

**BL5150 HERMENEUTICS: PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION**  
**SUMMER 2022 – PHOENIX SEMINARY**  
**REVISED 8 DECEMBER 2021**



**LECTURER:** Brian J. Arnold, Ph.D.

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**DESCRIPTION**

Hermeneutics teaches the theory and practice of interpretation. In addition to learning a careful method, this course surveys the history of biblical interpretation and introduces philosophy of language in order to make competent interpreters of Scripture. This course will also teach how to apply the ancient truths of the Bible to the contemporary world.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

At the end of the course, the student will:

1. Use technical vocabulary for biblical hermeneutics.
2. Explain hermeneutical theory from a historical and philosophical point of view.
3. Identify and interpret rightly different genres of biblical literature.
4. Demonstrate proper methods and techniques of biblical interpretation.
5. Apply the Bible to his/her personal life and ministry.

**COURSE TEXT(S)**

DeRouchie, Jason S. *How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017. ISBN: 978-1629952451.

Leithart, Peter J. *Deep Exegesis: The Mystery of Reading Scripture*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-1602580695.

Naselli, Andrew D. *How to Understand and Apply the New Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2017. ISBN: 978-1629952482.

**Selections from:**

Caneday, Ardel. "Covenant Lineage Allegorically Prefigured: 'Which Things are Written Allegorically.'" *Southern Baptist Theological Journal* 14.3 (2010): 50–77.

Hamilton, James. "Was Joseph a Type of the Messiah? Tracing the Typological Identification between Joseph, David, and Jesus." *Southern Baptist Theological Journal* 12.4 (2008): 52–77.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

<p>1. Reading &amp; Lecture Viewing [15%] [Outcomes 1, 2, 3]</p>	<p>Reading assignments are to be completed prior to watching their associated lecture. A reading report is to be filled out as to whether you read carefully, skimmed, or did not read. Your grade will be adjusted based on the quantity and quality of your reading.</p>
<p>2. Online Discussions [10%] [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]</p>	<p>For each lesson, one or more Discussion Questions (DQs) based on the material will be posted.  Substantive and synthetic postings are expected. Grading will be</p>

	<p>based on the Discussion Question Grading Rubric (see course web page). Discussion Question answers should first be typed in a word processor, proofread, saved, and then copied into the course web page.</p> <p><i>Initial responses</i> to the Discussion Question should be posted by <i>Thursday at 11:59 PM</i> of the week in which they appear with at least <b>two responses to other students</b> due by <i>Sunday at 11:59 PM</i> of the same week.</p>
3. Assignments [30%] [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	Deciphering passages takes work. Hermeneutics requires a great deal of practice. Assignments include two tracing-the-argument exercises (1 page each), two narrative analyses (2-3 pages each), a word study (2-3 pages), and an observation assignment (3-4 pages). Explanation of these assignments is provided on the course web page.
4. Final Paper [25%] [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	The final paper for this class is a culmination piece for the course. It will incorporate many of the assignments, and give the student a chance to interact with secondary literature. Expected length is 20 pages. Further requirements will be discussed at length in the appropriate recorded lecture.
5. Exam [20%] [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]	The only exam in this class is a midterm. Students will be accountable for anything covered in class or in the reading.

### GRADING INFORMATION

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points	Description
A+	100-97	4.0	
A	96.99-93	4.0	Excellent; superior achievement.
A-	92.99-90	3.7	
B+	89.99-87	3.3	
B	86.99-83	3.0	Good; commendable achievement.
B-	82.99-80	2.7	
C+	79.99-77	2.3	
C	76.99-73	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable achievement.
C-	72.99-70	1.7	
D+	69.99-67	1.3	
D	66.99-63	1.0	Poor; marginal achievement.
D-	62.99-60	0.7	
F	59.99-0	0.0	Failure to advance in the course. No credit earned. Computed in GPA.

S	N/A	N/A	Sufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
U	N/A	N/A	Insufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
EX	N/A	N/A	Extension. A formally approved petition for course extension.
NR	N/A	N/A	Not Received. Instructor has not yet submitted grade.
WP	N/A	N/A	Withdrew from class while passing. Not computed in GPA.
WF	N/A	0.0	Withdrew from class while failing. Computed in GPA until retake.

### SEMINARY ACADEMIC POLICIES

All Seminary policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Academic Catalog or Student Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

#### Course Evaluations

Each student is required to complete an anonymous course evaluation on this course's page at <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Course evaluations will be open the last week of the class until one day before grade reports are issued. All course evaluation results are reported anonymously: professors have no way of linking a particular student to a particular evaluation. This anonymous information will be processed and distributed to professors in summary form and used to strengthen their teaching methods and courses.

### COURSE DETAILS

#### On-Line Course Materials

Lectures, handouts and other course materials will be posted to <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Please note that after the course is over the student will not have access to course material on the website.

#### Participation

Students are expected to actively participate in the online learning environment. This may include logging on multiple times per week to view material, complete quizzes or exams, and to post responses to discussion questions.

#### Online Course Weeks

An online course "Week" corresponds to a 7-day week and runs **Monday – Sunday**. The course is based on **Phoenix, Arizona Time**. If you are in a different time zone, you are responsible for calculating the time difference and scheduling appropriately. There may be exceptions so pay close attention to the course web page for specifics.

#### Late Posts, Etc.

Because dependability and industry are virtues of Christian character, the faculty encourages students to be faithful and timely in the completion of all course assignments. Due to the interactive nature of discussion posts in online education, discussion posts cannot be made up. Failure to take quizzes, exams, or submit papers when they are due will result in a penalty and generally cannot be

made up more than one week from their due date. Contact the instructor in cases of emergency that may warrant an extension. Procrastination is not an emergency.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by Dr. Brian Arnold

- Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Felder, Cane Hope (ed.), *Stony the Road We Trod: African-American Biblical Interpretation*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2002.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.
- Klein, William, Craig Blomberg, and Robert Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1993.
- Long, V. Philips. *The Art of Biblical History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Harrisville, Roy A. and Walter Sundberg. *The Bible in Modern Culture: Baruch Spinoza to Brevard Childs*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Hirsch, E. D., Jr. *Validity in Interpretation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967.
- Maier, Gerhard. *Biblical Hermeneutics*. Trans by Robert W. Yarbrough. Wheaton: Crossway, 1994.
- McKim, D. K., ed. *Dictionary of Major Biblical Interpreters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2007.
- McKnight, Scot and Grant Osborne. *The Face of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Neill, Stephen, and Wright, Tom. *The Interpretation of the New Testament 1861-1986*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- O'Keefe, John, J. and R. R. Reno. *Sanctified Vision: An Introduction to Early Christian Interpretation of the Bible*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 2005.
- Ormiston, Gayle L. and Alan D. Schrift, eds. *The Hermeneutic Tradition: From Ast to Ricoeur*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1990.
- Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2010.
- Stein, Robert H. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Louisville, KY:

Westminster John Knox, 2009.

Thiselton, Anthony C. *New Horizons in Hermeneutics: The Theory and Practice of Transforming Biblical Reading*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Torrance, Thomas F. *Divine Meaning: Studies in Patristic Hermeneutics*. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1995.

Vanhoozer, Kevin. *Biblical Narrative in the Philosophy of Paul Ricoeur*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Is There a Meaning in This Text?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005.

Yarchin, William. *History of Biblical Interpretation: A Reader*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006.

## BL501 READING REPORT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the following:

### 1. Leithart, all

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

### 2. Naselli, all required

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

### 3. DeRouchie, all required

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

### 4. All required articles

YES  NO Number of pages? \_\_\_\_

Read Thoroughly  Skimmed

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_