

Reformed Theological Seminary
Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics
NT524 (2 Credit Hours)
Spring 2019
Wednesday 1:00-3:00 pm
DC2

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I. Course Objectives

- The course focuses on the 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)
- The pink laminated card with DA abbreviations and Hermeneutical Uses
- Accordance Bible Software (I recommend the “[Academic Bundle Blue-Level 1](#)”)

III. Course Requirements

- **Course Grading Scale**
 - Weekly Assignments 40%
 - Quizzes 25%
 - Reading 25%
 - Classroom Participation/Attendance 10%
- **Weekly Assignments**-For the second portion of the course, students will be required to turn in 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*) at the end of each online quiz. Reading must be completed at the time of the quiz. Students do **not** receive credit if the reading is late.

- **“Barbarians”**-Though this class is tailored for MDiv students who have a working knowledge of Greek, it is possible for those who do not know Greek to take the class. “Non-Greek” students are required to do all the assignments except translations. Additional reading will be assigned to non-Greek students, however. When doing discourse analyses, non-Greek students must take their translation from NASB (1995).
- **Quizzes**- Students will take online quizzes based on the Beale, *Handbook* reading.
- **In-Class Computer Use**- Students are prohibited from using computers during class.
- **Attendance**- Each student is expected to attend all lectures, which comprises 15% of the total grade. *Students who have more than one unexcused absences 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 30 Introduction to Course/Discourse Analysis

Watch Discourse Analysis videos #1-2

February 6 Discourse Analysis

Reading: Schreiner, *Interpreting the Pauline Epistles*, 97-124

Watch Discourse Analysis videos #3-7

February 13 Cross References (bring Accordance to class).

Accordance: [BetterSnapTool](#), Different English Translations, Instant details, “Research” Cross References, Treasure of Scripture Knowledge (topical)

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

February 20 General Accordance Training (bring Accordance to class)

Accordance: Get Plain Text app (OS X), “amplify settings” in preferences, “text & tool display” in preferences, “export” in preferences, “instant details” in preferences, “syncing” in preferences, Stacks, Info Pane, Highlights

Save workspaces, Save as citation, bibliography, and instant details, iOS

Weekly Assignment #2: 1) List all the cross-references on Matt 14:27 from the

NIV (2011), NASB, ESV, and the NA²⁸ (Nestle Aland Greek New Testament). 2) In 4-6 sentences, relate the OT to Matt 14:27 according to the cross-references. 3) In 4-6 sentences, relate other passages in the Gospels to Matt 14:27 according to the cross-references.

February 27 Use of the OT in NT-Part 1 (Definitions and Presuppositions)

Reading: Beale, “Hermeneutical and Theological Presuppositions of the New Testament Writers,” 95-102

Quiz #1: Beale, pgs. 95-102

March 6 Use of the OT in NT-Part 2 (Hermeneutical Uses)

Weekly Assignment #3: 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, “Seeing the Old Testament in the New,” 29-40 and “An Approach to Interpreting the Old Testament in the New,” 41-54

Quiz #2: Beale, pgs. 41-54

March 13 SPRING BREAK

March 20 Use of the OT in NT-Part 3

Weekly Assignment #4: D.A./Translation of Eph 5:29-32

Short Essay Question: Write 4-6 sentences on the immediate context of Eph 5:31-33. Write 4-6 sentences on the OT cross references of Eph 5:26 and mention specific OT cross references. Write 4-6 sentences on the OT cross references of Gen 2:24 and mention specific OT cross references. Write 4-6 sentences on why Paul sees Christ’s marriage to the church in Gen 2:24. Write 2-3 sentences on the hermeneutical use of Gen 2:24 in Eph 5:31 (analogical, abiding authority, etc.).

Reading: Beale, “Primary Ways the New Testament Uses the Old Testament,” 55-93

Quiz #3: Beale, pgs. 55-93

March 27 Making Observations

Reading: Beale, “A Case Study Illustrating the Methodology of This Book,” 133-148

Weekly Assignment #5: D.A./Translation of Matt 13:34-35

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.).

Quiz #4: Beale, pgs.133-148

April 3 Translation Comparison

Weekly Assignment #6: Observations of Acts 1:8

Reading: D.A. Carson, “Some Thoughts on Translating Scripture” in *The King James Version Debate*, pgs. 85-102.

April 10 Dictionaries and Maps

Weekly Assignment #7: D.A./Translation/Version Comparison of 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

April 17 The Use and Abuse of Commentaries

Weekly Assignment #8: 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.

April 24 Library Tour (Journals, essays, monographs, etc.)

Weekly Assignment #9: D.A./Translation/Version Comparison/Consult Commentaries on Gal 1:15-17.

Short Essay Question: Using three major commentaries (New International Greek Testament Commentary, Word Biblical Commentary, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary, or New International Commentary on the New Testament), compare and contrast your conclusions based on your D.A. of Gal 1:15-17 to the commentaries. In 4-6 sentences, what are the similarities between your DA and the commentaries? In 4-6 sentences, what are the differences between your DA and the commentaries? In 4-6 sentences state what commentary was the most helpful and why.

May 1 From Text to Sermon

Weekly Assignment #10: Using the hard copy of the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, write 4-6 sentences, summarizing the entry “Rahab (Dragon).” Using the hard copy of the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, write 4-6 sentences, summarizing the entry “Hadad (Deity).” Using the hard copy, write 4-6 sentences summarizing Ben L. Merkle’s fourth and final point on pg. 720 from his article, “Romans 11 and the Future of Ethnic Israel” in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 43 (2000): 709-721. Using the hard copy, write 4-6 sentences summarizing Richard Bauckham’s point “c” on pgs. 29-30 from his article, “Historical Characteristics of the Gospel of John” in *New Testament Studies* 53 (2007): 17-36. **Note: students must not share resources with one another. Each student must personally consult the library sources.**

Course Objectives Related to M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
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
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