

LIDLAW COLLEGE

Te Wananga Amorangi

111.615 Biblical Interpretation Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus/Delivery Mode: Distance Learning

Semester 1&2, 2015
NQF Level: 6, 15 credits

CONTENT 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 myth of biblical objectivity
 - hermeneutics of antipathy, suspicion, appreciation or trust
 - theological interpretation
 - when Christians disagree
 - considerations for good biblical interpretation

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

There are four (4) assessment tasks for this course. These involve the following:

i. Online Discussion

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 4, 5
<i>Due Dates:</i>	11.59pm Sunday at the end of weeks 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 11
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	15%
<i>Length:</i>	As below:

Within six of the lessons in this course you are asked to interact with what you have learned by posting a response of 200 words to a question on the online discussion forum on Moodle. In addition to your initial posting, you will be required to make at least one further posting of at least 50 words, which interacts with what your online tutor and other students have said. The second posting for each assessment exercise must be within 7 calendar days of the due date for the initial posting. See the Learning Guide for further details.

ii. Exegetical Task

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
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<i>Due Date:</i>	Parts A, B and C are submitted together by 11.59pm Sunday, at the end of semester week 5
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	30%
<i>Length:</i>	Part A: 300 words (word count does not include your any charts or diagrams) Part B: 500 words (word count does not include your diagram of the text and your work on it) Part C: 1200 words TOTAL: 2000 words

The student will complete an exegetical task incorporating the following components:

- A. Part A - Engaging the text and its literary context (5 hours)
- B. Part B - Close observation and formal analysis (5 hours)
- C. Part C Using the tools (15 hours).

Detailed instructions for the Exegetical Task are included in Appendix A of the learning guide. Students will need to consult with these carefully.

iii. Exegetical Essay

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<i>Due Dates:</i>	11.59pm Sunday, at the end of semester week 10
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	35%
<i>Length:</i>	2000 words

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.

It must be written on one of the following texts:

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

Detailed instructions for the Exegetical Essay are included in Appendix B of the learning guide. Students will need to consult with these carefully.

iv. Hermeneutical Reflection

<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	4, 5, 7
<i>Due Dates:</i>	11.59pm Sunday, at the end of study week 1
<i>Percentage Weighting:</i>	20%
<i>Length:</i>	1000 words

Choose one of the topics listed below and consider the kinds of hermeneutical issues raised with respect to that topic. Do not craft your answer into a well-argued essay. Simply give your own reflection in a succession of paragraphs, each addressing a particular hermeneutical issue and suggesting why it must be considered and how it affects the way a person might read or understand the text. You will need to read at least 3-4 books or articles on the topic to do well. Therefore please include a bibliography. However, avoid quotes.

Select one of the following topics for discussion:

- 1) the formation of the canon and criteria for canonicity
- 2) a dispensational hermeneutic
- 3) a liberation or feminist hermeneutic
- 4) a discussion of author-centred, text-centred and/or reader centred hermeneutics
- 5) a discussion of one of the following genres and interpretive issues related to that genre: prophecy, apocalyptic, wisdom, psalms, or epistles
- 6) a discussion of issues raised by a hermeneutic of antipathy. How would you respond to a person holding this kind of hermeneutic in relation to the Bible?
- 7) a missional hermeneutic
- 8) a discussion of the hermeneutical issues raised by one of the following topics of debate:
 - a) Sabbath keeping
 - b) homosexuality
 - c) prosperity doctrine
 - d) women in church leadership or teaching ministry
 - e) the place of charismatic gifts in the church today.

A student may undertake to investigate an alternative topic of interest to them, if permission is granted by the tutor.

Detailed instructions for the Hermeneutical Reflection are included in Appendix C of the learning guide. Students will need to consult with these carefully.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

i. Online Discussion

Before beginning your first online discussion, please see the grading grid (rubric) on the “online discussion grading guide and mid-semester feedback” for further details on how these criteria will be applied.

- Engagement with material
- Constructive engagement with others
- Structure and presentation
- Timeliness

ii. Exegetical Task

Part A: Engaging the text and its literary context

- Thoughtful engagement with the text and awareness of key features and structure
- Identification of key themes and theological ideas linking the text with its literary context
- Explanation for the location of the text and its rhetorical effect
- Articulation of inward responses

Part B: Close observation and formal analysis

- Logic of diagram/analytical layout of the text
- Identification of key words, phrases, and literary devices
- Analysis of genre/form
- Analysis of structure
- Analysis of movement
- Awareness of the significance of these factors for understanding the text

Part C: 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 factors for understanding the text
- Scholarly contributions, issues and questions noted

iii. Exegetical Essay

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

iv. Hermeneutical Reflection

- Breadth of coverage
- Depth of treatment
- Critical discernment
- Independent judgement
- Presentation (Accurate use of English and bibliographic conventions)

LEARNING HOURS

111.615 is a 15 credit course consisting of 150 learning hours. The assignment tasks and learning hours are as follows.

Task	Weight	Hours
Interaction with course materials		60 hours
Online Discussion	15%	15 hours
Exegetical Task	30%	25 hours
Exegetical Essay	35%	35 hours
Hermeneutical Reflection	20%	15 hours
	100%	150 hours

Although this guideline regarding learning hours is not intended to be applied rigidly, it should help ensure a balanced workload. It is expected that you complete one lesson per week. Online discussion is an integral part of this course, and is both assessed and compulsory. The online discussion undergirds the learning process and helps to structure the course for the students.

TEXTBOOK:

The **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.

These texts are **compulsory** for distance learning students

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.

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: Zondervan, 1986.

Corley, Bruce, Steve Lemke and Grant Lovejoy, eds. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2002. **E-book**.

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.
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- Fee, G.D., *Gospel and Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Gilmore, Alec. *A Concise Dictionary of Bible Origins and Interpretation*. London; New York: T & T Clark, 2006. **E-book**.
- 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.
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- 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.
- Longman, T., *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
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- Meadowcroft, T.J. *The Message of the Word of God: the Glory of God Made Known*. Nottingham: Intervarsity Press, 2011.
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- 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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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*, 3rd ed. Chicago; London: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
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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, Ill.: 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