course, the student is to do the following:
 - a. Upload all post-course assignments to the D2L dropbox according to instructions given below and in class. Each overdue assignment will be penalized 10% for **EACH WEEK** it is late.
 - b. Final exams will also be administered through the D2L system if the professor does not require the exam to be proctored.
4. Attendance
 - a. Students are to attend all sessions during the modular course week.
 - b. All absences, late arrivals, and early departures receive a grade reduction equal to 2.5% for each classroom hour missed and **must be approved by the Modular Director.**
5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to www.studentresources.oru.edu.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Grading:
Pre-course Book Critique (Fee & Stuart) 20%

Pre-course Chapter Worksheets (Virkler)	20%
Class participation and assignments	20%
Rough draft of Exegetical Paper	10%
Post-course Exegetical Paper	30%

The final grade is given on the basis of the percentage of the total points possible.

b. Grading scale:

A = 90+

B = 80+

C = 70+

D = 60+

F = 59 and below

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRFT 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.

b. WPA requirements for this course:

- 1) All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the Research Paper for GBIB 507 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
- 2) Failure to correctly submit designated artifacts on time to the course professor on ePortfolio will result in an Incomplete grade for the course. When a student submits the missing artifact to the professor on ePortfolio, he or she may fill out a Change of Grade Request with all relevant information and submit it to the course professor for approval and final grade change.

3. **Pre-Course Requirements:**

a. **Book Critique:** Read *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart and write a book critique. A book critique should have **five pages** (typed and double spaced). It should include the following (see **Book Critique Guidelines in D2L**):

- 1) Title Page
- 2) Bibliographic Entry on the first page of content summary
- 3) Content Summary—**two pages**
- 4) Evaluation of the content of the book—**one page**
- 5) Integration of the contents of the book to your ministry as a biblical interpreter—**one page**—Describe what you can apply, what you cannot, why, etc.
- 6) Theological reflection of how the book applies to scripture and contributes to an understanding of God—**one page**.

b. **Chapter Worksheets (Virkler):** Read chapters 1-8, the *Epilogue: Using the Bible for Preaching and Devotions*, 217 and the *Summary: The Processes Involved in Interpretation and Application of a Scriptural Text*, 225 in *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*

- 1) Reflect on the exercises. [The appendixes (pp. 229-240) that provide reference material are not required reading]. Each chapter (except chapter 8) begins with: “After reading this chapter, you should be able to”
- 2) Write brief answers to the introductory sections for:
 - Chapter 1 *Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*, 15
 - Chapter 3 *Historical-Cultural and Contextual Analysis*, 79

- Chapter 4 *Lexical-Syntactical Analysis*, 97
 - Chapter 5 *Theological Analysis*, 121
 - Chapter 6 *Special Literary Forms: Similes, Metaphors, Proverbs, Parables, and Allegories*, 147
 - Chapter 7 *Special Literary Forms: Prophecy, Apocalyptic Literature, and Types*, 167.
- 3) Chapter Worksheets are provided on D2L.
 - 4) Type your answers on the uploaded word document titled, “Chapter Worksheets” on D2L.
- c. Plummer’s book entitled *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* is a reference tool for this course and requires no written work.

PLEASE NOTE: *You are not necessarily expected to embrace all the ideas in each textbook. As a graduate student, you are expected to evaluate and dialogue with theological ideas in the books based on the Word of God.*

4. **In-Course Requirements**

- a. Review pre-course assignments
- b. Reflect on selective textbook exercises
- c. Gather research material in the library
- d. Select a passage for the exegetical paper
- e. Present initial observations of and questions about the text
- f. Participate in discussions
- g. Complete in-class discussion and exercise on plagiarism
http://webapps.oru.edu/new_php/library/guides/plagiarism.html

5. **Post-Course Requirements**

- a. **Exegetical paper:** Students write a ten-page exegetical paper that brings together applications of the principles of biblical interpretation and the actual investigations carried out during the modular course. [Please note: An exegetical paper is a research paper that applies the principles of biblical interpretation.].
 - (1) The paper is to be a minimum of ten, typewritten (Times New Roman, Font size 12), double-spaced pages, including a bibliography and the utilization of the form and style outlined in the *Research and Writing Manual*. (Front matter and bibliography are not included in the prescribed length).
 - (2) Review Virkler’s and Ayayo’s *Summary: The Processes Involved in Interpretation and Application of a Scriptural Text* (pp. 225-228). More information regarding the paper will be discussed in class.
 - (3) See Exegetical Worksheets and exegetical paper examples on D2L.
 - (4) Submit a rough draft of the paper to the D2L dropbox by midnight June 20, 2014.
 - (5) Paper will be edited and returned to the student through the D2L dropbox.
 - (6) Final revised exegetical paper must be submitted to D2L dropbox by midnight July 11, 2014.
 - (7) Final revised exegetical paper must also be submitted to the course professor on ePortfolio, through the appropriate rubric, on the same date.

b. The biblical hermeneutics exegetical research paper is the final evaluation for the course.

6. Faculty
Cheryl L. Iverson, Ph.D.
civerson@oru.edu
918-495-6596

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Day	Topic/Discussion
1	Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics, the Role of the Holy Spirit in Biblical Interpretation, and the Importance of Biblical Authority.
2	Historical-Cultural and Contextual Analysis, Lexical-Syntactical Analysis, and the Identification of Biblical Genres
3	Theological Analysis and Special Literary Forms
4	Applying the Biblical Message for Preaching, Devotions and Personal Transformation

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

Master of Arts in Practical Theology

**GBIB 507-48—Biblical Hermeneutics Dr. Cheryl Iverson, Instructor
Summer 2014**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Arts in Practical Theology degree as indicated below:

Significant Contribution—Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution—Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution—Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution—Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Foundational Knowledge of Old Testament/New Testament Scripture			
Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context.		X		
2	Basic Methods of Biblical Interpretation			
Exhibit competence and understanding in the Word of God by utilizing basic methods of biblical interpretation.	X			
3	Theology and Christian Doctrines			
Analyze and apply basic Christian doctrines.		X		
4	History of Christianity			
Research and synthesize historical Christian themes.			X	
5	Communication Through Preaching/Teaching			
Effectively communicate the message of Christianity through the medium of preaching or teaching.			X	
6	Supervised Practice in Ministry Context			
Demonstrate understanding and skills for contemporary ministry contexts.			X	