

Syllabus for  
**GBIB 507—Biblical Hermeneutics**  
3 Credit hours  
Fall 2022

Modular/Distance Education Program – Blended “A” Course  
Zoom virtual classes will be on seven Thursday nights, 6:00-8:30 p.m., CST, Aug 25-Oct 20.

**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 interpreting Scripture.
- B. Define 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. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

See back page(s) for associated programs and outcomes.

#### V. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

A. Spiritual Integrity

B. Intellectual Pursuit

#### VI. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required materials

1. *The Holy Bible* Fairly literal modern translation strongly recommended:  
ESV, NIV, NASB, NRSV, NKJV  
If the student uses the NLT, it should be compared with more literal versions, such as those mentioned above, for the purposes of this course.  
Paraphrased versions **not recommended** for this course include the Living Bible, the Amplified Bible, Good News for Modern Man, the Message, and other paraphrases.
2. Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 4th Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN 978-0-310-51782-5 Softcover (available in e-book format)
3. Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided Tour*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN 978-0-310-51808-2 Softcover.

B. Recommended materials

1. *Research and Writing Manual*. Tulsa, OK: Oral Roberts University Graduate School of Theology and Ministry, rev. 2013.
2. Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean and Terry Dwain Robertson. *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN: 9780310514022 Softcover (available in e-book format)

C. Other recommended materials

- 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*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN: 9780310492573  
Hardback (*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  
Softcover
- 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: Kregel Publications, 2011. ISBN: 9780825430473

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

## V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Plagiarism statement: <https://syllabi.oru.edu>
2. Disability Services: <https://oru.edu/current-students/my-services/disability-services/index.php>

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

1. 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.
2. 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 scheduled times.
  - 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 course professor.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

a. Grading:

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Weekly Writing Assignments     | 25%        |
| Class participation            | 5%         |
| Class Presentation             | 20%        |
| Reading Quizzes                | 10%        |
| Exegetical Paper – rough draft | 15%        |
| Exegetical Paper – final       | <u>25%</u> |
| TOTAL                          | 100        |

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

WPA requirements for this course:

All students, regardless of degree program, must submit the Exegetical Research Paper for GBIB 507 to the course professor on D2L.

3. Other policies and procedures

**Zoom virtual class:**

- i. Attend all lectures
- ii. Participate in class activities
- iii. Zoom meeting participation verification form—completion and submission to D2L

**Online Assignments:**

**i. Weekly Assignments**

- a) Textbook and other assigned readings: Read all assigned readings and related power-point presentations for each week.
- b) Writing assignments: Weekly writing assignments are given in D2L and submitted via the appropriate D2L “Dropbox” (found under “Assessments”). Due dates are also found there.
- c) Quizzes over the textbook and other readings will be found on D2L (under “Assessments” and “Quizzes”). Note due dates on D2L.

**ii. Exegetical paper:** Students will write a ten-page exegetical paper that brings together applications of the principles of biblical interpretation. [An exegetical paper is a research paper that applies the principles of biblical interpretation.]

- a) During Week 1, students select a biblical text for their exegetical paper (subject to the professor’s approval). Instructions for choosing a passage of appropriate length and exegetical depth will be provided on D2L under “Content.” Students will submit their choice (stating the **book, chapter, verses**, and primary **English version** being used). Along with the choice, include a paragraph explaining the **reasons for choosing** this passage. This assignment is to be uploaded to the D2L dropbox by midnight of **Aug. 28**, the end of “Week 1.”
- b) Students write the exegetical paper through weekly written assignments. The first section (**Historical, Cultural, and Literary Contexts**) will be uploaded into D2L during week 2 (by **Sept. 4**).
- c) The next assignment is to do a “**word study**,” using a concordance which gives access to the Hebrew or Greek word behind the English word being studied. The **professor will choose this word** from the student’s chosen passage. This will be due by **Sept. 11**.
- d) After adding theological interpretations and applications, students will submit a rough draft of the exegetical paper to the D2L dropbox by

midnight Sunday at the end of Week 4 (**Sept. 18**). An exegetical paper example is available on D2L. **Refer to this example and compare your paper before submitting it.** The rough draft will be graded and feedback provided on D2L.

- e) In the final 2-3 weeks, students give presentations of their exegesis papers to the class, using power point slides.

**Further instruction on this and all assignments will be found on D2L.**

- f) Students will upload the final revised exegetical paper to the D2L dropbox by midnight Thursday, **Oct. 20**.
  - g) The exegetical research paper is the final evaluation for the course. It will be evaluated based on the appropriate rubric located on D2L.
  - g) 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*.
- 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. The presentation should include a brief summary of the following:
- a) Historical-cultural background
  - b) Literary context
  - c) Literary genre
  - d) Key word meanings
  - e) Theological interpretation
  - f) Application
  - g) It is recommended (but **not required**) that students' slide presentations be submitted to the appropriate D2L dropbox, by midnight Tuesday, **September 20**. This gives the professor an opportunity to make suggestions for possible improvement.

**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 – VIRTUAL AGENDA (subject to change)

**The virtual class sessions will meet Thursday evenings between August 25-October 19, 6:00-8:30 p.m., Central Time, USA**

| <b>Week/Date</b>  | <b>Topics for class time (subject to change)</b>                                    | <b>Written assignments: due date</b>  |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Week 1<br>Aug 25  | Jesus Opens the Book<br>Why Hermeneutics?   | Student's Personal Introduction,<br><b>Aug. 25, 4:00pm</b><br>Text Selection: <b>Aug 28</b> |
| Week 2<br>Sept 1  | Inductive methods<br>Five Dimensions of Hermeneutics                                | Historical, Cultural, Literary<br>Contexts: <b>Sept 4</b>                                   |
| Week 3<br>Sept 8  | Five Dimensions (cont.)<br>Introduction to <i>lectio divina</i> (praying Scripture) | Word Study<br>with Concordance: <b>Sept 11</b>  |
| Week 4<br>Sept 15 | Hermeneutics of the Gospel(s)   | Rough Draft: <b>Sept 18</b>   |
| Week 5<br>Sept 22 | OT in the NT<br>Student presentations   |   |
| Week 6<br>Sept 29 | Student presentations   |   |
| Week 7<br>Oct 6   | Student presentations   |   |
| Oct 13            | FALL BREAK, no class meetings   |   |
| Oct 19            | Asynchronous, final assignment due  | <b>Zoom Verification Form</b>   |
| <b>Oct. 20</b>    |   | <b>Final Paper due, Oct. 20</b>   |

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry  
Master of Divinity/Bible Tools**

**GBIB 507—Biblical Hermeneutics**

**Dr. Arden Autry, Instructor**

**Fall 2022**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity 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 |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Scripture in Cultural/Historical Context</b>  |                          |                       |                      |                 |
| Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to selected contemporary situations. | <b>X</b>                 |                       |                      |                 |
| <b>Exegetical Tools to Translate/Analyze Biblical Text</b>   |                          |                       |                      |                 |
| Interpret the biblical writings in the Greek and/or Hebrew languages using critical exegetical tools, and write a hermeneutical and exegetical paper.            |                          | <b>X</b>              |                      |                 |
| <b>Knowledge of Christianity</b>   |                          |                       |                      |                 |
| Present a basic knowledge of the key movements and figures together with their significance in the history of Christianity.                                      |                          |                       | <b>X</b>             |                 |
| <b>Knowledge of Christian Theology/Doctrine</b>  |                          |                       |                      |                 |
| Exhibit a basic knowledge of contents and methods of Christian theology.   |                          | <b>X</b>              |                      |                 |
| <b>Biblical/Theological Basis for Ministry Strategies</b>  |                          |                       |                      |                 |
| Present practical ministry skills and strategies.  | <b>X</b>                 |                       |                      |                 |
| <b>Christian Ethics for Social Issues</b>  |                          |                       |                      |                 |
| Analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the Church and society based upon biblical, theological, and ethical principles.                        |                          | <b>X</b>              |                      |                 |
| <b>Theology and Theory of Ministry</b>   |                          |                       |                      |                 |
| Develop and articulate a theology and theory of ministry that is relevant to the student's background and calling.   |                          |                       | <b>X</b>             |                 |
| <b>Skills for Contemporary Ministry</b>  |                          |                       |                      |                 |
| Demonstrate skills for contemporary ministry within a variety of traditions, churches, and cross-cultural contexts.  |                          | <b>X</b>              |                      |                 |

**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**

**Fall 2022**

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 |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1</b>                | <b>Foundational Knowledge of Old Testament/New Testament Scripture</b>   |                          |                       |                      |                 |
|                         | Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context.    | X                        |                       |                      |                 |
| <b>2</b>                | <b>Basic Methods of Biblical Interpretation</b>  |                          |                       |                      |                 |
|                         | Exhibit competence and understanding in the Word of God by utilizing basic methods of biblical interpretation. | X                        |                       |                      |                 |
| <b>3</b>                | <b>Theology and Christian Doctrines</b>  |                          |                       |                      |                 |
|                         | Analyze and apply basic Christian doctrines.   |                          | X                     |                      |                 |
| <b>4</b>                | <b>History of Christianity</b>   |                          |                       |                      |                 |
|                         | Research and synthesize historical Christian themes.   |                          |                       | X                    |                 |
| <b>5</b>                | <b>Communication Through Preaching/Teaching</b>  |                          |                       |                      |                 |
|                         | Effectively communicate the message of Christianity through the medium of preaching or teaching.               | X                        |                       |                      |                 |
| <b>6</b>                | <b>Supervised Practice in Ministry Context</b>   |                          |                       |                      |                 |
|                         | Demonstrate understanding and skills for contemporary ministry contexts.                                       | X                        |                       |                      |                 |



**Master of Divinity  
GBIB 507 Biblical Hermeneutics  
Fall 2022**

This course contributes to the University and program 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.

| OUTCOMES   | Significant | Moderate | Minimal |
|--|-------------|----------|---------|
| <b>Spiritual Integrity</b>   |             |          |         |
| A. State the importance of responsible hermeneutics for Christian discipleship.  | x           |          |         |
| I.. Apply pertinent principles of interpretation to the various genres in the Bible:   | x           |          |         |
| <b>Intellectual Pursuit</b>  |             |          |         |
| A. Master the principles of hermeneutics and apply them properly in interpreting Scripture.  | x           |          |         |
| K. Discuss the use of the OT in the NT and the problems and insights for hermeneutics provided by the relationship between the Testaments.                             | x           |          |         |
| MDV Outcome 1: Articulate a foundational knowledge of the content of Scripture within its cultural and historical context with application to contemporary situations. | x           |          |         |
| <b>Global Engagement</b>   |             |          |         |
| MDV Outcome 9: Demonstrate skills for contemporary ministry within a variety of traditions, churches, and cross-cultural contexts.                                     | x           |          |         |