Reformed Theological Seminary

Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics

ON5100 (3 Credit Hours)

Spring 2022

Wednesday 1:00-3:55 pm

DC2

Instructors: Dr. Benjamin L. Gladd, Dr. Guy Prentiss Waters

I. Course Objectives

* The course focuses on hermeneutical theory and exegetical method. Students will develop a method that will furnish them with an ability to interpret Scripture.

II. Texts

* English Bible with cross references (HCSB, ESV, NASB, etc.)
* Beale, G. K. *Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation*. Baker, 2012.
* Beale, G. K. et al. *An Interpretative Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Zondervan, 2014 (for Greek students)
* Goldsworthy, Graeme, *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation.* InterVarsity, 2010.

III. Course Requirements

* **Course Grading Scale**
  + - Weekly Assignments 25%
    - Quizzes and Reading 40%
    - Classroom Participation/Attendance 10%
    - Midterm and Final Exam 25%
* **Weekly Assignments**- These assignments will cover that week’s topic. Late assignments will result in one letter grade per class.
* **Reading**- Students are required to read from the course textbooks. The professor will ask how much was read from Beale (*Handbook*) and Goldsworthy (*Hermeneutics*) at the end of each quiz. Reading must be completed at the time of the quiz. Students do **not** receive credit if the reading is late.
* **Quizzes**- Students will take two online quizzes based on the Beale, *Handbook* reading. Students will take six quizzes based on Goldsworthy (one drop quiz of the Goldworthy quizzes is permitted).
* **Midterm and Final Exam** – Students will take a midterm exam on the material covered in the first half of the course, and a final exam on the material covered in the second half of the course. The exam must be taken on the posted date.
* **In-Class Device Use**- Students are prohibited from using computers and all devices during class.
* **Attendance**- Each student is expected to attend all lectures, which comprises 10% of the total grade. *Students who have more than one unexcused absence will be penalized 5 points off the total grade.* **Presbytery meetings and all conferences (ETS/SBL, T4G, Twin Lakes, etc.) are** **unexcused**. Students should consult their calendar at the beginning of the semester and discuss any conflicts with the professor. If you are sick or have a family emergency, you must email the professor asap.
* **Grading Scale**: The grading scale for this course is listed in the *RTS Catalog,* p.44.

IV. Assigned Reading/Lecture Topic

January 26- Introduction to Course/Cross-References

**Watch** **“DA Tutorials Pt. 1” videos #1-7**

**Reading**: Schreiner, *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*, 97-124 (PDF on Canvas Modules)

February 2- Use of the OT in NT-Part 1 (Definitions, Presuppositions, Hermeneutical Uses)

**Weekly Assignment #1:** D.A./Translation of Colossians 2:1-5. (Consult the Weekly Assignment resources on Canvas)

**Reading**: Beale, “Primary Ways the New Testament Uses the Old Testament,” 55-95

**Quiz 1** over Beale, “Primary Ways the New Testament Uses the Old Testament,” 55-95

February 9- Use of the OT in NT-Part 2

**Weekly Assignment #2**: D.A./Translation/Hermeneutical Use of 1 Peter 1:22-25

**Short Essay Question**: Write 4-6 sentences on relationship between 1 Peter 1:3 and 1:23. Write 4-6 sentences on why Isa 40:6-8 is a prophecy. Write 4-6 sentences on tracing and summarizing the cross references of Isa 40:8 (stay within the book of Isaiah). Write 4-6 sentences relating the expression “And this is the word that was preached to you” in 1 Peter 1:25b and the Old Testament quotation of Isaiah 40:8.

**Reading**:Beale, “Hermeneutical and Theological Presuppositions of the New Testament Writers,” 95-103

**Quiz 2** over Beale, “Hermeneutical and Theological Presuppositions of the New Testament Writers,” 95-103

February 16- Making Observations

**Weekly Assignment #3:** D.A./Translation of Matt 13:34-35/Hermeneutical Use of Ps 78:2

**Short Essay Question**: Write 4-6 sentences on the immediate context of Matt 13:34-35. Write 4-6 sentences defining “things” (NIV) or “sayings” (ESV) in Ps 78:2. Write 4-6 sentences on why Ps 78:2 is “fulfilled” in Matt 13:34-35. Write 2-3 sentences on the hermeneutical use of Ps 78:2 in Matt 13:35 (analogical, abiding authority, etc.).

February 23- Dictionaries and Maps

**Weekly Assignment #4:** Observations of Acts 1:8

March 2- The Use and Abuse of Commentaries

**Weekly Assignment #5 :** D.A./Translation/Version Comparison/Consult Dictionaries on John 7:1-5.

**Short Essay Question**: Using three Bible dictionaries, write 6-8 sentences summarizing the Festival of Tabernacles. Write 4-6 sentences on how Judaism developed the Old Testament law in this regard. Write 4-6 sentences on whether or not Jesus was compelled to attend according to the law. Write 4-6 sentences on why Jesus is hesitant to attend the feast in John 7:1-9.

March 9- Midterm Exam

March 16**-** SPRING BREAK

March 23- Hermeneutics and the Clarity of Scripture

**Reading –** Goldsworthy, 15-86

March 30- Hermeneutics and the Clarity of Scripture (ctd.)

**Reading –** Goldsworthy, 87-138

April 6- Hermeneutics and the Sufficiency of Scripture

**Reading –** Goldsworthy, 139-80

April 13- Hermeneutics and the Sufficiency of Scripture (ctd.)

**Reading –** Goldsworthy, 181-233

April 20- Current Topic: Theistic Evolution

**Reading –** Goldsworthy, 234-72

April 27- Current Topic: The Sabbath

**Reading –** Goldsworthy, 273-314



**Course Objectives Related to M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes**

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| **MDiv Student Learning Outcomes** | | **Rubric** | **Mini-Justification** |
| **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. | Strong | Course provides theological framework and basic exegetical principles for interpreting Scripture |
| **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 | See course title and description |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | Reformed distinctives on Scripture and its interpretation are carefully considered |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Moderate | Scripture is the primary means of grace, its study ought to be an act of love toward God |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Minimal | Focused on interpreting Word of God rightly |
| **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.) | Minimal | Though we hope the professors and students exemplify this spirit |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Moderate | Must understand what the text means to preach it rightly |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | Minimal | Course is relevant to worship but is not centered on worship, as such |
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | Moderate | Using Scripture rightly is central to good shepherding |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal | Though alternative approaches to Scripture will be considered and application of original meaning to contemporary contexts |