

111.615 Biblical Interpretation
Course Assessment and Delivery outline

Campus: Christchurch
Lecturer: Alistair Donaldson

Semester 1, 2015
NQF level: 6, 15 credits

CONTENT OVERVIEW

- a. Introduction to exegesis, hermeneutics and the nature of Scripture
- b. Grammatico-historical exegesis
- c. The exegetical essay
- d. Interpretive Issues relating to Genre
- e. Historical Developments
 - The formation of the Canon
 - Historical Approaches to Biblical Interpretation
 - Historical-critical Methods
 - Literary-critical Methods
 - Other Modern approaches to Biblical Interpretation
- f. Hermeneutical Considerations

ASSESSMENT TASKS, DUE DATES AND LEARNING HOURS

111.615 is a 15 credit course consisting of 150 learning hours. In assessment track A the assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows.

Task	Weight	Hours
Core class periods (12 x 3 hours)		36 hours
Reading and reflection (2.5 hours per week)		30 hours
Bible Book: Observation & Survey Task	35%	36 hours
Exegetical Essay	65%	48 hours
	100%	150 hours

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

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload.

There are two (2) assessment tasks for this course. These involve the following:

i. Bible Book: Observation & Survey Task

Using the guide provided students will complete an assignment designed to develop skills in close observation of a bible book and present findings by way of identifying the structure (chart form) and a summary of the key themes and message of that book (essay form). You will need to choose which passage you will complete for assessment #2 and complete this assessment based on that book of the bible.

Guidelines will be provided on moodle.

Due date:	End of week 5 ¹
Length:	1250 words plus chart
Learning outcomes:	1, 3, 5.

Grading Criteria

Close observation of the text

- Evidence of thorough observation identifying crucial textual elements of the text
- Analysis of structure and movement, and literary features
- Identification of genre and historical concerns of the original setting as identified from the text
- Identification of key theological and thematic concerns, and links to the wider biblical story
- Awareness of the significance of these factors for understanding the text

ii. Exegetical Essay

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 author's intended meaning and logically unfolds the central integrating theme(s) of the passage. Your essay should evidence critical engagement with secondary sources and demonstrate your awareness of key hermeneutical concerns specific to your chosen text. See assessment guidelines for further information.

Due date:	End of week 11
Length:	2500 words
Learning outcomes:	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

For your exegetical essay, choose one of the following texts:

- Galatians 5:2-12
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Philippians 2:1-11
- 1 Peter 4:12-19

¹ "End of week" refers to the teaching week. Assignments are to be uploaded to the course site by 11:55pm on the Sunday following the week stated.

Grading Criteria

- Historical and Literary context (contextual analysis)
- Literary character (formal analysis) and awareness of hermeneutical concerns specific to the text
- Use of tools and interaction with original language
- Critical Analysis (detailed analysis)
- Critical Judgment and engagement with secondary sources
- Synthesis
- Application
- Presentation

COURSE MATERIALS

All students will be provided with access to the Biblical Interpretation course area in Moodle. The resources available there are maintained by your lecturer.

The **recommended textbook** for this course is:

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

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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, MI.: Zondervan, 2001.

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

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

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

Osborne, G., *The Hermeneutical Spiral*, 2nd.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*, 2nd 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.

Goldingay John, *Models for Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.

_____ *Models for Interpretation of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Hays, R., *The Moral Vision of the New Testament: A Contemporary Introduction to New Testament Ethics*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1996.

Hendricks, H & W., *Living by the Book*. Chicago: Moody, 1991.

Kaiser, W & Silva, M., *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

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.

Marshall, I.H., *Beyond the Bible: Moving from Scripture to Theology*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster /

Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

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.

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Thiselton, A.C., *The Two Horizons*. Exeter: Paternoster, 1980.

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N. Wolterstorff, *Divine Discourse: Philosophical Reflections on the Claim that God Speaks*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

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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

Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible, by Kevin J. Vanhoozer, gen.ed.; Craig G. Bartholomew, Daniel J. Treier, N.T. Wright, assoc. eds. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

New Encyclopedia of Bible Words, by Larry O. Richards. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999. (A good single volume dictionary for use with the TNIV).

New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition, by D. Carson, R. France, & A. Motyer. Illinois: IVP, 1994. (A good single volume commentary)

New Bible Dictionary, 3rd ed, by I.H. Marshall, A.R. Millard, J.I. Packer and D.J. Wiseman. Illinois: IVP, 1999. (Another good single volume dictionary)

The Atlas of the Bible and the History of Christianity, by Tim Dowley, ed. London: Angus Hudson, 1997.

The Illustrated Bible Dictionary, 3 vols. Leicester: IVP, 1980.

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 4 vols, by G. Bromiley, ed. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, by W.E. Vine. Nashville:

Thomas Nelson, 1996. (Note: This dictionary works with Strong's numbering system and is based on the *authorized* and *revised* versions of the Bible, so not the best to use with the TNIV).

Zondervan NIV Exhaustive Concordance, 2nd ed., by J.R. Kohlberger & E. Goodrick. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

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.

Evan, C. and Stanley Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: 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 worth consulting

The Anchor Bible Dictionary, Vols. 1-6. New York: Doubleday, 1992, Vols 1-6.

The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, Vols 1-3. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

(Volumes 4+ are still to come)

Commentaries

The following are in order from easiest to hardest:

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