

Syllabus for
GBIB 507—Biblical Hermeneutics
3 Credit hours
Spring 2017

Modular/Distance Education Program – Blended “A” Course
On-campus dates: February 27-March 1, 2017

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

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. 3rd. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN: 9780310492573
Electronic Kindle versions also available in standard and enhanced editions.

Vyomeister, 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

2. Other

Holy Bible (A modern translation of the Bible is required. Acceptable translations include NIV, NASB, KJV, NKJV, RSV, **ESV**, 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.)

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

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

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks

Andrews, Edward D. *A Basic Guide to Biblical Interpretation*. Cambridge, OH: Christian Publishing House, 2014. ISBN: 978-0692206614
Electronic Kindle version also available.

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word Workbook*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN: 9780310492597

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word Video Lectures*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015. ISBN: 9780310521051

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

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

2. Other

None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. 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.
2. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
3. 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.

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

1. **Modular Intensive Week:** Each Modular Intensive Week, usually held in the CityPlex Towers on the 21st floor, has sessions Monday-Friday, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 - a. This week will be comprised of two 2½-day blended courses designated as Blended "A" and Blended "B."
 - b. Blended "A" courses include seven weeks of online instruction *prior to* the 2½-day modular intensive component on campus.
 - c. Blended "B" courses include seven weeks of online instruction *following* the 2½-day modular intensive component on campus.

- d. Students are to make travel arrangements that do not interfere with their involvement in all of these sessions, and confirm course location prior to arrival.
 2. Instructions for the online portion of this course and designated assignments are to be found in the course management shell in Desire to Learn (D2L), and elsewhere in this syllabus.
 3. Each overdue assignment will be penalized 10% for EACH WEEK it is late. After the third week, no credit will be given for the assignment.
 4. **Incompletes**
On rare occasions, the grade of “I” may be given for work that is incomplete at the end of the course semester due to a catastrophic event.
 - a. The student must establish with the instructor and the director of the Modular/Distance Education Program that work is incomplete for good cause and submit a Petition for Incomplete Grade, with documentation.
 - b. The Petition must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester or summer course session, not exam week.**
 - c. The submission of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an Incomplete.**
 - d. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.
 - e. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition, make up any incomplete work, and submit a completed Request for Grade Change form (which has been signed by the course professor) to the academic office.
 - f. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent semester, the incomplete will automatically convert to an “F,” unless an extension is formally granted.
 5. Attendance:
 - a. Students are to attend all sessions associated with the specific blended course designation during the modular intensive 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.
- C. Course Policies and Procedures
1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Grading:

Weekly Writing Assignments	130 pts.
Weekly Discussion Forums (15x7)	105 pts.
Class participation	10 pts.
Class Presentation	25 pts.
Weekly Quizzes (5x5)	25 pts.
Exegetical Paper – rough draft	25 pts.
Exegetical Paper – final	<u>80 pts.</u>
TOTAL POINTS	400 pts.
 - b. Grading scale:

A = 360-400
 B = 320-359
 C = 280-319
 D = 240-279
 F = 239 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:
 - i. All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the Exegetical Research Paper for GBIB 507 to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date the assignment is also due in class.
 - ii. 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. Other Policies and Procedures
 - a. **Online Assignments:**
 - i. **Weekly Assignments**
 - a) Textbook readings and presentations: Read the assigned readings and view the related power-points for each week. Then sign the certification forms at the end of each week and upload to the appropriate D2L dropbox.
 - b) Writing assignments: Weekly writing assignments are given in D2L.
 - c) Discussion forums:
 - i. Devotionals: Reading and response of at least 150-200 words.
 - ii. Discussion topics:
 - 1) Each student is responsible for posting an original response of at least 200 words based on the week's discussion topics by midnight Wednesday of each week.
 - 2) Each student is responsible for posting a minimum of two 100-150 word replies to the posts of their peers to receive full credit by midnight Sunday of each week.
 - ii. **Exegetical paper:** Students write a ten-page exegetical paper that brings together applications of the principles of biblical interpretation and the five steps of the “interpretive journey” presented in the textbook *Grasping the Word* and other materials in the online portion of the course. [Please note: An exegetical paper is a research paper that applies the principles of biblical interpretation.]
 - a) In Week 1, Students select a biblical text for the exegetical paper according to the instructions given on the power-point presentation “How to Choose a Scripture Passage for Exegesis,” and write a paragraph that explains the reason they have chosen this passage. This assignment is to be uploaded to the D2L dropbox by midnight Sunday.
 - b) Students write sections of the exegetical paper throughout the online component of the course as part of their weekly assignments. The first section will be uploaded into D2L during week 2.
 - c) Students submit a rough draft of the exegetical paper to the D2L dropbox by midnight Sunday at the end of Week 6. The rough draft of the exegetical paper will be edited and returned to the student through the D2L dropbox.

- d) Students upload the final revised exegetical paper to the D2L dropbox by **midnight Sunday, March 26, 2017.**
 - f) Students also submit the final revised exegetical paper to the course professor on ePortfolio, on the same date, using the Whole Person Assessment (ePortfolio) link in D2L.
 - g) The biblical hermeneutics exegetical research paper is the final evaluation for the course. It will be evaluated based on the appropriate rubric that will be located on D2L.
 - h) The body of the paper is to be a minimum of ten typewritten, double-spaced pages (Times New Roman, 12-pt. font).
 - i. In addition to the ten pages, include a title page, outline, and bibliography
 - ii. Utilize the Turabian form and style outlined in the ORU Grad Theology *Research and Writing Manual*.
 - i) Exegetical paper examples will be available on D2L.
- iii. **Class Presentation Preparation:** Based on the first draft of the exegetical paper, students prepare a presentation (Power Point, Keynote, Prezi, etc.) to be presented to the class during the modular intensive week. The presentation should include the following:
- a) Historical-cultural background
 - b) Literary context
 - c) Key word meanings
 - d) Literary genre
 - e) Theological interpretation
 - f) Application
 - g) The presentation should be submitted to the appropriate D2L dropbox by **midnight Thursday, February 23, 2017.**
- b. **Modular Intensive Week Assignments:**
- i. Presentations on the exegetical paper will be presented in class according to a calendar established the first day of the course.
 - ii. Evaluations will be conducted based on the presentation evaluation form which is located on D2L. Students will note whether or not the presenter addresses the following categories given above from the exegetical paper.

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

VI. COURSE CALENDAR- INTENSIVE WEEK AGENDA (subject to change)

Monday, February 27, 2017 BLENDED A

8:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Devotional: Call to Theological Education
9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Introduction to Doing Theological Research
10:30 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	12:00 noon	The Interpretive Journey: Writing an Exegetical Paper
12:00 noon	1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	Jewish Hermeneutics in the Teachings of Jesus—Dr. Young
2:30 p.m.	2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Biblical Authority and Cultural Relativism: The Authority and Inspiration of Scripture
3:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Class Presentations

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 BLENDED A

8:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Class Presentation
9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Principles of Biblical Interpretation for Preaching, Teaching, and Preparation of the Exegetical Paper—Dr. Grizzle
10:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	12:00 noon	Class Presentations
12:00 noon	1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	Writing an Exegetical Paper/Using Correct Form and Style
2:30 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	
3:15 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	Course Presentations
4:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Chosen by God to Study His Word, Proclaim Its Message & Make Disciples— <i>When the Rabbi Says, “Come”</i> from <i>In the Dust of the Rabbi</i> Vol.6, No. 1. 5:30-6:30

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 BLENDED A

8:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	Class Presentation
9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Mission of God/Unlocking the Bible’s Grand Narrative <i>The Hole in Our Gospel</i> <i>When the Rabbi Says, “Go”</i> from <i>In the Dust of the Rabbi</i> Vol. 6, No. 2.
		Conclusion of the Course
10:30 a.m.	10:45 p.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	12:00 noon	Chapel
12:00 noon	2:00 p.m.	Lunch/Welcome & Program Orientation – Dr. Ekblad

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

Master of Arts in Practical Theology

GBIB 507—Biblical Hermeneutics

Dr. Arden Autry, Instructor

Spring 2017

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	