

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BIB 532 Hermeneutics

James D. Hernando

Fall, 2010

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 the principles and methods that apply to both general and special hermeneutics.

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 to our lives.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Blomberg, C., William W. Klein, and Robert L. Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Thomas Nelson, Rev. 2004. (KBH) ISBN – 10: 0785252258.

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., 2 ed. 2005. (DH) ISBN-10: 0310259665

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., 2005. (DHWB) ASIN: B001TIKL6K

Hernando, James D. *Dictionary of Hermeneutics: A Concise Guide to Terms, Names, Methods and Expressions*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2005. (H) ISBN-10: 0882430866

Recommended:

Kaiser, Walter C. and Moises Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Rev. Ed 2007. ISBN-10: 0310279518

- Stein, Robert. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing By the Rules*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1997. ISBN-10: 0801021014

McQuilkin, J. Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2009, rev.ed. ISBN-10: 0802490921

BASIC OUTLINE¹

- 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

¹ A separate Reading Schedule will be provided.

- 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. Class lecture in order to:
 - a. provide a framework for integrating the readings.
 - b. explore other relevant areas not covered in the readings.
3. 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. (4) 2-3 page interpretive essays (describing how hermeneutical principles and methods apply to specific texts and/or problematic interpretations).
3. Completion of a weekly interpretive homework assignment from DH Workbook.
4. Completion of all text book reading assignments (see Reading Schedule) by the dates corresponding to the related class topics. In addition, prepare a brief annotated bibliography of all supplemental readings completed during the **Fall Study Break**. These readings should include material read in preparation for your interpretive essays or hermeneutics project paper.
5. Hermeneutics Project Paper (See Description Handout) – to be completed during Fall Study Break
6. Final Exam (Take-home)

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	10%
Course Readings ²	10%
Weekly Homework Assignments	15%
Interpretive Essays (4)	20%
Project Paper (Historical Hermeneutics)	15%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

NOTE: Except under unusual extenuating circumstances, late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/2 letter grade for every day of lateness.

² 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.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by James D. Hernando, Ph.D., May 21, 2010