I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a comprehensive introduction to the interpretation of Scripture. An emphasis on the history of redemption serves as a basic framework for both interpretation and application. Following introduction to principles of general hermeneutics (nature of Scripture, context, diagramming and semantics), the student will develop skills in interpreting the Bible’s major genres and applying texts using a redemptive-historical framework.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

To equip the student with a consistent methodology for interpreting and applying the Word of God by...

- introducing the student to the importance of context, diagramming and semantics in Biblical interpretation.
- providing guidelines for interpreting epistle, narrative, poetry, wisdom literature, prophecy, apocalyptic and parable in Scripture.
- providing guidelines for interpreting a passage in light of the redemptive-historical development of the whole Bible and for moving interpretation to contextualization.

III. COURSE CONTENT

January 31 – February 1

Introduction – The Nature of Scripture and Biblical Interpretation

General Hermeneutics: Context, Syntax and Semantics

February 28 – March 1

The Big Story of the Bible

Redemptive History and OT Narrative

Typology and Prophecy

April 4-5

Poetry

Wisdom

NT Narrative - Gospels and Acts

Parable

May 2-3

Epistle

Apocalyptic

Biblical Theology and the Hermeneutical Spiral

Application and the Holy Spirit
IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student's grade will be determined by:

- **Reading Assignments (15% of course grade)** In a modular course like this it is crucial to have a framework for intensive class lecture / discussion. Because of this, students are expected to complete the assigned reading (see below) before each class weekend. It is hoped that students will complete the first reading assignment in preparation for the first class. It will not be officially due, however, until one week after our first class. **Please note that all subsequent reading assignments will be due at the beginning of class on Fridays.** For all reading assignments students will be asked to report the percentage of the reading assignment completed. **Reading completed after the deadline will not be credited.**

- **Biblical Interpretation Assignments (45% of course grade)** - Students will complete three practical assignments working with biblical passages. This will provide the opportunity to apply class lectures and reading and help students develop their hermeneutical skills. **Assignments are due at the beginning of class on Fridays.** Further details on these assignments will be given in class.

- **Final Exam (40% of course grade)** - This will be a closed book take home exam covering all lecture material and readings for the entire course. Students should have access to a trustworthy email account, in order to receive the final exam by email. The exam will be **returned to the professor by email no later than May 16, 2014.** Students will be asked to affirm before God that they have abided by the requirements of the exam (limitations, time limit etc.)

Please note that grades will be penalized 5% per day (or any part thereof) for lateness. For example, one hour late = 1 day late (5%); 25 hours late = 2 days late (10%). All due dates are assumed to be by midnight at the conclusion of the date noted. In the case of an unforeseen emergency that makes submission of assignments impossible, please email the professor.

Reading and Interpretation Assignments (**IBI** and **AP** refer to Required Texts. See bibliography)

**Feb 7 Reading Due**

- Introduction, Hermeneutics and the Nature of Scripture - **IBI** pp. 3-20, 53-78, 82-98: **AP** pp. 1-80
- General Hermeneutics: Context and Background - **IBI** pp. 155-183
- Semantics and Word Studies - **IBI** pp. 183-199
- Syntax - Book Charts and Diagramming - **IBI** pp. 199b-214

**Feb 28 Biblical Interpretation Assignment 1 Due**

**Reading Due**

- Unfolding the Big Story; OT Narrative - **AP** pp. 81-186;
- Prophecy - **IBI** pp. 292-312
April 4
**Biblical Interpretation Assignment 2 Due**

**Reading Due**

Poetry - *IBI* pp. 215-255; Wisdom - *IBI* pp. 313-322;

Narrative - Gospels and Acts - *AP*, pp. 187-244; *IBI* pp. 323-336a, 344-351

Parable - *IBI* pp. 336-340

May 2
**Biblical Interpretation Assignment 3 Due**

**Reading Due**

Epistle - *IBI* pp. 352-366

Apocalyptic - *IBI* pp. 366-374

Biblical Theology and the Hermeneutical Spiral - *IBI* pp. 100-116

Application and the Holy Spirit - *IBI* pp. 377-426

V. **Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94% - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% - 93.99%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87% - 89.99%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83% - 86.99%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% - 82.99%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77% - 79.99%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73% - 76.99%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70% - 72.99%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67% - 69.99%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>63% - 66.99%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>59.99% and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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VI. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Required Reading:**


Standard translation of the Bible, such as NIV/TNIV, RSV/NRSV, ESV, NASB, KJV/NKJV, HCSB; paraphrases or amplified translations, such as LB (Living Bible), NLT, GNB, CEB, The Amplified Bible, The Message, are not acceptable for this class.
Other Recommended Texts


