

04ON5100

Hermeneutics

Spring 2020

Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. He then completed his MDiv at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in university ministry, as a youth pastor and in church revitalization. His second doctorate was in Ancient History/New Testament Studies, where his dissertation has focused on the cultural backdrop to Romans. Bruce has a special interest in hermeneutics. He is keen to not simply teach the *contents* of the Bible, but *approaches* that will equip students for a lifetime of fruitful learning & growth in their own reading of the Scriptures.

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Office Hours: **Monday**, 12-1pm & 4-6pm; **Tuesday** 4-6pm; **Wednesday** 10-11pm.
Please email or text for appointment time.

WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?

Monday 1-4 pm, February 3rd – May 11th

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is more important than understanding the Bible? Yet our understanding is often hampered by inadequate skills or a faulty overarching lenses for putting it all together. This course will seek to provide both the lens and the skills. The reading will add a theoretical edge to the lectures (e.g. Silva's book), but also a practical edge (i.e. Greidanus' book), rounding out the course. The desire is that students will leave with the framework and skills for a lifetime of better understanding God's word.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. That students will be able to put the entire Bible together into a cohesive framework.
2. That students will have skills to interpret individual passages, within their different genres.

3. That students will be able to integrate interpretive skills into skills for teaching the bible today.
4. That students will learn to sing the truth of Scripture.

TEXTS & READING

S. Greidanus ***Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*** (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999) ISBN 9780802844491

J. B. Green, ed. **Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation** (2nd Ed.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012) ISBN 9780802864208

Various texts available on Canvas, relevant to each week’s lesson (see below)

ASSESSMENT

10% 5 page (single spaced) succinct answer to the following question: “What does Sidney Greidanus mean by Preaching Christ from the OT?”¹ **Due date: see schedule below.**

10% 5 page (single spaced) succinct summary of three different chapters from Green’s Hearing the New Testament. **Due date: see schedule below.**

40% Weekly reading and interaction.² **Due date: see schedule below.**

40% Exegetical Paper.³ **Due date: see schedule below.**

General Outline

Week/Date	Hour	Assessment/Activities	Subject
F3	1		POETRY
	2		
	3		

¹ This is *not* a book review. This is almost like an open book exam, but with more time to work on it. This question will force you to read over Greidanus’ book and answer it. Note though, I do want you to read the whole thing – you will be asked to write on the top of the assignment “I have read what X% of the book”.

² Note: There is a significant amount of reading for this course. The offset is that there will be no exam. Each week students will have assessment due, based most often on reading one piece of modern literature and one piece of ancient literature. Students will then be required to give a half page reflection on the reading and then interact online with other student’s reflections.

³ The point of this course is to learn to interpret better. The essay will be from an Old Testament passage, used in the New Testament, wherein students will be expected to bring all they have learned to bear in not only interpreting both passages, but also in clarifying how they might think to preach this.

F10	4 5 6	Interaction with the <i>Art of Biblical Poetry & Homer</i> 5%	NARRATIVES (I)
F17	7 8 9	Interaction with the <i>Art of Biblical Narrative & The Aeneid</i> 5%	NARRATIVES (II)
F24	10 11 12	Interaction with the <i>Barclay & Joseph and Aseneth</i> 5%	NARRATIVES (III)
M2	13 14 15	Interaction with Horrell & <i>Letters</i> 5%	LETTERS
M9	16 17 18	Interaction with the <i>Rhetorical Ad Herennium</i> 5%	RHETORIC
M16	19 20 21	Interaction with the <i>Pratt's Article</i> 5%	PROPHECY
M23	22 23 24	Interaction with Hays 5%	OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
M30	25 26 27	Interaction with the Sorek and Schwartz 5%	OLD TESTAMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
	A6-10	Spring Break	
A13 (Green due 10%)	28 29 30		DRAWING THREADS TOGETHER
A20	31 32 33	Bonus 5% Interaction with 1 Enoch	APOCALYPTIC
A27 (Greidanus due 10%)	34 35 36		PRACTICE
M4	37 38 39		SUMMARY & PRACTICE
M18		Assignment Due	

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

<p><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u> <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the</i></p>	<p><u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate</p>	<p><u>Mini-Justification</u></p>
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<p><i>student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written exam. 2. Written book reviews
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laying a foundation for the theory of interpretation. 2. Theory applied in practice.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The continuity of scripture will receive special attention.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meaning will be translated into practice at various points.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A main focus of this course will be to see how the bible shapes our worldview.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In this course we will be willing to deal with other views (not just reformed).
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	Moderate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application at various points will highlight how a given passage may best be taught.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 49 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)