

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE BRANCH CAMPUS
1000 Longfellow Blvd.
Lakeland, FL
January 7—April 29, 2002**

**BIBB 532 HERMENEUTICS
(3 Credits)**

Charles A. Estridge, Ph.D.

Spring 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the various methods and principles of biblical interpretation which have been employed up to the present and the necessity for the grammatical-historical methods of interpretation. The student will learn and apply the tools and methods of both general and special hermeneutics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Review the general rules and tools of the grammatical/historical school of interpretation.
2. Research and apply the rules of special hermeneutics in the grammatical/historical school of interpretation.
3. Explore the development of a meaningful Pentecostal hermeneutic as it relates to Luke/Acts and the broader spectrum of Scripture.
4. Review the historical development of interpretation and modern approaches to hermeneutics, identifying the presuppositions used in these various approaches.
5. Organize and develop his/her own personal hermeneutic and apply it to the interpretation of a specific passage.
6. Emphasize the role of proper hermeneutics in the life of the community of faith and the responsibility of Christian leaders in properly interpreting Scripture.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Arrington, French L. "Hermeneutics, Historical Perspectives on Pentecostal and Charismatic." In Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, ed. Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee, 376-389. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

Johns, Donald A. "Some New Directions in the Hermeneutics of Classical

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Pentecostalism's Doctrine of the Initial Evidence." In Initial Evidence, ed. Gary B. McGee, 145-167. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

Osborne, Grant R. The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Dowers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1991.

Stronstad, Roger. "Trends in Pentecostal Hermeneutics." Paraclete 22 (Summer 1988): 1-12, and "The Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts." Paraclete 23 (Spring 1989): 18-26.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Dockery, David S., *et al.* Foundations for Biblical Interpretation. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1994.

Fee, Gordon. New Testament Exegesis. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.

Soulen, Richard N. Handbook of Biblical Criticism. 2nd ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1981.

Stronstad, Roger. Spirit, Scripture, and Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective. Baguio City, Phillipines: Asia Pacific Theological Seminary Press, 1995.

Stuart, Douglas. Old Testament Exegesis. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1984.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Overview of the history of interpretation and modern approaches
- II. Historical-grammatical School: general rules of interpretation
- III. Historical-grammatical School: special rules of hermeneutics
- IV. Exegetical presuppositions and fallacies
- V. Various approaches to a Pentecostal hermeneutic
- VI. How the New Testament writers used Old Testament Scripture
- VII. The unity of the Bible and the importance of hermeneutics for the church

METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, and reading and writing assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular and punctual attendance is a MUST. All absences must be excused.

2. Carefully read the textbook pages and any outside reading assigned during class. You are responsible to read the section of the text prior to coming to class. You will provide a book review of Osborne's text. It must utilize MLA style and form, indicate the author's purpose and methodology, describe how well he accomplished his task, and provide a short summary and critique.

Due: March 11, 2002

3. Class participation is vital. You are expected to participate in class discussions and group interactions. When the class reviews articles from current journals, you should make note of important points you wish to discuss in class.

4. You must do a portfolio which includes three of the following assignments:

- a. Two sermons or Sunday School lessons which utilize the principles learned in hermeneutics. These sermons should be two pages in length and conform to the pattern of the example given in class
- b. Provide a three-page summary and critique of Fee or Stuart's book listed under the recommended textbooks.
- c. Develop an interpretative project on an approved passage from Genesis, Isaiah, Romans, or Corinthians (this ten-page paper must conform to the instructions given on the handout).
- d. You may provide an in-depth critique of five journal articles given in the packet for this course. Your portfolio will be graded on its content, style/form, and your usage of formal English (*see* "Rules for Formal English" attached to this syllabus). No plastic covers or notebooks are to be used. Each student should work alone on this project; if you need help, consult the professor.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON! YOU MAY TURN YOUR ASSIGNMENT IN *FEBRUARY 18, 2002*, BUT IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER *FEBRUARY 25, 2002*.

5. **The Final Exam will be administered on *April 22, 2002*.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK*

All written assignments will be graded on content, MLA style/form, and the usage of formal English (*see* "Rules for Formal English" attached to this syllabus). The right margin must ***NOT*** be justified, and all margins one (1) inch. Only major papers (10 pages) should have a title page. MLA form for the other papers includes the student's name, title of the course, professor, and

date at the top left of the first page. No plastic covers or notebooks are to be used. Each student should work alone on this project; if you need help, consult the professor.

GRADING PROCEDURE

The student's grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Book Review.....	20%
Portfolio.....	45%
Class Participation.....	10%
Final (Comprehensive).....	25%

NOTE: Work received after the post-session due date specified in the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

*For the portfolio, late assignments will not be accepted for any reason.

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Anderson, G. L. "Why Interpreters Disagree." Paraclete 24 (Winter 1990): 1-10.

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Arrington, French L. "Hermeneutics, Historical Perspectives on Pentecostal Charismatic." In Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, ed.

Stanley H. Burgess, and Gary B. McGee, 376-89. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

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Barr, James. The Bible in the Modern World.

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Bock, Darrell L. "Evangelicals and the Use of the Old Testament in the New." (2 Parts) Bibliotheca Sacra 142 (July-Sept, Oct-Dec, 1985): 209-23, and 306-19.

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Davidson, Richard M. Typology in Scripture: A Study of Hermeneutical TYPOS Structures. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1981. Page 4

Edwards, James. "Initial Evidence of Holy Spirit Baptism and Pentecostal Type-scenes in Acts."

Elbert, Paul, ed. Essays on Apostolic Themes Studies in Honor of Howard M. Erin. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1985.

Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth. A Guide to Understanding the Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.

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- Harrison, R. K., B. K. Waltke, D. Guthrie, and G. D. Fee. Biblical Criticism: Historical, Literary, and Textual. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
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- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. The Uses of the Old Testament in the New. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.
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McQuilkin, Robertson. Understanding the Bible. Chicago: Moody, 1992.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Charles A. Estridge, Ph.D., July 1, 2001.