



On-Campus Course Syllabus

BIB 505 FA.L1

Biblical Hermeneutics

Fall 2021

Class Information

Day and Time: Monday: 7:30pm – 10:00pm

Room Number: E205

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Everett Berry

Instructor Email: eberry@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1356

Instructor Office Hours: TBD

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.
- * Bartholomew, Craig G., and Michael W. Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
- * Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
- * Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading Assignments (30%)

The approximately 900 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 assigned on assorted weeks throughout the semester. Their purpose is to test the student's knowledge of the assigned pages of Duvall/Hays' textbook 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 8/23 to 9/27 and the other covering material from 10/4 to 12/6. Specifications for taking each exam include the following:

1. Exams will cover material from 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 write a 10-12 research page paper (*double-spaced*) that examines one of the following eight issues pertaining to various hermeneutical concerns:

1. Research a particular biblical passage that is heavily disputed among textual critics as to whether it is authentic or not; e.g., Mark 16: 9-20; John 8:1-11, 1 Jn 5:7.
2. Examine the hermeneutical approaches of a major thinker in Christian history; e.g., Origen of Alexandria, Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, etc.
3. Address modern-day objections to a particular passage in the Torah pertaining to slavery, genocide, marriage, or uncleanness regulations. How should the passage of your choice be understood in its original context and in light of the New Testament?
4. Try to resolve a passage in the Old Testament that speaks about God repenting over a decision he made or changing his mind in light of diverging circumstances. How should such a passage be interpreted?
5. Write an exegetical paper that examines the meaning of a particular parable that Jesus told in one of the gospels.
6. Write a paper that examines one account that is mentioned by all of the Synoptic Gospels and show how they can possibly be harmonized exegetically and historically.
7. Analyze the way a passage in the Old Testament is interpreted by a New Testament author.
8. Discuss the Old Testament background to a specific image that is prominent in the book of Revelation; e.g., The woman clothed in the sun, the four beasts before God's throne, the slain lamb who makes war with the nations, or Jesus coming in the clouds to judge the world, etc.

In writing the paper, it must . . .

1. Be typed in black with Times-New Roman font, font size 12.
2. Include a cover sheet with the title of the paper, student's name and box number, and the date of submission.
3. 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*.)
4. Be uploaded to the student's Canvas account in accordance with the following instructions for submission-
 - * 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."
 - * Note as well that because of these instructions, no hard copies will be accepted.

5. Also, 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/

The paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria.

1. **Content:** The paper must be clearly defined and cover the material under consideration. It must be written in a logically coherent and readable manner, which includes an introduction, a body of the paper in which the ideas are developed, and then a conclusion. In addition, a bibliography of the works cited must be included at the end as well.
2. **Research:** At least 10 sources must be used and proper citation given. No Internet sources may be used other than on-line journals. Likewise, at least 3 sources must be essays found in theological journals, anthologies, and/or dictionaries. Finally, be aware of the rules against plagiarism that are discussed below.
3. **Form and Style:** The paper must be written using the correct format as well as proper grammar and spelling. Note that if the paper contains excessive grammatical errors, misspellings, or typos, it will receive a grade of a zero and students will not be able to rewrite the paper to change the grade. Other formatting requirements include the following points:
 - * The paper must be typed in New Roman 12-point font, but not in italics, bold, or upper case-lettering.
 - * All margins must be one inch.
 - * Paper must have an unjustified right margin.
 - * While footnotes are preferred, endnotes are acceptable.
 - * Also, to see how the paper is to be formatted properly, students can reference templates for the title page, research paper and bibliography under the *Paper Assignment* rubric, which again is located on the Canvas homepage.
4. **On Time:** Finally, one must turn in a paper to receive a passing grade in the course.

Due Dates for All Assignments

While the quizzes and exams are to be completed by the assorted dates assigned on the Course Schedule, the Bibliographic Paper Assignment is due by 11/29 (midnight) and the Textbook Reading Report is due by 12/6 (midnight). Also note that these assignments will not be accepted after these due dates.

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. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

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, three absences will result in a full letter reduction of the final grade and absences exceeding three will result in failure of the course.

Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

Grading Scale

Letter	Range	Ratio
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 instructors 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 close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, 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 Assessment

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college’s academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student’s course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student’s work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

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 instructor, 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 Supports

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.

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. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at deanofstudents@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu. Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing tutoringcenter@criswell.edu or by calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

(The following course schedule is proposed but subject to change.)

M	CONTENT	TEXTBOOK READING
8/16	* Intro to Class * Intro to Writing and Research	
8/23	* Preliminaries to Hermeneutics * History of Biblical Interpretation	D/H: Q#1 Chp 6 Chps 2-5
8/30	* History of the English Bible * Philosophy of Translation	D/H: Q#2 Chp 1
LABOR DAY 9/6		
9/13	* Philosophy of Hermeneutics * Theological Commitments in Hermeneutics	D/H: Q#3 Appendix 1; Chps 7, 10
9/20	* Textual & Theological Challenges * Common Interpretive Fallacies	D/H: Q#4 Chp 9 Carson: Chps 1-5
9/27	* The Role of the Spirit in Interpretation * Applying the Bible	D/H: Q#5 Chp 12; Chp 11, 13
MID-TERM (10/4 – 10/8)		
10/4	* What is Textual Criticism?	
STUDENT DEVELOPMENT WEEK (10/11 – 10/15)		
10/18	* Figures of Speech * The Role of Literary Genre	D/H: Chp 8
10/25	* Biblical Narrative * Law Treaties	D/H: Q#6 Chp 18; Chp 16
11/1	* Poetry * Proverbs	D/H: Q#7 Chp 20; Chps 19, 22
11/8	* Prophetic Literature	D/H: Q#8 Chp 21
11/15	* Parables * Epistles	D/H: Q#9 Chp 14; Chp 15
READING WEEK (11/22 – 11/26)		
11/29	* Apocalyptic * Paper Due	D/H: Q#10 Chp 17
12/6	* What is Biblical Theology? * Using Tools for Bible Study * Reading Report	D/H: Appendix 3 Bartholomew & Goheen: Chps 1-6
FINAL EXAM (12/7 – 12/10)		

Selected Bibliography

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