

Syllabus for  
**LBIB 306—Hermeneutics**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Online Learning

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course involves study of the problems and methods of Biblical interpretation, including the factors of presuppositions, grammar, literary and historical context, and the appropriate handling of the various kinds of literature found in the Bible. 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:

1. Understand the principles of sound interpretation.
2. Make use of those principles in realistic exercises of Biblical interpretation.
3. Understand the history of Biblical interpretation.
4. Understand the importance of careful study of the Bible in a manner that respects its authority as God's Word.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks  
Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN-10: 0310517826 or ISBN-13: 978-0310517825  
Klein, William, et. al. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.  
The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments, New International Version or New American Standard.
2. Other: None

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks  
Lamp, Jeffery S. *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department*. ORU Bookstore, 2014.
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. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. 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 Whole Person Assessment 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. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
  - b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme

emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.

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 3 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 6 class sessions automatically results in a grade of "F."
    - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 2 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 sessions automatically results in a grade of "F."
    - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 1 class sessions results in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 2 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.	Written Assignments	30%
b.	Quizzes	10%
c.	Discussions	15%
d.	Interpretation Essay	25%
e.	Final Exam	20%
f.	Whole Person Assessment compliance	<u>0%</u> (noncompliance: 0% for the assignment)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Interpretation Essay

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

	<b>Reading Schedule</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fee and Stuart - Preface, Chapters 1 and 2</li> <li>○ Klein, et al. - Chapters 1 and 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Week 1 Written Assignment</li> <li>○ Introduce Yourself</li> <li>○ Discussion 1</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fee and Stuart - Chapter 3</li> <li>○ Klein, et al. - Chapters 2, 5, 6, 7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Week 2 Written Assignment and Quiz</li> <li>○ Discussion 2</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fee and Stuart - Chapters 11 and 5</li> <li>○ Klein, et al. - Chapters 8 and 9</li> <li>○ The Holy Bible - Book of Judges chapters 4 - 5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Week 3 Written Assignment and Quizzes</li> <li>○ Discussion 3</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fee and Stuart - Chapters 9, 10 and 12</li> <li>○ Klein, et al. - Review chapter 9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Week 4 Written Assignment</li> <li>○ Discussion 4</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fee and Stuart - Chapters 7, 8 and 6</li> <li>○ Klein, et al. - Chapter 10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Week 5 Written Assignment</li> <li>○ Discussion 5</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fee and Stuart - Chapters 4 and 13</li> <li>○ Klein, et al. - Review chapter 10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Week 6 Written Assignment and Interpretation Essay</li> <li>○ Discussion 6</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Klein, et al. - Chapters 11 and 12</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Week 7 Written Assignment and Final Exam</li> <li>○ Discussion 7</li> </ul>

**Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes  
LBIB 306—Hermeneutics  
ORU Online Learning**

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.

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

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

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

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