

BSCM1300 HERMENEUTICS
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the interpretation of the Bible, seeking to provide a historical perspective and reliable principles with which to study, interpret, and apply Scripture. This course is a prerequisite for all interpretation classes and upper level preaching courses.

Student Objectives

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student, by the end of the course should:

1. Comprehend biblical hermeneutics.
2. Value the process of hermeneutics in the interpretation of the Scriptures.
3. Be able to apply the principles of biblical hermeneutics to the interpretation of Scripture.

Course Textbook

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Course Methodology

For each unit, the student will read the text, watch the DVD with the PowerPoint and other materials, and practice the process with assignments. In addition, the student will participate in threaded discussion via blackboard, and take exams to demonstrate knowledge of the material.

Course Requirements

1. DVD, POWERPOINT, AND AUDIO/VIDEO FILES. After the first week, the student will be mailed a copy of two DVDs that show the professor teaching in class with the class discussion. The PowerPoints for each unit are posted in the course documents section of the course in Blackboard. Students will print out the PowerPoints and watch the appropriate DVDs while looking at the PowerPoint. In addition, I have posted some video links to youtube with short videos explaining some of the material in the course. The student is required to watch the DVD and read the PowerPoint lessons after reading the text. The units will be opened for a limited period of time. Thus students will need to complete the reading, DVD, and PowerPoint viewing in a timely manner. Students will complete the log attached to the syllabus and submit it by to the professor by --

2. DISCUSSION BOARD PARTICIPATION. The student will be required to participate in various discussion boards. At assigned times during the semester, students will be required to actively post on the boards. Posts must be polite, thoughtful, and thought provoking. Short meaningless posts will not be counted (for example, "I agree"). Participation will be checked by the professor based upon the rubric attached to the end of the syllabus. Discussion board participation will be assigned within the learning units in the course documents section. Thus, students will have to pay attention to assignments within the PowerPoint files. When assigned, you should post a minimum of twice with each post being at least a substantial paragraph. The first post should give your statement or response to the discussion, and the second post should respond to another student's remarks. **Note: Most of the discussion board topics will only be open for a short time for posting. Thus, you need to fulfill this responsibility as soon as you can. This allows for the discussion to be fruitful for those involved.**

Netiquette Statement on Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

3. MINOR ASSIGNMENTS. Several minor assignments will be required. These assignments constitute the heart of the course and are vital. They also parallel and complement the material covered in class. It is imperative that these assignments be completed on time. Some of these assignments will be produced individually as assigned throughout the semester, and some will be produced as a group as assigned. Late assignments will receive a penalty.

4. EXEGETICAL STUDY. Early in the semester the student will be assigned a passage to study throughout the semester. Various daily assignments will require the student to apply certain interpretative principles to the selected passage. At the end of the semester the student will write a paper that will bring together applications of the principles studied and the actual investigation carried out during the semester. The paper is required to be 4-6 pages, typed and double spaced. More information regarding the paper will be discussed in class. **The paper will be due --.** Late papers will not be accepted.

5. MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS. Two exams will be given during the semester. The material covered on each exam will be from class lectures, notes, and the readings from the textbook.

Please Note: students will be free to utilize their notes on the exams. However, the exams are timed so that use of notes will be limited. Students will need to study beforehand to finish the exams in a timely manner.

Evaluation The final grade will be determined in the following way:

15% DVD and PowerPoint Viewing Log
(10% for DVD and 5% for PowerPoint)
15% Discussion Board and Participation

15% Minor assignments

15% Exegetical study

20% Mid-term exam

20% Final exam