

INTRODUCTION TO HERMENEUTICS, TH-221-M

Independent Study [3 credits]

Christian Life College-Madison

I. INSTRUCTOR

The Lead Instructor for the course will oversee the student's progress. To register for this independent study class, please email the Lead Instructor at clcm@citychurchonline.org. Detailed program and course information is available via the website: <http://www.citychurchonline.org/clc>.

The recorded lectures are by the authors of the textbook and can be viewed online via YouTube. Search "**Grasping God's Word Video Lectures**" to find the series of 22 recorded lectures.

II. SCHEDULE

This is an independent study course and a formal schedule of study is supplied as a guide to pace you through the work. However, students can develop their own study schedule to fit their schedules, as long as the coursework is completed in a timely fashion, i.e. anywhere from 10 to 16 weeks in length from starting date. There will be no exceptions.

III. DESCRIPTION

The term hermeneutics can be intimidating to most people. It not only sounds very academic, but it is also foreign to most of our vocabularies. On the other hand, the act of interpretation (hermeneutics) is as common as communication itself. Whenever someone speaks, a listener interprets what that speaker means. In the same way, everyone who reads the Bible interprets what it means. This course will help students understand the various parameters of biblical interpretation and how specific methods are applied to Bible study. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the original, intended meaning of Scripture in its canonical context as the basis upon which to prepare expositions and make appropriate contemporary applications.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- A. Appreciate the relevance of the interpretation of the Biblical text for the individual and the church.
- B. Grow in their love of God through in depth understanding of His word.
- C. Desire to be more obedient to the teaching of God's word.
- D. Comprehend, analyze, synthesize and evaluate the presuppositions, scope and content of the discipline of Biblical hermeneutics, including its development, key issues and various perspectives.
- E. Apply an exegetical and hermeneutical process in the interpretation of the Biblical text.
- F. Contextualize the interpretation and application of the Bible to the contemporary environment.
- G. Articulate an interpretation and application of a particular Biblical text.
- H. Become familiar with a variety of Biblical criticisms and hermeneutical approaches within Biblical scholarship and within the church.

V. TEXTBOOKS

- A. Required:
 - 1. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible* (4th ed.), J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays (Zondervan, 2020)
 - 2. *Grasping God's Word Workbook*, (4th edition, Zondervan 2020).
 - 3. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*, E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien (IVP, 2012)

B. Recommended books:

1. *How to Read the Bible for All it is Worth*, Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart (Zondervan, 2003)
2. *Listening to the Spirit in the Text*, Gordon Fee (Eerdmans, 2000)
3. *Gospel in Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics*, Gordon Fee (Baker, 1991)
4. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible* (2nd ed.), Robert H. Stein (Baker, 2011)
5. *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present*, Gerald Bray (IVP, 1996)
6. *Exegetical Fallacies* by D.A. Carson (Baker, 1996)

VI. REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Chapter Assignments** from the main textbook, *Grasping God's Word* by Duvall and Hays – Each student will be required to complete the chapter assignments in the order listed below. Each assignment should not only adequately answer the stated purpose, but should also reflect an understanding of the related chapter.
- B. All assignments must be from the Workbook, printed NEATLY & sent to the Lead Instructor. You can scan or take a digital picture & email it, or photocopy it to City Church, att: CLC Lead.

Week One – Read Ch. 1 & 2. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 1 & 2 on YouTube. Complete assignments 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3.	Week Five: Read 10, 11, 12, ch. 13. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 10, 11, 12 & 13 on YouTube. Complete assignment 12.2.	Week Nine: Read ch. 21 & 22. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 21 & 22 on YouTube. Complete assignments 21.1 & 22.2.
Week Two – Read Ch. 3, 4 & 5. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 3, 4, & 5 on YouTube. Complete assignments 3.2 & 3.5; 4.2 & 4.3. Exegetical paper assignment: Contact Lead Instructor for assigned Scripture verses.	Week Six: Read ch. 14 & 15. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 14 & 15 on YouTube. Complete assignment 14.2, 15.1 & 15.2.	Week Ten. Exegetical Paper Due, if you want to be done in 10 weeks. If you need to take longer, you can extend the coursework to a full semester length, which is 16 weeks in total, and use the last few weeks to work on your papers.
Week Three – Read Ch. 6 & 7. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 6 & 7 on YouTube. Complete assignments 6.1 & 7.1.	Week Seven: Read ch. 16 & 17. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 16 & 17 on YouTube. Complete assignment 16.1.	Be reading <i>Misreading Scripture</i> at a pace to write a book report on it. Book Report Due by end of course.
Week Four: Read Ch. 8. & 9. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 8 & 9 on YouTube. Complete assignment 8.3 & 9.6.	Week Eight: Read 18, 19 & 20. Watch <i>Grasping God's Word</i> video lectures 18, 19 & 20 on YouTube. Complete assignments 18.1, 19.5 & 20.3.	Please contact the Lead Instructor to let them know your timeline, i.e. 10 – 16 weeks. NO EXCEPTIONS AFTER 16 WEEKS.

- C. **Exegetical Paper** – Students will be assigned (by lead instructor) a portion of scripture and then complete an exegetical analysis on it. Various daily assignments will require the student to apply certain interpretative principles to their passage. The paper is required to be a minimum of 7-9 pages, typed, and double-spaced (New Times Roman 12 pt. font), using the MLA style. Contact lead instructor for more details.
- D. **Book Review** – Students will a book review on the supplementary textbook (*Misreading Scripture*). Students will write a 5-6-page book review. Papers must follow the good book review

suggestions on the rubric (which will be handed out in class & posted on Google Classroom). All papers should be written in MLA style, double spaced, in 12 point, Times New Roman font.

- E. **All** workbook assignments must be submitted to the Lead Instructor via email or dropped off at the church. Please scan the pages, take a photo of them with your phone OR copy them and send to: lquintana@citychurchonline.org as an attachment.

VII. GRADING

	Percentage
Chapter Assignments	30%
Book Review	30%
Exegetical Paper	40%

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Scores</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>GPA</i>
A	93-100	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92		3.67
B+	88-89	Very Good	3.33
B	83-87	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Above Average	2.67
C+	78-79		2.33
C	73-77	Average	2.00
C-	70-72		1.67
D+	68-69	Below Average	1.33
	63-67	Passing	1.00
D-	60-62		.67
F	0-59	Failure	.00
I		Incomplete	

VIII. EXTENSIONS: There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. Incompletes occur when class work is not completed during the semester. Incompletes automatically become “F” thirty days after the semester ends.

IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at CLCM and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research*, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of research materials.

(*) Because of the significant increase, popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, students are reminded that it is a violation of academic integrity to submit work without acknowledging or citing any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing or ideas which are not their own.

X. CREDIT ONLY

- A. \$400 for 3-units of college credit. Students who pay in full when they register for the class will receive a \$25 discount. Successful completion of this course will result in 3 college credits towards an Associate of Arts degree in Christian Studies from Christian Life College, Mt. Prospect, Illinois. This study course is only offered to students taking the class for credit. However, audit students can gain an understanding of this subject by simply reading Gordon Fee’s book, *How to Read the Bible for all it is Worth*.