



## On-Campus Course Syllabus

### BIB 105 FA.L1

### Hermeneutics

### Fall 2020

#### Class Information

**Day and Time:** M/W: 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

**Room Number:** TBD

#### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Everett Berry

**Instructor Email:** eberry@criwell.edu

**Instructor Phone:** 214-818-1356

**Instructor Office Hours:**

Mon: 12:45-1:45, 4:30-5:30

Wed: 10:00-11:00, 4:30-5:30

#### Course Description and Prerequisites

A study of the transmission and translation of the Scriptures and of the principles and procedures of their interpretation and application.

#### Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the aforementioned topics. While it will be based upon the lecture format, it also will include reading, research, and interaction. Furthermore, at the end of this course, students should demonstrate the ability to . . .

1. Outline a brief history of the formation of the English Bible, giving strengths and weaknesses of major modern translations in English.
2. Recognize and define the pertinent issues, fundamental terms, and theological categories that are used when discussing the process of biblical interpretation.
3. Explain historical movements, current trends, and controversial issues in hermeneutics.
4. Distinguish different genres of biblical literature and demonstrate proficiency in applying the basic rules that govern the interpretation of each kind.
5. Analyze a given passage of Scripture using the basic steps of inductive Bible study.

#### Required Textbooks

- \* *The Bible*: The professor typically uses the *New American Standard* or the *Christian Standard Version* during class lectures.
- \* Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- \* Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to the Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2002.
- \* Plummer, Robert. *40 Questions about Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2010.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

### Reading Assignments (30%)

The approximately 890 pages of required reading are a crucial component of this course. As the class progresses, it is expected that students will read the assigned pages thoughtfully and according to the schedule given on the calendar. Likewise, by the end of the semester, students will be required to report the percentage of reading that has been completed. To do so-

1. Students are to click the link entitled *Reading Report* which is located on the Canvas modules page.
2. After entering that site, students can then click the *Reading Report icon* and then subsequently click the *Begin Button* to enter the *Reading Report* page.
3. Next, students can see the total number of pages listed, record their total percentage of pages read in the response box and finally click the *Save and Submit Button* to upload their answer for grade credit.
4. Also note that if all of the reading has not been finished, students will only receive credit for the completed percentage that they report.

### Quizzes (20%)

Students are responsible for ten quizzes that will be given on assorted quizzes throughout the semester. Their purpose is to test the student's knowledge of the assigned pages in either Plummer's or Duvall/Hays' textbooks which are marked by **bold print** and a Q# symbol in the far right column of the course schedule. Specifications for taking the quizzes include the following-

1. Quizzes can only be taken in the weekly order as listed in the course schedule. Specifically, quizzes will be available on the class Canvas website and students are required to take each assigned quiz between the Monday (after 12:01 AM) and Friday (before 11:59 PM) of each designated quiz week.
2. They are taken by clicking on the link entitled *Quizzes*, which is located in the left column of the Canvas homepage. Students can then click the available link on the site to take the necessary quiz, which includes ten questions that are provided one at a time with students being prohibited from backtracking once they have answered one question and moved to the next one.
3. The quizzes are to be taken in the allotted time of 15 minutes without consulting notes, textbooks, or other helps. Once students begin each quiz, a set timer in Canvas commences which cannot be paused and it will continue to run until the time limit has expired.
4. There will be no make-up quizzes, but the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
5. Students are not allowed to disclose information regarding the content of quizzes to other students. Furthermore, when taking quizzes it is recommended that students use some form of a laptop or desktop computer as opposed to other electronic devices (e.g., ipad, iphones, tablets, etc.) to minimize the possibility of losing an internet signal or not having software that is adaptable to Canvas programs.

### Exams (30%)

Two multiple-choice exams are given in this course; one covering the lecture material from 8/22 to 9/26 and the other covering material from 10/3 to 12/5. Specifications for taking each exam include the following-

1. Exams will cover material from Plummer, Duvall/Hays and class lectures. For preparation, students may consult the *Review Sheets* as well as the *Class Notes* and *Powerpoints* which are available on Canvas.
2. Exams can only be taken in the assigned order as listed in the course schedule and no late exams will be allowed. Each one is made available only for designated weeks during the semester.
3. They are taken by clicking on the link entitled *Exams*, which is located in the Canvas homepage. Students can then click the available link on the site to take the necessary exam, which includes 50 questions that are

provided one at a time with students being prohibited from backtracking once they have answered one question and moved to the next one.

4. They are to be taken in the allotted time of 60 minutes without consulting notes, textbooks, or any other helps. Also once students begin each one, a set timer in Canvas commences which cannot be paused and it will continue to run until the time limit has expired.
5. Students are not allowed to disclose information regarding the content of exams to other students. Furthermore, when taking exams it is recommended that students use some form of a laptop or desktop computer as opposed to other electronic devices (e.g., ipad, iphones, tablets, etc.) to minimize the possibility of losing an internet signal or not having software that is adaptable to Canvas programs.

### **Paper (20%)**

Each student will be required to turn in a bibliography of thirty sources that highlights scholarly commentaries and/or exegetical studies on one book of the Bible. The paper must...

1. Be typed in black with Times-New Roman font, font size 12.
2. Have least 5 sources that are journal articles and/or specialized essays in various anthologies, and/or articles in assorted theological dictionaries.
3. Contain no sources referenced from Internet websites.
4. Include sources that are solely devoted to whatever topic is chosen. So for instance, if a student chooses to compile a bibliography on the book of Romans, they must list sources that are completely about that book. Students are not to list sources that merely mention or partially discuss their subject.
5. Include a cover page and be written in accordance to the guidelines found in *The Criswell College Manual of Style*. (Note if students have questions not addressed in CCMS, they should then consult the most recent edition of Turabian's guide to writing research papers.)
6. Also students can consult title page and bibliography reference templates that are provided under the *Paper Assignment* rubric. Upon clicking this link, students can then scroll down and consult an example of a Title Page and Bibliography that have been properly formatted.
7. If the student should choose to use the resources that are available in the Wallace Library, then note the following means of access:
  - \* Phone: 214.818.1348
  - \* Web: [http://www.criswell.edu/current\\_students/library/](http://www.criswell.edu/current_students/library/)
8. Papers are to be uploaded into Blackboard for final grading. To do so-
  - \* Simply click the link entitled *Paper Assignment*, which is located on the Canvas homepage, and then...
  - \* Click the link entitled *Paper Assignment: Click here to Submit*.
  - \* Next scroll down and click on "Browse My Computer."
  - \* Then find the paper on your computer and click open/submit in either a Word Document or PDF format.
  - \* You can write any comments in the "comments" field and click "Submit."
9. Finally, one must turn in a paper to receive a passing grade in the course.

### **Due Date for All Assignments**

While the quizzes and exams are to be completed by the assorted dates assigned on the Course Schedule, the Textbook Reading Report and the Paper Assignment are due by 12/2/20. Also note that these assignments will not be accepted after the due date.

## Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

For this course, missing more than fifteen (15) minutes at the beginning or end of a class period will count as one absence. Therefore, students who wish to depart early should clear it with the professor. Also, three instances of tardiness of fifteen minutes or less equals one absence. *Finally, six absences will result in a full letter reduction of the final grade and absences exceeding six will result in failure of the course.*

## Covid Exemptions:

If students are denied entry onto campus because of a high temperature or must miss class as a result of an illness related to Covid-19, they must contact the professor (via email) within 24 hours so the pertinent absences can be categorized as distinct because of the current pandemic. Likewise, if the illness is prolonged because of Covid-19 complications, students must contact Student Services to confirm the matter and then plans can be made to determine whether they can continue in the course through another means.

## Grading Scale

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

## Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be

removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the “I” will become an “F.”

## **Academic Honesty**

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- \* cheating of any kind,
- \* submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- \* plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- \* failing to credit sources properly in written work.

## **Institutional Email Policy**

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## **Disabilities**

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## **Resources and Support**

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech

support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or [studentservices@criswell.edu](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at [deanofstudents@criswell.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu).

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing [writingcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:writingcenter@criswell.edu) or calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

The following course schedule is proposed but subject to change.

M/W	CONTENT	SHELLEY
M 8/17	* Introduction to the Course	
W 8/19	* Preliminaries to Hermeneutics	Plummer: Chps 1-2, 8, 10-11; Goldsworthy: Chps 1-5
M 8/24	* History of Biblical Interpretation	<b>Q#1 D/H: Chp 6</b> , Chps 2-5, 7; Plummer: Chps 9, 38-40; Goldsworthy: Chps 6-7
W 8/26	* History of the Bible in English	D/H: Chps 1, 8
M 8/31	* Philosophy of Bible Translation	<b>Q#2 Plummer: Chp 7</b>
W 9/2	* Philosophy of Hermeneutics	Plummer: Chps 3-4, 14-15
<b>LABOR DAY (M 9/7)</b>		
W 9/9	* Theological Commitments	<b>Q#3 D/H: Appendix 1</b> , Chp 10
M 9/14	* Textual & Theological Challenges	<b>Q#4 D/H: Chp 9</b> , Chp 11
W 9/16	* Common Interpretive Fallacies	Goldsworthy: Chps 8-17
M 9/21	* The Role of the Spirit in Hermeneutics	<b>Q#5 Plummer: Chp 16</b> , Chps 12, 18-20
W 9/23	* Applying the Bible	D/H: Chps 12-13
<b>MID-TERM (M 9/28 - F 10/2)</b>		
M 9/28	* What is Textual Criticism?	Plummer: 5, 37
W 9/30	* Types of Literary Genre	Plummer: Chps 21, 26
M 10/5	* Figures of Speech	<b>Q#6 Plummer: Chp 27</b>
W 10/7	* Biblical Narrative: Part 1	Plummer: Chp 22
M 10/12	* Biblical Narrative: Part 2	<b>Q#7 D/H: Chp 18</b> , Chp 16
W 10/14	* Law Treaties	D/H: Chp 19
M 10/19	* Poetry	<b>Q#8 D/H: Chp 20</b> ; Plummer: Chps 28-31
W 10/21	* Proverbs (Wisdom Literature)	D/H: Chp 22
M 10/26	* Prophetic Literature: Part 1	<b>Q#9 D/H: Chp 21</b>
W 10/28	* Prophetic Literature: Part 2	Plummer: Chps 23-24
M 11/2	* Parables: Part 1	Plummer: Chps 32-33
W 11/4	* Parables: Part 2	
M 11/9	* Epistles: Part 1	<b>Q#10 D/H: Chp 14</b>
W 11/11	* Epistles: Part 2	Plummer: Chps 34-35
M 11/16	* Apocalyptic: Part 1	D/H: Chp 17
W 11/18	* Apocalyptic: Part 2	Plummer: Chp 25
<b>FALL BREAK (M 11/23 – F 11/27)</b>		
M 11/30	* What is Biblical Theology?	Plummer: Chp 17; Goldsworthy: Chps 18-26
W 12/2	* Tools to Use in Bible Study * <b>Reading Report &amp; Paper Due</b>	Plummer: Chp 13
<b>FINAL EXAM (M 12/7 – F 12/11)</b>		

## Selected Bibliography

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## On-Campus Course Syllabus

### ADDENDUM FOR FA-20

#### BIB 105 FA.L1

#### Hermeneutics

In the event that Criswell College has to close the campus to on-campus classes in during the FA-20 semester, this addendum specifies how your instructor intends to adjust the course in order to allow students to meet the course objectives.

The course requirements, assignments, calendar, and attendance requirements from the syllabus for this course are replicated below. Notes and changes to the information in syllabus are highlighted. Information that is no longer relevant is indicated with a strike through the font and replacement or new information is placed in italics.

#### Course Requirements and Assignments

There are no changes for any assignments, quizzes, or exams including how and when they are to be completed.

#### Class Attendance

There are no changes for the attendance policy in the course, except for the following instructions if the class can no longer meet on campus.

#### Remote Class Sessions: Identity and Participation Verification

*If this course is restricted from meeting on campus due to Covid-19 setbacks, note the following requirements:*

- 1. Students must participate each week during the regular scheduled time slot via a connection to a zoom link provided by the professor.*
- 2. Students must have a stable internet connection on a working device with a functioning microphone so they can interact with others in the class.*
- 3. Students must also have access to a functioning camera so they can be visible to the professor during each class.*
- 4. Students must meet these requirements each week to be counted as present for every class period.*