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BI 14 (3 hrs.): Biblical Hermeneutics

Course Description: Covers principles of Reformed hermeneutics, history of hermeneutics, sources of hermeneutical principles, canonical structure and hermeneutics, biblical genres and hermeneutics, the Bible's interpretation of the Bible, biblical theology and hermeneutics, typology, and contemporary issues.

Educational Objectives:

By means of class lectures and discussions, reading the textbooks and articles, writing assignments, quizzes, and the final exam, students will be introduced to the issues involved with the study of biblical hermeneutics.

Textbook:

Required Texts and Articles (747 total pages)

Baugh, S. M. "Hermeneutics and Biblical Theology" in *Modern Reformation* 2/2 (November-December 1993) (6pp.). <http://www.bible-researcher.com/baugh1.html>

Beale, G. K. "Did Jesus and his Followers Preach the Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts?" *Themelios* 14.3 (April 1989): 91-96 (7pp.).

http://s3.amazonaws.com/tgc-documents/journal-issues/14.3_Beale.pdf

_____. "Did Jesus and the Apostles Preach the Right Doctrine from the Wrong Text? Revisiting the Debate Seventeen Years Later in the Light of Peter Enns' Book, *Inspiration and Incarnation*" in *Themelios* 32.1 (October 2006): 18-43 (25pp.)

http://s3.amazonaws.com/tgc-documents/journal-issues/32.1_beale.pdf

Berkhof, Louis. *Principles of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1950 (various editions; 166pp.).

Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984 (various printings; 144pp.).¹

Glenny, W. Edward. "Typology: A Summary Of The Present Evangelical Discussion" in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 40:4 (March 1997): 627-38 (13pp.).

http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/article_typology_glenny.html

Johnson, Dennis E. *Him We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2007. (Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 7; 168pp.)

McCartney, Dan G. "Should we employ the hermeneutics of the New Testament writers?" a paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in 2003 (14pp.). <http://www.bible-researcher.com/mccartney1.html>

McCartney Dan and Clayton, Charles. *Let the Reader Understand*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2002. (Chapters 2 (pp. 31-52), 4-8; appendices a and b [163pp.])

¹ Students without at least one year of Elementary Greek will struggle at times reading Carson. However, the issues he covers are so crucial the struggle will be well worth it.

Poythress, Vern S. "The Presence of God Qualifying Our Notions of Grammatical-Historical Interpretation: Genesis 3:15 as a Test Case" in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 50/1 (2007): 87-103 (14pp.).

http://www.frame-poythress.org/poythress_articles/2007Presence.htm

_____. "What is Literal Interpretation?" in *Reformed Perspectives Magazine*, Volume 11, Number 29, July 19 to July 25 2009 (7pp.).

http://reformedperspectives.org/newfiles/ver_poythress/ver_poythress.Literal.Interpretation.pdf

Steinmetz, David C. "The Superiority of Pre-Critical Exegesis" in *Theology Today* (April 1980): 27-38 (11pp.). <http://theologytoday.ptsem.edu/apr1980/v37-1-article2.htm>

Swanson, Scott A. "Can We Reproduce The Exegesis Of The New Testament? Why Are We Sill Asking?" in *Trinity Journal* 17:1 (Spring 1996) (9pp.). <http://www.bible-researcher.com/swanson.html>

The Holy Bible. The professor will utilize the New American Standard Updated Edition.

Supplemental Text

Patzia, Arthur G. and Petrotta, Anthony J. *Pocket Dictionary of Biblical Studies*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002 (very highly recommended).

General Requirements of the Course:

The student is required to attend all lectures, participate in class discussion, and do all the assigned homework. If a student misses a lecture, he is responsible to watch it via ADOBE Connect prior to the next class meeting and to insure that the professor is made aware of this. *No late work will be accepted for credit, except in case of emergency as defined by the professor.*

Reading and Writing Assignments:

Reading

Students are required to read all the assigned texts and articles above. Students are highly encouraged to use the *Pocket Dictionary* while reading. The professor may suggest or hand out other reading materials for the energetic student, though not mandatory for course credit.

Writing

The writing assignments will be due as determined below in the course outline.

- (1) A detailed outline of Berkhof's *Principles of Biblical Interpretation* (2pp. minimum, 4pp, maximum). No outline under two pages or over four pages will be accepted. The outline should be 12 font, Times New Roman, single-spaced.
- (2) A book review of Carson's *Exegetical Fallacies* (1,200-1,500 words). The professor will hand out an example book review to be followed in format and writing style. No review under 1,200 or over 1,500 words will be accepted. The review should be 12 font, Times New Roman, single-spaced.
- (3) Four (4) two – four page essays interacting with the assigned articles. The student chooses which four he wants to write on. No essay under two or over four pages will be accepted. The essays should be 12 font, Times New Roman, single-spaced.

Course Outline:

The Course Outline is as follows.²

Date	Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments	Reading, Quiz, Exam, Writing Due Dates
Week 1: April 20 & 22	Lectures: Introductions, Syllabus, Texts and articles, General Introduction to Hermeneutics Reading: Steinmetz	Reading: Berkhof, Poythress (2)
Week 2: April 27 & 29	Lectures: Principles and Practices of Hermeneutics Reading: McCartney and Clayton	Quiz #1 Reading: Steinmetz
Week 3: May 4 & 6	Lectures: History of Hermeneutics	Quiz #2 Reading: McCartney and Clayton
Week 4: May 11 & 13	Lectures: Sources of Hermeneutical Principles, Canonical Structure and Hermeneutics Reading: Carson	Quiz #3 Writing: Detailed outline of Berkhof
Week 5: May 18 & 20	Lectures: Canonical Structure and Hermeneutics, Biblical Genres and Hermeneutics Reading: Johnson	Quiz #4 Reading: Carson Writing: Book review of Carson
Week 6: May 25 & 27	Lectures: The Bible's Interpretation of the Bible Reading: Swanson, Beale (2), Baugh	Quiz #5 Reading: Johnson
Week 7: June 1 & 3	Lectures: The Bible's Interpretation of the Bible, Biblical Theology and Hermeneutics Reading: Glenny, Beale (2)	Quiz #6 Reading: Swanson, McCartney, Baugh
Week 8: June 8 & 10	Lectures: Typology, Contemporary Issues	FINAL Reading: Glenny, Beale (2) Writing: Four essays

Course Requirements:

All assigned reading and writing must be completed as designated above. Attendance is required for each class lecture. Please notify the professor if you have to miss a lecture. Quizzes will be given as scheduled above. They will be based on the class lectures. The final will be comprised of questions taken from the quizzes and the last lectures prior to the final. Course work will be considered incomplete until each of the responsibilities listed in this syllabus are completed.

Grading Plan:

Grades will be tabulated as follows: 6 quizzes (50% of total grade), one exam (25% of total grade), reading assignments (10% of total grade) and writing assignments (15% of total grade).

Academic Performance:

No student will be deemed to have successfully completed the work in any MCTS course who does not achieve a cumulative grade of 75 or above for his course work. No individual quiz or exam will be accepted which does not achieve a score of 71 or above. The letter equivalents for the percentile grades assigned are as follows:

² This is only a guide. The professor reserves the right to adapt as the semester progresses.

A -- 96-100 B- -- 81-84
A- -- 91-95 C+ -- 78-80
B+ -- 88-90 C -- 75-77
B -- 85-87 C- -- 71-74

Times and Places of Class Meetings:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
Tuesday	7:00pm-9:02pm CT	MCTS Lecture Hall
Thursday	7:00pm-9:02pm-CT	MCTS Lecture Hall

Schedule of Lectures:

Lectures will begin on Tuesday, April 20th and end on Thursday, June 10th.

Electronic Devices:

The use of all electronic devices (cell phones, mp3 players, ipods, etc.) during class is strictly forbidden. Lap-tops are permissible for note-taking only.