Reformed Theological Seminary

Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics

ON5100 (3 Credit Hours)

Spring 2021

Wednesday 1:00-4:00 pm

DC2

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin L. Gladd

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. 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.
* The pink laminated card with DA abbreviations and Hermeneutical Uses
* Accordance Bible Software (I recommend the [“Green Level 1”](https://www.accordancebible.com/product/academic-bundle-green-level-1-accordance-13/) bundle)

III. Course Requirements

* **Course Grading Scale**
  + - Weekly Assignments 25%
    - Quizzes and Reading 40%
    - Classroom Participation/Attendance 10%
    - 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 one online quiz based on the Beale and Gladd, *The Story Retold* reading. Students will take seven quizzes based on Goldsworthy (one drop quiz of the Goldworthy quizzes is permitted).
* **Final Exam** – Students will take 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 27- Introduction to Course/Cross-References

**Watch** **“DA Tutorials” videos #1-2**

February 3- Discourse Analysis

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

**Watch Discourse Analysis videos #3-7**

February 10- Cross References (bring Accordance to class).

**Accordance:** [BetterSnapTool](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bettersnaptool/id417375580?mt=12), 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 17- 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 24- Use of the OT in NT-Part 1 (Approaches, Definitions)

**Weekly Assignment #3:** D.A./Translation of Colossians 2:1-5. (Consult the Weekly Assignment resources on Canvas)

**Reading**: Beale and Gladd, *Story Retold*, 19-31 (PDF on Canvas Modules)

**Quiz 1** over Beale and Gladd, *Story Retold*, 19-31

March 3- Use of the OT in NT-Part 2 (Presuppositions, Hermeneutical Uses)

**Weekly Assignment #4**: 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**: Goldsworthy, 15-57

**Quiz 2** over Goldsworthy, 15-57

March 10- Use of the OT in NT-Part 3

**Weekly Assignment #5**: 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:** Goldsworthy, 58-86

**Quiz 3** Goldsworthy, 58-86

March 17- SPRING BREAK

March 24- Making Observations

**Weekly Assignment #6:** 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.).

**Reading:** Goldsworthy, 87-138

**Quiz 4** Goldsworthy, 87-138

March 31- Dictionaries and Maps

**Weekly Assignment #7:** Observations of Acts 1:8

**Reading:** Goldsworthy, 139-80

**Quiz 5** Goldsworthy, 139-80

April 14- The Use and Abuse of Commentaries/Version Comparison

**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.

**Reading**: Goldsworthy, 181-233

**Quiz 6** over Goldsworthy, 181-233

April 21- 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.

**Reading**: Goldsworthy, 234-72

**Quiz 7** over Goldsworthy, 234-72

April 28- 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.**

**Reading:** Goldsworthy, 273-314

**Quiz 8** over 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 |