## **LAIDLAW COLLEGE**

Te Wananga Amorangi "kia mau pu ki te kupu o te ora"

# 111.615 Biblical Interpretation Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: HendersonSemester 1, 2015Lecturer: Tim MeadowcroftNQF Level: 6, 15 credits

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to biblical interpretation, grammatico-historical exegesis, biblical genres, historical developments, historical-critical and literary-critical methods, and hermeneutical considerations, including hands-on experience in exegeting biblical texts.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- 1. demonstrate skill in exegeting biblical texts
- 2. employ exegetical tools to research texts
- 3. identify and employ historical-critical and literary-critical insights and methods where appropriate
- 4. demonstrate an understanding of biblical genres for sound exegetical method
- 5. present the results of exegetical study in an exegetical essay
- 6. demonstrate awareness of hermeneutical issues as they relate to one specific topic under investigation

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

- a. Introduction to exegesis, hermeneutics and the nature of scripture
- b. Working with texts: the text and its literary context
- c. Working with texts: close observation and formal analysis
- d. Using the tools: historical context, original languages, and word studies
- e. The exegetical essay
- f. Genre and interpretation
- g. Historical developments:
  - Canon, text, and manuscripts
  - Lessons from history
  - Historical criticism
  - Literary criticism (incl. narrative criticism)
  - Social-scientific and advocacy approaches
- h. Hermeneutics and meaning:
  - location of meaning: author, text, reader
  - the nature of biblical authority
  - interpretation as performance
  - theological interpretation
  - when Christians disagree
  - considerations for good biblical interpretation

#### ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

There are <u>four</u> (4) assessment tasks for this course. Further details and instructions are available in a separate "Assessment Instructions" document.

# i. <u>Set readings and forum response:</u>

Read six readings and post a reflection to the online forum via Moodle. Each reading is available on Moodle. As well as doing six posts, each by the due date indicated, you should post a forum response to at least two other postings during the course of the six posts.

Due dates: 3 March, 10 March, 24 March, 28 April, 12 May, 19 May 2015

Length: 1,000 words

Learning outcomes: 4, 6.

Weighting: 15%.

# **Grading Criteria**

- a. Reading with understanding: is the content of the reading understood and summarised accurately?
- b. Informed analysis: is interaction with the readings informed by wider reading and awareness of issues in biblical interpretation?
- c. Critical response: is the point of view of the authors interacted with in a critical evaluative manner?
- d. Personal reflection: does the response include awareness of the significance of interpretation to the life of faith?

## ii. Exegetical Task

You will complete an exegetical task encorporating the following components:

- Part A Literary context, close observation, and analysis (10 hours)
- Part B Using the tools (15 hours).

Due dates: Part A: Tuesday 17 March; Part B: Tuesday 31 March

Length: Part A: 800 words; Part B: 1,200 words (word count excludes

Scripture passage)

Learning outcomes: 1, 2, 4

Weighting: 25%

## **Grading Criteria**

Part A: Literary context, close observation, and formal analysis

- Description of literary context
- Identification of key themes and theological ideas linking the passage with its literary context
- Explanation for the location of the passage and its rhetorical effect
- Identification of key words, phrases, and other literary devices
- Analysis of genre/form
- Analysis of structure
- Analysis of movement

- Awareness of the significance of these factors for understanding the text
- Accurate use of English and bibliographic conventions

Part B: Use of exegetical tools

- Identification of textual variants
- Study of key words and their meaning in context
- Investigation of historical questions raised by the text
- Articulation of the significance of these for understanding the text
- Scholarly contributions, issues and questions noted
- Accurate use of English and bibliographic conventions

## iii. <u>Exegetical Essay</u>

The exegetical essay is the combination of all the relevant data amassed through exegetical analysis, into a coherent and readable discussion that draws out the meaning of the passage and logically unfolds the central integrating theme(s) of the passage. The exegetical essay is written on one of the following texts:

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Proverbs 8:22-31
- Philippians 2:1-11

Due date: Tuesday 5 May

Length: 1,500 words

Learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Weighting: 30%

## **Grading Criteria**

- a. Contextual analysis: historical context
- b. Contextual analysis: literary context
- c. Formal analysis: form, structure and movement
- d. Use of tools
- e. Critical Analysis (i.e. detailed verse by verse analysis)
- f. Critical Judgement
- g. Synthesis
- h. Reflection/Application
- i. Presentation
- j. Accurate use of English and bibliographic conventions

## iv. Hermeneutics Essay

The hermeneutics essay will enable the student to investigate and discuss the strengths and/or weaknesses and the kinds of hermeneutical issues and questions raised with respect to one topic of study. You will select one of the following topics for discussion:

- a discussion of author-centred, text-centred and/or\_reader centred hermeneutics.
- a discussion of one of the following genres and interpretive issues related to interpretation of that genre: prophecy, apocalyptic, wisdom, psalms, or epistles.
- a discussion of the hermeneutical issues raised by one of the following topics of debate: women in church leadership or teaching ministry; sabbath keeping; homosexuality; prosperity doctrine.

You may undertake to investigate an alternative topic of interest to them, if permission is granted by the lecturer.

Due date: Friday 5 June

Length: 1,500 words

Learning outcome: 3, 4, 6

Weighting: 30%

# **Grading Criteria**

a. Breadth of coverage

- b. Depth of treatment
- c. Critical discernment
- d. Independent judgement
- e. Presentation
- f. Accurate use of English and bibliographic conventions

#### **LEARNING HOURS**

Core class periods36 hoursReading reflection16 hoursExegetical Task26 hoursExegetical Essay36 hoursHermeneutics Essay36 hoursTOTAL150 hours

Full attendance at class periods is expected. Unsatisfactory attendance (less than 80%) is grounds for failure of the course.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

25 Feb: Introduction to interpretation, exegesis, hermeneutics

Nature and formation of Scripture

[3 Mar: Reading 1 due]

4 Mar: The text in its literary context

Genre

[10 Mar: Reading 2 due]

11 Mar: Form structure and movement of texts

[17 Mar: Exegetical Task Part A due]

18 Mar: Biblical languages, word studies

Using commentaries and other resources

[Research spot 1]

[24 Mar: Reading 3 due]

25 Mar: Interpretation and the matter of history

[31 Mar: Exegetical Task Part B due]

1 Apr: Writing an exegetical essay 1

[28 Apr: Reading 4 due]

29 Apr: Writing an exegetical essay 2

[5 May: Exegetical Essay due]

6 May: Interpreting biblical genre 1

[12 May: Reading 5 due]

13 May: Interpreting biblical genre 2

[research spot 2]

[19 May: Reading 6 due]

20 May: Authority and performance of Scripture

27 May: Location of meaning

3 Jun: Theological interpretation of Scripture

[5 Jun: Hermeneutical Essay due]

#### SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

The **recommended textbooks** for this course are:

Klein, W., Blomberg, C. and R. Hubbard, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation: Revised and Expanded.* Dallas: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers.* Revised and Expanded Edition. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2009.

## Other Highly Recommended Texts

Duvall, Scott J. & J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting and Applying the Bible.* Grand Rapids, Ml.: Zondervan, 2001.

Fee, Gordon D. & Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All it's Worth,* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Kaiser, Walter C. & Moises Silva. *Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning,* rev.ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Osborne, G. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*, 2<sup>nd</sup>.ed. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

Wright, N.T. Scripture and the Authority of God. London, SPCK, 2005. Also known as The Last Word: Beyond Bible Wars to a New Understanding of the Authority of Scripture.

Strom, M. *The Symphony of Scripture: Making Sense of the Bible's Many Themes.* Philadelphia: P&R, 2002.

Swartley, W.M. Slavery, Sabbath, War and Women. Scottdale: Herald, 1983.

## General Bibliography

- Achtemeier, P.J. *Inspiration and Authority: Nature and Function of Christian Scripture.* Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999.
- Adam, A.K.M. Faithful Interpretation: Reading the Bible in a Postmodern World. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2006.
- Bailey, K.E. *Poet & Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes.* Combined ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- Barton, J. People of the Book? The Authority of the Bible in Christianity. London: SPCK, 1993.
- Bray, G. *Biblical Interpretation: Past & Present.* Leicester: Apollos, 1996. A detailed survey of the history of biblical interpretation from an evangelical perspective.
- Brown, Jeannine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- Briggs, R. Be an Expert in 137 Minutes in Interpreting the Bible. London: SU, 1998.
- Carson, D.A. Exegetical Fallacies, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.
- Carson, D.A. & J.D. Woodbridge, eds. *Hermeneutics, Authority and Canon.* Grand Rapids: Zonderan, 1986.
- Davis E. F. and Richard B. Hays, eds. *The Art of Reading Scripture,* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Dunn, James D.G. The Living Word. London: SCM, 1987.
- Enns, Peter. *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.
- Erickson, M.J. Evangelical Interpretation: Perspectives on Hermeneutical Issues. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Erickson, Richard J. A Beginner's Guide to New Testament Exegesis: Taking the Fear out of the Critical Method. Downers Grove: IVP, 2005.
- Fee, G.D. Gospel and Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Green, J.B. ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Green, J & M. Pasquarello. *Narrative Reading, Narrative Preaching.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.
- Green, Joel and Tim Meadowcroft, eds. *Ears That Hear: Explorations in Theological Interpretation of the Bible.* Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.
- Goldingay, John. *Models for Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_Models for Interpretation of Scripture. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

- Hendricks, H & W. Living by the Book. Chicago: Moody, 1991.
- Longman, T. Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- Longman, T. Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.
- Marshall, Chris. "Re-engaging with the Bible in a Postmodern World", Stimulus 15/1 (2007), 5-16.
- Marshal, I.H. Beyond the Bible: Moving from Scripture to Theology. Milton Keynes: Paternoster / Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Meadowcroft, T.J. *The Message of the Word of God: the Glory of God Made Known.* Nottingham: Intervarsity Press, 2011.
- Silva, M. Has the Church Misread the Bible? Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- Sire, J.W. Twisting Scriptures: 20 Ways the Cults Misread the Bible. Downers Grove: IVP, 1980.
- Stein, R.H. A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.
- Strom, M. "When you Read the Bible, Keep Jesus in Mind." The Briefing 57 (1990), 3-6.
- Tate, W. Randalf. *Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach.* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.
- Thiselton, A.C. *The Two Horizons*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1980.
- Thompson, John L. Reading the Bible with the Dead: What You Can Learn from the History of Exegesis that You Can't Learn from Exegesis Alone. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Virkler, Henry A. & Karelynne Gerber Ayayo. *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- N. Wolterstorff. *Divine Discourse: Philosophical Reflections on the Claim that God Speaks.*Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Wink, W. Transforming Bible Study. London: SCM, 1980.
- Yoder, P. From Word to Life: A Guide to the Art of Bible Study. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1980.
- Zimmermann, Jens. Recovering Theological Hermeneutics: An Incarnational-Trinitarian Theory of Interpretation. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004.
- Also check out **The Scripture and Hermeneutics Series**, edited by C. Bartholomew et.al. and published by Paternoster and Zondervan. There are now six volumes available.

# **Reference Works**

- Bromiley, G. ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, 4 vols. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans.
- Carson, D. R. France, & A. Motyer. New Bible Commentary: 21st century ed. Illinois: IVP, 1994.
- Danker, Frederick William, ed. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Chicago; London: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

- Dowley, Tim, ed. *The Atlas of the Bible and the History of Christianity.* London: Angus Hudson, 1997.
- Keener, Craig, ed. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary New Testament*, Downers Grove, II.: IVP, 1993.
- Kohlberger, J.R. & E. Goodrick. *Zondervan NIV Exhaustive Concordance*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.,. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 1999.
- Marshall, I.H., A.R. Millard, J.I. Packer and D.J. Wiseman. *New Bible Dictionary,* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Illinois: IVP, 1999.
- Metzger, Bruce M. A Textual Commentary on the Greek New Testament: A Companion Volume to the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: United Bible Societies, 1971.
- Richards, Larry O. New Encyclopedia of Bible Words. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J., Craig G. Bartholomew, Daniel J. Treier, N.T. Wright. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Verbrugge, Verlyn, D. ed. *The NIV Theological Dictionary of New Testament Words*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2000.
- Vine, W.E. Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996.
- Walton, John, H. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Old Testament*, Vols. 1-5. Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 2009.

## IVP Reference Dictionaries - New Testament

- Green, J.B., Scot McKnight and I. Howard Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1992.
- Hawthorne, G., Ralph Martin and Daniel Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and his Letters.* Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.
- Martin, R. and Peter Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments.* Downers Grove: IVP, 1997.
- Evans, Craig, A. and Stanley Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background.* Downers Grove, II.: IVP, 2000.

## IVP Reference Dictionaries - Old Testament

- Baker, David W. and T.D. Alexander, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch.* Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.
- Arnold, B.T. and H.G.M. Williamson, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2005.
- Longman III, Tremper, and Peter Enns, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry & Writings.* Downers Grove: IVP, 2008.

## Other Multi-volume Dictionaries highly recommended

Freedman, David Noel, ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, Vols. 1-6. New York: Doubleday, 1992, Vols 1-6.

Dean, Mary Catherine, et al. eds. *The New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible,* Vols. 1-5. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006-9.

## Commentaries

Some key commentary series:

Bible Speaks Today commentary series

Tyndale Old and New Testament commentary series

The NIV Application Commentary

The Expositors Bible Commentary series

New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICNT) series

New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT) series

Word Biblical Commentary series

Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament series

New International Greek Testament Commentary (NIGTC) series