

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Evangel University

BIB 532 Hermeneutics

Friday, 11:00 am-1:45 pm

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the principles, methods and skills needed for proper biblical interpretation. The interpretation of Scripture is examined in view of its historical, social and literary environments with the goal of understanding the author's intended meaning and applying that meaning to contemporary needs. The student will survey the history of hermeneutics and learn principles and methods that apply to both general and special hermeneutics.

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the church and society globally.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is to equip servant leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

OBJECTIVES

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to demonstrate mastery of the course material, specifically, by being able to do the following:

Knowledge:

1. Discuss his/her understanding of the nature and work of hermeneutics as it relates to the task of exegesis and expository preaching.
2. Identify and discuss the significant developments throughout the history of biblical interpretation, describing their characteristic strengths and weaknesses.
3. List and define the principles that are: 1) appropriate for interpreting texts in general (general hermeneutics) 2) appropriate for interpreting specific literary genres (special hermeneutics) within the Bible.
4. Identify and define the specialized terminology connected with the science of biblical interpretation.

Skills:

1. Apply the principles of interpretation to the exegesis of a biblical text.
2. Identify the use or violation of sound hermeneutical principles in an example of biblical exposition.
3. Identify major critical issues in contemporary hermeneutics and isolate the hermeneutical presuppositions at work among the divergent views.

Attitudes:

1. Form an increased awareness of the responsibility incumbent upon the Christian to rightly divide the word of truth.
2. Appreciate the task of biblical exegesis in the discovery and illumination of the biblical text.
3. Appreciate more fully the nature of biblical revelation and its timeless utility as an instrument of the Holy Spirit to speak into and transform our lives.

TEXTBOOKS

For information on textbook pricing, go to <http://www.bkstr.com/evangelstore/home>.

Required:

- Blomberg, C., William W. Klein, and Robert L. Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Waco, TX: Word Publishing, 2005. **(KBH)** ISBN 9780785252252
- Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing Co., 2012. **(DH)** ISBN 9780310492573.
- Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. Workbook, 2nd edition to *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing Co., 2012. **(DHWB)** ISBN 9780310492597.
- Hernando, James D. *Dictionary of Hermeneutics: A Concise Guide to Terms, Names, Methods and Expressions*. Revised ed.¹ Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2013. **(H)** ISBN 9780882430867.

Recommended:

- Kaiser, Walter C. and Moises Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Stein, Robert. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing By the Rules*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.
- McQuilkin, J. Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1983, rev.ed.

¹ For native Spanish speakers, for whom English is a second language, see *Diccionario de Hermeneutica: Una guía concisa de terminos, nombres, métodos, y expresiones*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2011.

BASIC OUTLINE²

- I. Introduction:
 - A. Discovering the Need for Hermeneutics
 - B. Defining the Task of Hermeneutics
 - C. Determining the Purpose of Hermeneutics
 - D. Deciphering the Presuppositions of Hermeneutics
- II. Survey of the History of Biblical Interpretation
 - A. Jewish Interpretation
 - 1. Intertestamental
 - 2. Qumran
 - 3. Rabbinic
 - B. Hellenistic Influence
 - C. New Testament Period
 - 1. Jesus and the OT
 - 2. The OT in the NT
 - D. Early Patristic Period
 - E. Medieval Period
 - F. Reformation and Post Reformation Periods
 - G. Modern Period
- III. General Hermeneutics
 - A. Language
 - 1. lexical study
 - 2. grammatical study
 - 3. syntactical study
 - B. Context
 - C. History
 - D. Culture and Contextualization
- IV. Special Hermeneutics
 - A. Introduction to Genre
 - B. Historical-Narrative
 - C. Prophecy & Apocalyptic
 - D. Typology
 - E. Wisdom & Poetry
 - F. Gospels
 - G. Parables
 - H. Epistles
- V. Application of Hermeneutics
 - A. The Doctrinal Use of the Bible
 - B. Principlization and Preaching
 - B. The Devotional & Practical Use of the Bible

METHODOLOGY

The course will pursue its objectives via the following:

1. Individual reading, research, and writing.

² A separate Reading Schedule will be provided.

2. Collaborative research in study groups 2-3 people
3. Class lecture in order to:
 - a. provide a framework for integrating the readings.
 - b. explore other relevant areas not covered in the readings.
4. Class discussion of issues raised by the readings and lectures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class participation: Attendance is expected at all class sessions. Whenever possible, absences should be announced beforehand to the professor.
2. Completion of all text book reading assignments (see Reading Schedule) by the dates corresponding to the related class topics.
3. Completion of an almost weekly interpretive homework assignment found in the DH text and the DH Workbook. (See Class Schedule). Full credit will be given for all homework that is complete and on-time. Homework that is incomplete (does not fulfill all required elements of the assignment), or late (except for medical emergencies), will receive an automatic D grade.
4. Essay Assignments: There are 3 graded essay assignments. Instructions and expectations for the assignments will be posted on the Student Portal. Do NOT treat these as term papers. Excessively long essays that significantly exceed the recommended page limit (3-4 pages) will not be accepted and the student will be asked to resubmit.
5. During the ***Fall Study Break*** each student should view the Power Point presentations on the Student Portal that cover the “History of Hermeneutics” Write out answers to the questions that appear at the end of each Power Point presentation. Hand these answers in on the first class period ***after*** the ***Fall Study Break***.
6. **Final Exam** (*Take-home*)

Note: Students need to retain an e-file all work submitted until the work has been graded and returned.

CHAPEL ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at Community Chapel on (date and time TBA) is required. Attendance will be taken. Class members should proceed to the chapel on that day and return to class after chapel is completed.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grade Weights:

Class Participation	5%
Course Readings ³	10%
(10) Weekly Homework Assignments 30 pts/ea.	30%

³ This will include assigned supplemental readings on the Student Portal. On the Final Exam you will be asked what percentage of the required reading you completed. That figure will determine your grade for that assignment.

(3) Interpretive Essays 50 pts/ea.	15%
Study Week Power Point Readings/Questions	15 %
• Readings – 70 pts.	
• Powerpoint Questions - 80 pts.	
Final Exam (take home)	25%
	100%

NOTE: Late work will be penalized (except for the most extraordinary circumstances) 1/2 letter grade per day of lateness.

COURSE COMMONS

This course will use Evangel's learning management system, Course Commons, powered by the Canvas Learning Management System. Login directly at: <https://courses.evangel.edu/> or go to the Student Portal/Course Commons

Use your Evangel username and password to login.

To access this course, hover over or click Courses at the top of the page after logging in.

- a. **Before the class starts:** Students will have access to Course Commons and this course seven (7) days before the official beginning of the semester. This does not mean all course content will be ready. Release of course content will be the prerogative of the professor. Students have until seven (7) days after the semester begins to complete financial registration. If financial registration is not completed by the seventh day, course access will be revoked and all submitted work will be lost.
- b. **Course Content:** All course content (syllabus, modules, course materials, assignments, quizzes, exams, discussions, grades, etc.) will be located on the navigation pane on the left hand side of our course. At the end of a semester, students will have limited access to the course through Course Commons. Only access to already submitted work and grades will be available.
- c. **Personal Settings:** After logging into Course Commons, be sure to go to Settings and adjust your personal profile settings. *Add in a profile picture of yourself (Smile!).*
 - I. Set your notifications: set how you'll be notified (EU email, personal email, text, Twitter, etc.) and how often.
- d. **Help:** *Click the Help button in the top right hand corner after you login. By clicking Help, you'll be able to...*
 - i. Submit a question directly to your instructor
 - ii. Access Canvas Help Guides
 - iii. Submit a Course Commons Helpdesk Ticket
- e. **Course Commons Student Orientation:** All EU students are automatically enrolled in the [Course Commons Student Orientation site](#). What's available? [Getting Started](#) help, what to do [During Your Course](#), [Help and FAQ](#), the [Student Quick Start Guide](#), and much more.

- f. **Course Commons Troubleshooting:** Question about a quiz or course content? *Contact your instructor, first!* Technical question about the Course Commons? Click Help and submit a ticket through Report a Problem. *Can't access Course Commons?* Contact the EU IT Helpdesk: 417-865-2815 x8368 (phone) or helpdesk@evangel.edu (email) or help.evangel.edu (web).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form." Plagiarism is "intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise." One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an "F" on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.—*AGTS Student Handbook*.

THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM

The use of computers for word processing in the classroom represents a privilege given to students to enhance their learning. They may only be used for purposes related to the course. It is therefore a breach of classroom etiquette, an act of rudeness, and a distraction to other students, when computers are also used to surf the web, watch videos, play games, and send messages, etc., during class time. The professor assumes that seminarians will be persons of integrity when using computers in the classroom.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE

Students should use non-discriminatory language in all written and spoken communication in this class. For specific guidelines, see the Student Handbook at: http://www.agts.edu/community/student_handbook/2010studenthandbook.pdf

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

As defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University is committed to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If AGTS students believe they qualify for accommodations, they should contact the AGTS Student Life Office, Room 218, telephone extension 8881.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph.D., April 21, 2017.