ADVANCED BIBLICAL EXEGESIS (MACRO—HERMENEUTICS)
ON504
MINI-SYLLABUS
Fall 2013

Note: This syllabus is the “mini-syllabus” and is not to be confused w/ the large syllabus that contains all the class-lecture notes, biblio, various articles, etc. This large syllabus will be posted on “Self Service” and is needed for all the class lectures. For the first day of class, the student should be prepared w/ either a hard-copy of the large syllabus or have it downloaded to his laptop.

Note: No prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts:

Trinity Psalter.
R. L. Pratt. He Gave Us Stories.
M. Silva, ed. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation.
S. Greidanus. Preaching X from the OT.
S. R. Swain, Trinity, Revelation, and Reading: A Theological Introduction to the Bible and its Interpretation.

Professors

* Professors Dr. Bob Cara and Dr. Dick Belcher (technically, Dr. Robert J. Cara and Dr. Richard P. Belcher, Jr.).

Class participation

* For both Cara and Belcher, bring and sing Psalter.

* Attend class and participate (intelligently!) when called on. Loose points for not being in class and/or not participating.

Name of Course

* Advanced Biblical Exegesis does not really nail down the content of this course. In fact, this course has a variety of content depending on which RTS campus it is taught.

* At RTS/C, this course should be called “Macro-Hermeneutics Plus.” It will include primarily big-picture topics, including: philosophical hermeneutics, considerations of a reader’s background, R-H (OT related to NT), history of hermeneutics, application of Bible to today, etc.
At RTS/C, the Greek and Hebrew exegesis courses, more or less, focus on micro-hermeneutical issues.

Course Objectives

* The overarching purpose is for the student to interact with a variety macro-hermeneutical issues, including Reformed models, to enable the student to better interpret/apply the Bible.

* Course objectives as coordinated with MDiv Student Learning Outcomes are shown at the end of this document.

Structure of the Course

* Cara, first 6 weeks.
  * Three units: (1) PM vs M w/in a CVT framework. (2) Macro-hermeneutics per se. (3) Review of Cara’s hermeneutical proverbs.

* Belcher, second 6 weeks.
  * Three units: (1) History of interpretation of the Bible: Philo through modern day. (2) NT use of OT, including NT writers’ hermeneutical context. (3) Preaching X from the OT: Typology and Greidanus.

* Cara, Belcher, and Kruger 13th week, Covenant Structure of Bible

Course Requirements and Grades

* Final Test
  * Test will be ≈ 85-90% verbatim of Lecture Review Questions. The remainder will be miscellaneous questions from the class lectures and readings.
  * For answers to Lecture Review Questions, you may/should enquire of fellow students in this class.
  * 40% of grade.

* Pratt’s He Gave Us Stories, pages 1-128, 306-402 and Swain’s Trinity, Revelation, and Reading.
  * Submit a fake (i.e., no or few footnotes) 7-10 page paper that includes:
    * A statement that student read 100% of Pratt and Swain reading requirement.
    * Self-consciously evaluate one or more aspects of the student’s interaction w/in his covenant community (both heritage and present) that has (or will have) influenced the student’s larger method of biblical interpretation (e.g., BT/R-H/ST,
preaching theory) or a specific theological topic (e.g., elder roles, Trinity, innerancy). This influence can be either positive, negative, or both.

* The paper should show knowledge of your covenantal community, and at least some categories from Cara’s lectures and Pratt/Swain books.

* Although no research is required, this paper should have a sophisticated understanding of macro-hermeneutics and indicate that the student can “theologize” about himself relative to his theological community.

* Paper due on last day of Cara’s lectures (≈ half-way through semester). Give to Cara. 32 f/s/s.

* 25% of grade.

* Silva, M., ed. *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation*.

* Read anyone of the books in this book, excepting *God, Language and Scripture*.

* Submit a (fake) 7-10 page paper that includes:
  * A statement that student read 100% of book w/in the book.
  * Summarize book (1/3 of paper).
  * Critique one small or large section in the book (2/3 of paper). The critique should show knowledge of Cara/Belcher lectures and the ability of the student to theologize about hermeneutics.

* Paper due on last day of Belcher’s lectures. Give to Belcher. 32 f/s/s.

* 25% of grade.

* Read all of Greidanus’ *Preaching X from the OT* and all of Beale’s *Handbook on the NT Use of the OT*.

* On final test will be the question, “Did you read 100% of the assigned reading?”

* 10% of grade.

* Bring and sing *Trinity Psalter*.

* No grade associated with this unless one does not do it!
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

**With Mini-Justification**

**Course:** ABX/Macro-Hermeneutics  
**Professor:** Robert J. Cara and Richard P. Belcher  
**Campus:** Charlotte  
**Date:** Fall 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Articulation (oral & written)**               | Moderate | 1. Submits one self-reflected hermeneutics paper.  
|                                                 |         | 2. Submits one critical book review.  
|                                                 |         | 3. Significant overview of the history of hermeneutics, both in the church and philosophy, is included. |
| **Scripture**                                   | Moderate | 1. Scriptures’ interpretation of Scripture is included.  
|                                                 |         | 2. Scriptures’ understanding of “meaning” is evaluated. |
| **Reformed Theology**                           | Moderate | 1. Overview of Reformed view of General and Special Revelation.  
|                                                 |         | 2. Reformed hermeneutics.  
|                                                 |         | 3. History of Reformed denominations.  
|                                                 |         | 4. Swain book includes historical Reformed hermeneutics |
| **Sanctification**                              | Minimal | 1. Psalm singing in class  
|                                                 |         | 2. Self-reflection paper. |
| **Desire for Worldview**                        | Strong  | 1. The Bible is the ultimately authority of hermeneutical questions.  
<p>|                                                 |         | 2. Student’s background affects hermeneutics. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winsomely Reformed</th>
<th>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.)</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>1. The ethos of RTS is presented and evaluated as to how that affects hermeneutics.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Section of hermeneutics of “modern meaning.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>1. Understand one’s own background is an aid to understanding others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Overview of theological traditions (Reformed, Lutheran, RC, EO). 2. Creed discussions. 3. Philosophical hermeneutics. 4. Modernism vs Post-Modernism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>