

Virginia Institute for Theological Training
In compliance with SBTS course 22100 Biblical Hermeneutics
Spring Semester, 2024
Jan 22 - April 29
Mondays 6pm-9pm
Instructor: Keith Goad
Credit: 3 hours
Course Syllabus

Course Description

An introduction to the principles and methods of biblical interpretation.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course the student should

1. Understand the nature of Scripture, along with the concepts of canon, inspiration, inerrancy, as well as the process of receiving the text and translations
2. Understand the frameworks of progressive revelation, biblical reasoning, and the history of interpretation
3. Know how to identify the different types of writing in Scripture as well as develop the skills needed to interpret each one
4. Have grown in reverence for God and his Word so as to hold firm to his trustworthy Word as taught in order to rightly handle his Word in teaching with instruction and correcting (Titus 1:9, II Timothy 2:15)

These course objectives will be achieved in the following ways:

- Readings in the course texts
- Course lectures and discussion
- Examinations and feedback to the student
- Workshops to train students

*Students who wish to audit the course as part of VITT's Foundation track do not have to complete the required reading or take the exams as listed below. It is recommended that they complete the worksheets for the workshop sections in order to practice the tools introduced in the lectures.

Required Texts

- Doriani, Daniel M. *Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting and Applying the Bible*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2013.
- Gentry, Peter. *How to Read and Understand the Biblical Prophets*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-4335-5403-2
- Plummer, Robert, *40 Questions about Interpreting the Bible*, Kregel: 2021. 978-0825446665. *Make sure you have the 2nd edition. If purchasing online, make sure the ISBN matches and/or the description explicitly mentions 2nd edition.
- *Hunter, Trent and Stephen Wellum. *Christ from Beginning to End: How the Full Story of Scripture Reveals the Full Glory of Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan 2018. 978-0310536543
 - or- if a student has read Hunter and Wellum
 - Alexander, T.D. *From Eden to the New Jerusalem: An Introduction to Biblical Theology*. Kregel. 0825420156

Learning Assessment

- Interpretation Worksheets and Presentations 30%
- Final Exam 30%
- Quizzes 30%
- Reading Report 10%

Interpretation Worksheets and Class Participation

Each week, students will be assigned a passage to study with a worksheet to complete that will help them apply the principles and skills taught in class. Students will be asked to present from the worksheets as part of the class discussion.

Final Exam

At the end of the term, students will be given a final exam that will include short answers in order to determine if students are able to define the key terms and concepts, as well as passages to interpret to determine students have learned the necessary skills.

Quizzes

There will be weekly quizzes that will include content from the previous weeks' lectures and the reading from Plummer. The quizzes are open Bible and open book.

Reading Report

Students will provide in writing what books they have read and provide a brief summary of what they learn from each book (5-7 bullet points)

Grading Scale:

A	94-100 (4.0)	B	84-86 (3.0)	C	74-76 (2.0)	D	64-66 (1.0)
A-	90-93 (3.7)	B-	80-83 (2.7)	C-	70-73 (1.7)	D-	60-63 (0.7)
B+	87-89(3.3)	C+	77-79 (2.3)	D+	67-69 (1.3)	F	below 60 (0.0)

Date	Lecture
Jan 22	Scripture
Jan 29	Scripture
Feb 5	Canon, Translation
Feb 12	Meaning
Feb 19	Structure
Feb 26	Structure
Mar 4	Three horizons - David Schrock guest lecture
Mar 11	Spring break - no class
Mar 18	Structure
Mar 25	Context
Apr 1	New Testament Use of the Old
Apr 8	Gospel Connections
Apr 15	Gospel Connections
Apr 22	Presentations
Apr 29	Presentations

Course and Syllabus Modification (Disclaimer):

This syllabus is intended to accurately reflect the learning objectives, instructional format, readings, activities, evaluation criteria, policies and procedures, and other information necessary for students to complete this course. The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the learning experience as a result of events and circumstances that occur during the course.

Special needs:

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

Use of the Internet during Class Time:

It is expected that during class time there will be *no use of the internet* unless directed by the professor (e.g. no use of email, Facebook, Instagram, iPhone, iPad, Android, etc.). Students who violate this policy will receive a dramatic reduction of their grade at the professor's discretion.

Email: kwgoad@gmail.com

Hermeneutics Worksheet

1. Structure (Cut and paste the passage below and divide it into parts to show the primary and subordinate parts or the progress of scenes. Then provide an outline with headings that captures the primary point of each division with verse references.)
2. Context
 - a. Literary
 - b. Historical
 - c. Cultural
 - d. Canonical
3. Author's Big Idea (First, list out the primary words and concepts. Then, restate the authority's primary argument in one [long] sentence using the most significant words from the passage as much as possible.)
4. Gospel Connections (How does this passage point to Jesus and connect believers to the gospel?)
5. What implications can be drawn from the meaning of the text?
6. What applications would you make from the text?