



LEAVELL COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BSCM1300-35 Hermeneutics

Fall 2019/20 (Term 201)

Monday 4x Hybrid 6:00 pm – 9:50 pm

Class Dates: 8/19, 9/2, 9/16, 9/30

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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.

Purpose of the Course:

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to develop a sound method for biblical interpretation. The student will be introduced to the basic principles, steps, and major resources available for practicing biblical exegesis. This course is a prerequisite for all interpretation and preaching classes.

Prerequisite: None

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. 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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.

4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Classroom department models servant Leadership.

The core value focus for this academic year is *Spiritual Vitality*

Course Description

In this course, students will explore a variety of methodologies pertaining to the field of inner-biblical studies through course readings, class discussion, and research for a paper. The emphasis is placed on biblical studies and the connection between the Old and New Testament.

General Education Competencies (GECs)

Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Quantitative Reasoning

This course addresses GECs #1 and #3

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM PSLOs) AND Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Worship Program Student Learning Outcomes (BAM PSLOs)

Leavell College has identified four program Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Biblical Interpretation (BACM PSLO #1)
1. Worship Leadership (BAM PSLO #1)
2. Service and Leadership (both BACM PSLO #2 and BAM PSLO #2)
3. Historical and Theological Interpretation (both BACM PSLO #3 and BAM PSLO #3)

This course addresses BACM PSLO #1.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon completion of this course learners should be able to:

1. **Understand** the fundamental principles of biblical interpretation.
 2. **Be able** to distinguish the principles involved in interpreting the various genres of Scripture.
 3. **Be able** to incorporate the message of Scripture into practical ministry.
 4. **Recognize** the importance of proper interpretation within practical ministry.
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Required Textbooks

The Holy Bible. In a modern translation: ESV, NRSV, NIV, NASB, or CSB.

Duval, Scott and Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN: 9780310492573.

Richards, E. Randolph, and Joseph R. Dodson. *A Little Book for New Bible Scholars*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2017. ISBN: 9780830851706.

Course Information

Units

1. Introduction to Biblical Scholarship
2. How to Read the Book
3. Context
4. Meaning and Application
5. The Interpretive Journey—Old Testament
6. The Interpretive Journey—New Testament

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies of lecture, class discussion, readings, and individual learning assignments.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Each student will read the textbooks in preparation for each class period (see schedule below). A quiz will be given each class period based on the required reading for that day. Missed quizzes **cannot be made up**. *This assignment relates to GECs #1, CSLOs #1.*
2. Each student will be required to attend class and to participate in class discussion.
Class attendance is essential for effective learning. The student will attend and participate in the class sessions. **Because of the extremely limited class time in these Hybrid courses, students cannot miss any of the four class sessions.** A grade of “F” will be assigned to students who fail to attend the class. This policy will be strictly enforced.
3. Each student will take a midterm exam and a final exam. Sickness, funerals, and pregnancy are the only excuses for missing exams. In case of sickness, a doctor’s note will be required. *This assignment relates to GECs #1, CSLOs #1, #2 and #3, BACM PSLO #1.*
4. Each student will complete the historical and literary setting of four (4) passages—two (2) from the Old Testament and two (2) from the New Testament. A list will be provided that the students will use. Students will be required to use the provided sources, but additional research of 3-5 sources is also expected. The paper should be written according to standard guidelines (Turabian 8th edition; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced; 1-inch margins, footnotes, etc.). *This assignment relates to GECs #1, #3, CSLOs #2, #3 and #4, BACM PSLO #1.*

Passages for Historical and Literary Papers:

Old Testament

1. Exodus 7-12 (12:21-28)
2. Jeremiah 29 (4-14)

New Testament

3. Luke 15 (1-10 or 11-31)
4. Acts 15 (12-21)

4. Each student will complete an exegetical paper on one of the assigned passages. The exegetical paper should be a verse-by-verse explanation of the biblical text. Students should use no less than 5 commentaries on this assignment with a minimum of 10 resources where one journal article is from the last 3 years. The paper should be written according to standard guidelines (Turabian 8th edition; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced; 1-inch margins, footnotes, etc.). This assignment relates to GECs #1, #3, CSLOs #1, #2, #3, and #3, BACM PSLO #1.

Evaluation Criteria

The final grade for the course will be tabulated according to the following percentage breakdown:

Daily Quizzes	15%
Exams	30%
Historical Context Papers	40%
Exegetical Paper	15%

Grading

The grading scale as outlined in the Leavell College catalog will be utilized:

A = 93–100
B = 85–92
C = 77–84
D = 70–76
F = 69 and below

Additional Course Information

Special Instructions

In the event the seminary campus is closed, the class will still meet in an online format. Should campus close for any reason, please take your textbooks with you and be prepared to move the discussion to an online format via Blackboard. I will post any necessary schedule revisions to the Announcements page of Blackboard

Classroom Behavior

Students are expected to maintain a Christian attitude both inside and outside the classroom. Derogatory and abusive language will not be tolerated. Any behavior not becoming of a minister may result in dismissal from class. First-time offenses will be documented, and subsequent offenses will be submitted to the Dean of Leavell College.

Computer/Phone Usage Policy

Using computers, smart phones, tablets, or other electronic devices in class is a privilege rather than a right. Any student abusing the privilege will be asked to turn off such devices. Students should place electronic devices on silent mode during class time. Students needing to make or receive texts or calls should arrange to do so outside of class time. At no time during class hours should students use computers or tablets for anything other than class notes or assignments. The professor reserves the right to ask students to leave electronic devices at home. **Unless given permission, students are not to record or quote the instructor, guest speakers, or students on social media sites.**

Blackboard

You should already be enrolled in the Blackboard course. In the Blackboard course, you may access the course syllabus, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, or other course documents.

Disability

Leavell College provides accommodations for students who have a disability. Students should consult the current Leavell College *Student Handbook and Catalog* for policies regarding disabilities.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following emails:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. You may also consult their website at www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

The *Student Handbook* section on Ethical Conduct includes plagiarism as one type of unacceptable conduct. A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.

Late Work

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be accepted within 48-hours after the due date but at a penalty of one letter grade per 24-hour period. No assignments will be accepted after the 48-hour period. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. See the schedule below.

Communication

The official means of communication are email and Blackboard, the Institutions learning management system. Students may communicate with professors via email, phone, or office visit.

Course Outline*

All topics and dates (excluding the final exam) are subject to change. **Note: Reading should be completed before coming to class.**

Week	Date	Unit	Topic	Assignment
1	Monday August 19 Class Meeting	1	Syllabus Class Introduction Why do we study the Bible? Who can Study the Bible? What is the Bible? History of Biblical Interpretation?	Introduction of Hermeneutics Richards, 11–52 Richards, 53-109 GGW, 23-38
2	August 26-30	2	Where do I begin? Translation? Interpretive Journey What resources should I use when studying the Bible? How to Read the Book Writing an Exegetical Paper	GGW, 23-38 GGW, 39-49 GGW, 51-112
2	August 31	2	Title Page and Bibliography Due	Blackboard
3	Monday September 2 Class Meeting	3	Context Word Studies	GGW, 113-148 GGW, 149-187
3	September 8		Paper 1 Due	Blackboard
4	September 9-14	4 1-4	Meaning and Application Mid-Term	GGW, 189-246 Blackboard
4	September 15		Paper 2 Due	Blackboard
5	Monday September 16 Class Meeting	5	Old Testament Narrative Old Testament Prophets Old Testament Law	GGW, 333-354 GGW, 421-442 GGW, 355-372
5	September 22		Paper 3 Due	Blackboard

Week	Date	Unit	Topic	Assignment
6	September 23-28		Old Testament Poetry Old Testament Wisdom	GGW, 397-419
6	September 29		Paper 4 Due	Blackboard
7	Monday September 30 Class Meeting	5 6	New Testament Gospels New Testament Acts New Testament Letters	GGW, 269-290 GGW, 251-268 GGW, 291-308 GGW, 309-332
7	October 6		Final Exegetical Paper Due	Blackboard
8	Monday October 7	1-6	FINAL EXAM	Blackboard

***The Professor reserves the right to change topics/dates as necessary (see course policies).**

Passages for Paper

Old Testament

Exodus 7-12 (12:21-28)

Jeremiah 29 (4-14)

New Testament

Luke 15 (1-10 or 11-31)

Acts 15 (12-21)

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.
- Duvall, Scott and Daniel Hays. *Living God's Word: Discovering Our Place in the Grand Story of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- 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.