

Syllabus for
BIB 306—Hermeneutics: Principles of Biblical Interpretation
3.0 Credit Hours
Summer 2012

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

Course Prerequisites: None

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to recognize any genre that might be encountered in reading the Bible and to bring to bear the poetics specific to the genre of the text under consideration.

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. Explain and discuss the principles of literary analysis.
- B. Discuss the genres encountered in the Bible and apply the poetics specific to that genre.
- C. Identify and describe literature related to the field of hermeneutics.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Duvall, J. Scott, and Hays, J. Daniel. *Grasping God's Word*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN 9780310259664.

Duvall, J. Scott, and Hays, J. Daniel. *Grasping God's Word: Workbook*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2005. ISBN 9780310262237.

The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments, New Revised Standard Version.

2. Other: None

B. Optional Materials

- 1. Textbooks: None
- 2. Other: None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

- 1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.

2. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. 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:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. 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.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting a Whole Person Assessment artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences affect the student's grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

1. Completion of a Course
 - a. All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.**
 - b. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. Incompletes
 - a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and is penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
 - b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.
3. Examinations and Other Assignments
 - a. Early examinations **are not** allowed.
 - b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
 - c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
 - d. **All** exams are given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**
 - e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
4. Attendance
 - a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for the three-semester hour class:
 - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 12 class sessions automatically results in a grade of "F."
 - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 sessions automatically results in a grade of "F."
 - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 2 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions automatically results in a grade of "F."
 - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow**

for emergencies and illnesses, for example, and are not designed for indiscriminate use. Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Any illnesses, emergencies, and trips are included in exempt. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.

- c. Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

a.	Workbook Exercises	60%
b.	Paper	40%
c.	e-Portfolio compliance	<u>0%</u>
	(noncompliance: one letter grade reduction)	
	Total:	100%

2. Grading

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

90+=A; 80+=B; 70+=C; 60+=D; 59 and below=F.

3. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

a. Paper

The student will write a paper that interprets a biblical passage. Instructions are found in Section 2 of the workbook (p. 153). One copy will be submitted online to the professor for grading through Desire2Learn and a copy will be submitted electronically through Whole Person Assessment for assessment. The electronic submission is as follows: Portfolio—Theology Department, Outcome—Scriptural Knowledge, Rubric—Hermeneutics Essay, Assessor—Jeffrey Lamp.

- b. Whole Person Assessment compliance (0% for the assignment for noncompliance). To be “compliant” the student must correctly submit the research paper electronically as an artifact for assessment. To be “noncompliant” the student has either not submitted or incorrectly submitted the research paper electronically. Noncompliance results in a one letter grade reduction of the final grade for the course.

- d. [It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that he/she is in compliance. Compliance is verified by checking for the assessment results in one’s e-portfolio. If there is a problem you may receive notification by the professor/assessor through one’s **ORU Group Wise email address.**]

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

DAY	TOPIC	TEXTBOOK READING	WORKBOOK
1	Course Introduction	Ch. 1; Appendix 1	1-1
2	How to Read the Book— Basic Tools	Chs. 2-4	2-1; 2-3; 3-4; 3-6 ; 4-2; 4-3
3	Contexts—Now and Then	Chs. 5-9	5-1; 6-2; 6-6 ; 7-2; 7-3 ; 8-2; 8-6 ; 9-1
4	Meaning and Application	Chs. 10-13	10-1; 11-1; 12-1; 13-2; 13-3
5	New Testament—Letters	Ch. 14	14-1; 14-2
6	New Testament—Gospels	Ch. 15	15-1; 15-2
7	New Testament—Acts	Ch. 16	16-1
8	New Testament— Revelation	Ch. 17	17-1; 17-2
9	Old Testament—Narrative	Ch. 18	18-1; 18-2
10	Old Testament—Law	Ch. 19	19-2; 19-5
11	Old Testament—Poetry	Ch. 20	20-1; 20-3
12	Old Testament—Prophets	Ch. 21	21-1; 21-2
13	Old Testament—Wisdom	Ch. 22	22-1; 22-2
14	Paper Work		

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
BIB 306—Hermeneutics: Principles of Biblical Interpretation
Summer 2012

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes 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.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	X			
1C	Evangelistic capability			X	
1D	Ethical behavior		X		

2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	X			
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			

3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X

4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	

(Revised 03/12)