



LEAVELL COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BSCM1300-30 Hermeneutics

Spring 2016

Thursday 6:00p-7:59p

Rev. Daniel (Danny) Slavich
Professor
408-772-1819

SFL Center
dannyslavich@gmail.com

The mission of Leavell College of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is **Mission Focus**: *“We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local Church and its ministries.”*

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 Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Understand the principles of biblical hermeneutics.
 2. Apply the principles of hermeneutics in the interpretation of the Scriptures.
 3. Communicate through the use of biblical hermeneutics proper interpretation of Scripture.
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Course Texts

The following textbooks are required:

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

Roberts, Vaught. *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Class participation - Attendance in class is a necessary part of instruction in this course. Students are allowed a maximum of nine hours of absences during the semester. Three tardies count as one absence. The student will receive an automatic "F" when the tenth hour has been missed; this is in accordance with seminary policy.

2. Weekly Quizzes – Each week a quiz will be given over the assigned reading. This is a large part of the course grade, and students should expect to be tested on their knowledge of the assigned reading for that week. Each week up to half of the quiz credit will be based upon simple completion of the assigned reading. Note: the course schedule lists dates when reading should be completed.

3. Historical Cultural Study - The student will complete a historical cultural study of an assigned passage. The paper should be 2-3 pages in length (typed and double spaced). A minimum of 5 resources should be consulted in writing the paper. The paper should consider the author, audience, and specific issues within the passage being studied.

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 5-6 pages, typed and double spaced. More information regarding the paper will be discussed in class. The paper will be due May 5th. 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. Each student is required to take the mid-term when scheduled. If the student misses the mid-term exam, he/she must reschedule the exam within one week of the original date given. Students who miss a scheduled exam must contact the professor or Leavell College office prior to the exam; otherwise, the student will be assessed a penalty on the make-up exam. In addition, the professor will assess a penalty for all late exams. The final exam must be taken on the day scheduled unless permission has been granted through the Leavell College office.

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

- 10% Historical Cultural Study
- 10% Class Participation
- 20% Weekly Reading Quizzes
- 20% Exegetical study
- 20% Mid-term exam
- 20% Final exam

Course Outline Schedule/Exams

*(Note: readings are DUE and should be complete on the date listed)

- Jan. 21** Introduction to the Course
Discussion of Hermeneutics; The Hermeneutical Model - pp. 443-454
- Jan. 28** The History of Interpretation
Chapt. 1: Bible Translations - pp. 21-38
Chapt. 2: The Interpretive Journey - pp. 39-49
- Feb. 4** Chapt. 3: How to Read the Book – Sentences - pp. 51-68
Chapt. 4: How to Read the Book – Paragraphs - pp. 69-90
Exegetical Study Assigned (Due May 5th)
- Feb. 11** Chapt. 5: How to Read the Book – Discourses - pp. 91-112
How to Read the Book - Ex. Phil. 4:13
- Feb. 18** Chapt. 6: The Historical-Cultural Context - pp. 113-136
Chapt. 7: What Do We Bring to the Text? - pp. 137-147
- Feb. 25** Chapt. 8: The Literary Context - pp. 149-162
Chapt. 9: Word Studies - pp. 163-187; Review
Historical-Cultural Study Due
- Mar. 3** **Mid-Term Exam** (first hour of class)
Chapt. 10: Who Controls the Meaning? - pp. 189-202
Chapt. 11: Levels of Meaning - pp. 203-224
- Mar. 10** Chapt. 12: The Role of the Holy Spirit - pp. 225-234
Chapt. 13: Application - pp. 235-248
- Mar. 17** **Spring Break**
- Mar. 24** Chapt. 14: New Testament – Letters - pp. 249-268
New Testament Letters - Ex. 1 Thess. 5:22
- Mar. 31** Chapt. 15: New Testament – Gospels - pp. 269-290
Chapt. 16: New Testament – Acts - pp. 291-308
- Apr. 7** Chapt. 17: New Testament – Revelation - pp. 309-330
- Apr. 14** Chapt. 18: Old Testament – Narrative - pp. 331-354
Chapt. 19: Old Testament – Law - pp. 355-372
- Apr. 21** Chapt. 20: Old Testament – Poetry - pp. 373-396
Chapt. 21: Old Testament – Prophets - pp. 397-419
- Apr. 28** Chapt. 22: Old Testament – Wisdom - pp. 421-442
Exegetical Assignment Due
- May 5** **FINAL EXAM**
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Additional Course Information

Blackboard sites

Special instructions

Plagiarism

Computer/Phone usage policy

If you have any questions about Blackboard, SelfServe, or ITC services, please access the ITC page on our website: www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Selected Bibliography

- Black, David Alan, and David S. Dockery, eds. *Interpreting the New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001.
- Bray, Gerald. *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Carson, D.A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.
- Corley, Bruce, Steve W. Lemke, and Grant I. Lovejoy, eds. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture*. 2d ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996.
- Dockery, David S. *Biblical Interpretation: Then and Now*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Efird, James M. *How to Interpret the Bible*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1984.
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Fountain, Thomas E. *Keys to Understanding and Teaching Your Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983.
- Guthrie, George. *Read the Bible for Life: Your Guide to Understanding and Living God's Word*. Nashville: B and H Publishing Group, 2011.
- Hendricks, Howard G., and William D. Hendricks. *Living by the Book*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.
- Kaiser, Walter C., and Moises Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Klein, William W., et. al. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1993.
- McQuilkin, Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1983.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1991.
- Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3d ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Terry, Milton. *Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There a Meaning in this Text?: the Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Knowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Williams, Michael. *How to Read the Bible through the Jesus Lens*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- See the professor for further resources.

Competency Assessment Rubric for:

BSCM1300 Hermeneutics

Student Name _____ **Semester** _____

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand the principles of biblical hermeneutics.
2. Apply the principles of hermeneutics in the interpretation of the Scriptures.
3. Communicate through the use of biblical hermeneutics proper interpretation of Scripture.

Assignment Description:

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 will cover one of the assigned passages and use the methodology discussed in the class. The paper is required to be 4-6 pages, typed and double spaced.

Domain	Level	Failure (0 Pt)	Basic (1 Pt)	Competent (2)	Good (3)	Excellent (4)
Understanding	Able to understand the principles and methods studied.					
Application	Able to apply understanding to exegete the assigned text.					
Communication	Able to communicate the meaning and application of the text well.					