

Syllabus for
GBIB 931—Spirit Hermeneutics
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2021

Modular Program
Online with Virtual Residency

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

“Spirit Hermeneutics” is an exegetical method that expands the trajectory of hermeneutics beyond the scope of the literary and historical context to a faithful reading and applying of the Spirit-inspired text to the believer’s life and faith community in ways that are true to the experience of the Spirit.

Prerequisites: None

II. COURSE GOALS

The purposes of this course are to do the following:

- A. Understand the motivation for the development of a distinctive Spirit-empowered hermeneutic.
- B. Identify key developments and persons in the history of Spirit-empowered hermeneutics.
- C. Describe major attempts at the formulation of a Spirit-empowered hermeneutic.
- D. Consider the contributions of other hermeneutical perspectives (e.g., ideological interpretation, Majority World hermeneutics, theological interpretation, etc.) to Spirit-empowered hermeneutics.
- E. Observe both the prospects and limitations of a distinctive Spirit-empowered hermeneutic.
- F. Formulate possible correctives to and advancements upon the current state of Spirit-empowered 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. Terminal Objectives (use measurable verbs)
 - L01: Evaluate the motivation for development of a distinctive Spirit-empowered hermeneutic.
 - L02: Analyze the historical development of Spirit-empowered hermeneutics.
 - L03: Evaluate the leading models of Spirit-empowered hermeneutics.
 - L04: Assess the contributions of other hermeneutical perspectives to Spirit-empowered hermeneutics.
 - L05: Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a distinctive Spirit-empowered hermeneutic.
 - L06: Formulate guidelines for a Spirit-empowered hermeneutic.
- B. Unit Objectives
 - 1. Unit I (Pre-Residential) - To understand seminal theories in the development of a Spirit-empowered hermeneutic.

2. Unit II (Residential) - To investigate current trends in hermeneutics for their contribution to a Spirit-empowered hermeneutic.
3. Unit III (Post-Residential)- To produce original research leading to the development of a Spirit-empowered hermeneutic in the student's ministry context.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Green, C. E. W. *Sanctifying Interpretation: Vocation, Holiness, and Scripture*. 2nd edition. Cleveland, TN: CPT Press, 2020. ISBN 9781935931997.

Keener, C. S. *Spirit Hermeneutics: Reading Scripture in Light of Pentecost*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016. Print ISBN 9780802874399. Paperback ISBN 9780802875617. Ebook ISBN 9781467446150. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/oru-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4859067>.

Philemon, L. *Pneumatic Hermeneutics: The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Theological Interpretation of Scripture*. Cleveland, TN: CPT Press, 2019. ISBN 9781935931829.

2. Other materials

Asamoah-Gyadu, J. K. "Learning to Prosper by Wrestling and by Negotiation: Jacob and Esau in Contemporary African Pentecostal Hermeneutics." *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 21(2012): 64-86.

Buban, Michael. "An Exhaustive Bibliography of Pentecostal Hermeneutics." https://www.zotero.org/brotherekim/collections/5W5B5DQJ/items/3K4TV296/collectio_n

East, B. "The Church and the Spirit in Robert Jenson's Theology of Scripture." *Pro Ecclesia* 28:3(2019): 278-300.

Green, G. L. "The Challenge of Global Hermeneutics," in *Global Theology in Evangelical Perspective*, eds. J. P. Greenman and G. L. Green. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Keener, C. S. "The Spirit and Biblical Interpretation." *Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology* 4:1(2019): 17-43.

Lamp, J. S. "Whither Pentecostal Hermeneutics? A Response to Craig Keener's 'The Spirit and Biblical Interpretation.'" *Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology* 4:1(2019): 49-55.

Omenyo, C. N., and W. A. Arthur, "The Bible Says! Neo-Prophetic Hermeneutics in Africa." *Studies in World Christianity* 19:1(2013): 50-70.

Poirier, J. C. "Narrative Theology and Pentecostal Commitments." *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 16:1(2008): 69-85.

Waddell, R., P. Althouse, et al. "Roundtable Dialogue of Craig S. Keener's *Spirit Hermeneutics: Reading Scripture in Light of Pentecost*." *Pneuma*: 39:1–2(2017): 123–240.

B. Bibliography

1. Seminal sources recommended for building a library and mastering the knowledge base undergirding the course:

Archer, K. J. *A Pentecostal Hermeneutic: Spirit, Scripture and Community*. Cleveland, TN: CPT Press, 2009. ISBN 9780981965116.

Archer, K. J., and L. W. Oliverio, Jr. *Constructive Pneumatological Hermeneutics in Pentecostal Christianity*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. ISBN 9781137585608. Ebook ISBN 9781137585615. <https://webopac.oru.edu/record=b1493742>

Billings, J. T. *The Word of God for the People of God: An Entryway to the Theological Interpretation of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010. ISBN 9780802862358.

Davis, E. F., and R. B. Hays, eds. *The Art of Reading Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003. ISBN 9780802812698.

Dube, M. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. Atlanta: Chalice Press, 2000. ISBN 9780827229631. Ebook ISBN 9780827230583. <https://webopac.oru.edu/record=b1670186>

Ford, M. S. *The Soul's Longing: An Orthodox Christian Perspective on Biblical Interpretation*. Waymart, PA: St. Tikhon's Monastery Press, 2015. ISBN 9780990502968.

Green, J. B. *Seized by Truth: Reading the Bible as Scripture*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007. ISBN 9780687023554.

Holter, K., and L. C. Jonker, eds. *Global Hermeneutics? Reflections and Consequences*. International Voices in Biblical Studies 1. Atlanta: SBL, 2010. ISBN 9781589835931. Ebook ISBN 9781589834774. <https://webopac.oru.edu/record=b1672693>

Keener, C. S., and M. D. Carroll R., *Global Voices: Reading the Bible in the Majority World*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2013. ISBN 9781619700093.

Lamp, J. S. *Reading Green: Tactical Considerations for Reading the Bible Ecologically*. New York: Peter Lang, 2017. ISBN 9781433135347.

Lozada, F., and F. Segovia. *Latino/a Biblical Hermeneutics*. Atlanta: SBL, 2014. ISBN 9781589839274. Ebook ISBN 9781589836556. <https://webopac.oru.edu/record=b1673386>

Martin, L. R. *Pentecostal Hermeneutics: A Reader*. Leiden: Brill, 2013. ISBN 9789004257290. Ebook ISBN 9789004258259. <https://webopac.oru.edu/record=b1636111>

McQueen, L. R. *Joel and the Spirit: The Cry of a Prophetic Hermeneutic*. Cleveland, TN: CPT Press, 2009. ISBN 9780981965123.

Noel, B. T. *Pentecostal and Postmodern Hermeneutics: Comparisons and Contemporary Impact*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2010. ISBN 9781606089057.

Oliverio, L. W. Jr. *Theological Hermeneutics in the Classical Pentecostal Tradition: A Typological Account*. Leiden: Brill, 2012. ISBN 9789004230194. Ebook ISBN 9789004231924. <https://webopac.oru.edu/record=b1636088>

Purdy, H. G. *A Distinct Twenty-First Century Pentecostal Hermeneutic*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2015. ISBN 9781498217804.

Smit, P.-B. *From Canonical Criticism to Ecumenical Exegesis? A Study in Biblical Hermeneutics*. Leiden: Brill, 2015. ISBN 9789004301009.

Spawn, K. L., and A. T. Wright, eds. *Spirit and Scripture: Exploring a Pneumatic Hermeneutic*. London/New York: T & T Clark, 2013. ISBN 9780567057570.

Sugirtharajah, R. S. *Postcolonial Criticism and Biblical Interpretation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 9780198752691.

_____. *Voices from the Margins: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. 25th Anniversary Edition. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2016. ISBN 9781626982055.

Treier, Daniel J. *Introducing Theological Interpretation of Scripture: Recovering a Christian Practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. ISBN 9780801031786. Ebook ISBN 9781441247339. <https://webopac.oru.edu/record=b1436326>

Yong, A. *Spirit, Word, Community: Theological Hermeneutics in Trinitarian Perspective*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2002. ISBN 9781597525503.

_____. *The Hermeneutical Spirit: Theological Interpretation and Scriptural Imagination for the 21st Century*. Eugene, Ore.: Cascade Books, 2017. ISBN 9781532604898. Ebook ISBN 9781532604904. <https://webopac.oru.edu/record=b1641322>

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. 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 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.

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures—Ph. D. Program

- 1. **Residential Week:** Each course will have a residential week, held in the CityPlex Towers on the 21st floor, meeting Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 - a. This week will be comprised of five days on the ORU campus in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
 - b. Each course will include 7 weeks of online instruction *prior to* the residency.
 - c. The weeks following *following* the residency will be devoted to work on the research paper.
 - d. Students are to make travel arrangements that do not interfere with their involvement in all sessions during the residency.
- 2. Instructions for the online portion of this course and designated assignments are to be found in the course management shell in Desire 2 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. Attendance
 - a. Students are to attend all sessions during the modular intensive week.
 - b. All absences, late arrivals, and early departures **must be approved by the Ph.D. 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 (see Assessment Chart for course-specific artifacts)
 - a. Grading:

(1)	<i>Academic Book Review</i>	10%
(2)	<i>Asynchronous Group Discussions (2)</i>	20%
(3)	<i>Virtual Residency Presentation</i>	30%

- (4) *Research Paper* 40%
- b. Grading scale:
 A=90-100%
 B=80-89%
 C=70-79%
 D=60-69%
 F=59% and below
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
- a. All students entering the program are required to enroll in GTHE ___—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop the skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
- b. WPA requirements for this course:
 None
3. Description of Assessments
- a. **Academic Book Review (L01, L03)**
 Students will write a book review of the C. E. W. Green textbook, complying with academic style guidelines. The review will be organized according to the components provided on D2L.
- b. **Asynchronous Group Discussions (L03)**
 Students will engage in two online threaded group discussion boards. Students will be assigned to small groups. The discussion will consist of a brief essay (500 words) on the topics below, followed by an asynchronous dialogue.
 Discussion Thread #1: Doing hermeneutics in a global context
 Discussion Thread #2: The role of the Holy Spirit in biblical interpretation
- c. **Virtual Residency Presentation (L04)**
 Students will select a topic from the following list, survey the scholarly literature, analyze leading interpretations, and assess its contribution to the formation of a Spirit-empowered hermeneutic. Students will then present their findings to the class via video recording during the residency week. Assessment will be conducted by means of peer evaluation. Topics include (choices other than these must be approved by instructor):
 Theological Interpretation
 Feminist Interpretation
 Liberation Hermeneutics
 Ecological Hermeneutics
 Postcolonial Interpretation
 Missional Hermeneutics
 Premodern (Orthodox) Hermeneutics
 Majority World Interpretation (choose from some region or people group, e.g., African, indigenous peoples, Asian)
 You will submit a list of your top 3 preferences of topic in order of preference to the Dropbox. The instructor will make assignments once all students have responded.
- d. **Research Paper (L01, L02, L05, L06)**
 The major assessment of the course is the scholarly research paper. The focus of this paper will be critical analysis and constructive development of the current state of Spirit-empowered hermeneutics. Students will follow the methodology and style guidelines described in Turabian. Students will frame a research question, pose a working hypothesis, and then conduct research to test the hypothesis. On the basis of research findings, students will formulate a thesis and an argument with source documentation in support of that thesis. At

least 20 sources should be consulted. The required minimum word length is 5000 words.

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE.

A. PRE-RESIDENTIAL PHASE (7 weeks):

Week 1 <i>Aug 26-29</i>	A Spirit-empowered hermeneutic of praxis and mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Keener article (D2L)• Read Keener Introduction, Chs. 1-2• Read Philemon Chs. 1-2• Due: Choices for Seminar Presentation
Week 2 <i>Aug 30-Sept 5</i>	Reading in a global context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Keener Chs. 3-6• Read G. L. Green article (D2L)• Read Asamoah-Gyadu article (D2L)• Read Omenyo & Arthur article (D2L)• Due: Group Discussion #1
Week 3 <i>Sept 6-12</i>	Spirit-empowered hermeneutics and grammatical-historical readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Keener Chs. 7-10• Read Philemon Chs. 3-4• Read C. Green textbook
Week 4 <i>Sept 13-19</i>	The Spirit and epistemology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Keener Chs. 11-13• Read East article (D2L)• Due: Academic Book Review
Week 5 <i>Sept 20-26</i>	Scripture reading Scripture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Keener Chs. 14-16• Research for Seminar Presentation
Week 6 <i>Sept 27-Oct 3</i>	The context of Spirit-empowered hermeneutics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Keener Chs. 17-18• Read Philemon Ch. 5• Read Poirier article (D2L)• Due: Group Discussion #2
Week 7 <i>Oct 4-10</i>	Assessing Keener's proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read <i>Pneuma</i> Keener critique articles (D2L)• Read Lamp article (D2L)• Read Philemon Ch. 6, Conclusion• Complete Seminar Presentation

B. RESIDENCY WEEK 9 (Oct 18-22) AGENDA: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Schedule for Student Presentations

Monday: _____

Tuesday: _____

Wednesday: _____

Thursday: _____

Friday: _____

DUE: Submit Peer Evaluation Form for Each Classmate's Presentation on D2L

DUE: Submit video link of Virtual Residency Presentation on Date of Presentation on D2L

C. POST-RESIDENTIAL PHASE (7 weeks)

Weeks 10-15 Research Paper Steps

See Turabian, 8th edition: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/toc.html>

Week 10 (Oct 25-31)—DEFINE YOUR PROJECT: Select a topic (you may confer with the professor via email in selection of a topic) and pose a research question; propose a working hypothesis. Submit research question and working hypothesis.

Week 11 (Nov 1-7)—FIND USEFUL SOURCES: Test your working hypothesis; do background reading and make an initial determination of the validity of hypothesis; modify your working hypothesis. Submit tentative thesis statement.

Week 12 (Nov 8-14)—ENGAGE YOUR SOURCES: Read at first to understand, then critically to engage (analyze and evaluate); take notes systematically according to a division of the topic. Submit preliminary outline of the paper.

Week 13 (Nov 15-21)—CONSTRUCT YOUR ARGUMENT: Build your argument around an answer to your research question; formulate a thesis statement by turning your working hypothesis into a claim; delineate supporting arguments based on logical reasoning and evidence.

Week 14 (Nov 28-Dec 5) —COMPOSE A ROUGHT DRAFT: Use section headings; define key terms; use quotations sparingly, opt for paraphrasing as much as possible; guard against plagiarism by documenting all sources with footnotes in correct form (follow guidelines in Turabian); compile bibliography; write introduction and conclusion lastly. Submit rough draft.

Week 15 (Dec 6-12) —REVISE AND SUBMIT YOUR FINAL DRAFT: Watch for blind spots in your argument; check your introduction (include purpose, thesis statement, and organization of task) and conclusion (summary of major findings); check your paragraphs for coherence of ideas and transitions; polish it up. Submit final draft.

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

PhD Program

GBIB 931 Spirit Hermeneutics

Dr. Jeffrey S. Lamp, Instructor

Fall 2021

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity degree as indicated below:

3=Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

2=Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

1=Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

0=No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

G=Degree Program Goal; O=Student Learning Outcome		3	2	1	0
G1: Comprehensive Knowledge					
	O.1.1 Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge in and a general mastery of their major area of specialization	x			
	O.1.2 Demonstrate expertise in the specific area of theology by means of dissertation research		x		
G2: Research and Writing					
	O.2.1. Demonstrate a capacity to produce publication-worthy research and writing that contributes to the knowledge and advancement of the field		x		
	O.2.2. Disseminate the findings of research through traditional and digital means.		x		
G3. Integration of Theory and Practice					
	O.3.1. Articulate knowledge of the interrelationships between the subject matter of Christian theology and the practices Christian ministry and mission.		x		
	O.3.2. Engage critically in theological reflection on Christian spirituality and social engagement.		x		
G4. Pedagogical Competency					
	O.4.1. Demonstrate knowledge of learning theories and methods of assessment in order to help learners to think critically with global awareness and engagement			x	
	O.4.2. Demonstrate an ability to teach and lead effectively in their area of concentration and in their chosen vocational context.			x	
G5. Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.					
	O.5.1. Demonstrate an ability to interpret and to communicate knowledge from a charismatic perspective.	x			
	O.5.2. Demonstrate an awareness of the distinctive characteristics of ORU's constituency, the Spirit-empowered movement.		x		