

U-BS204 Grasping God's Word: Introduction to Hermeneutics
A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying God's Word

Spurgeon College, SBC CLD SYLLABUS
Fall 2019– 3 CREDIT HOURS

Class Location: Heartland Church Network (conference room)
2100 S 51st St
Omaha, NE 68157

Class Meetings: Class Hours: 6:00 - 9:00 PM Tuesdays
August 20, 2019 – December 3, 2019

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Professor: Steve J Hicks, M.Div., D. Min.
Office Phone: 402-292-4546 Cell: 402-297-2693
Office: LifeSpring Church 13904 South 36th St; Bellevue, NE 68123
Email: shicks@lifespringchurch.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will equip Bible students to read, study, interpret, and apply God's Word. The student will experience a variety of disciplines and learning techniques in order to gain a working knowledge of the proper interpretation principles of Scripture. Each student will gain confidence in understanding Bible passages in their contexts, and will be able to experience the joy and freedom that the Holy Spirit gives those who seek God in His Word and obey Him.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon the successful completion of this course, the students will:

1. Demonstrate their general knowledge of the major aspects of biblical hermeneutics.
2. Demonstrate their knowledge of how to read (observe), interpret, and apply different genres of Scripture.
3. Present an exegetical paper with a team of students, following the specific guidelines given in the text book, thereby learning how to follow a system, exegete a passage, and communicate the results of inductive study.
4. The student will develop effective skills in reading, exploring, thinking (individually and as a group) and discussing major tenants of biblical interpretation.
5. Through class lectures, readings, discovery, writing, and discussion, the student will comprehend the theological significance of proper biblical interpretation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Reading Report [10% of final grade]:** The student will read assigned chapters in *Grasping God's Word* by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hayes, Third edition: Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN 13: 978-0-310-49257-3.

All weekly reading assignments must be completed *prior to the beginning of each Tuesday class* in order to maximize the student's learning during the class presentations and in-class discussion. The student will submit a copy of his/her reading report at the beginning of class on **October 1** and **November 26**. The reading report is located on page 6 of this syllabus. Late reports will not be accepted.

- 2. Weekly Quizzes [20% of the grade]:** Weekly quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class. The instructor will also use the quizzes for recording attendance. The quiz questions will be taken from the assigned reading for the week, and the class presentation from the previous week. The lowest grade will be dropped if the student completes all 11 quizzes. Quizzes may be made up by contacting the professor, if the absence is excused. The student is responsible for contacting the professor.
- 3. Midterm Exam and Final Exam [30% of final grade; 15% each]:**
The midterm exam will be given on Tuesday, October 8. The final exam will be given on Tuesday, December 3. Further details on these exams will be announced during the course. These two exams will include each of the course requirements (see below) covered up to the dates of examination, respectively.
- 4. Worksheets: [15% of final grade]** A variety of worksheets and/or written assignments will be given at the end of class meetings. These are due at the beginning of the following week. Late papers will not be accepted unless the student is absent with an excused absence. If there is an excused absence, the assignment or worksheet is due at the beginning of the next class the student attends.
- 5. Group Exegetical Paper: [15% of final grade]** Each student will team up with one or two (3 max to a team) other classmates and together will produce an exegetical paper. With the instructor's guidance and direction, the students will select from one of the following 8 texts a) Genesis 50:15-21; b) Psalm 22:1-21; c) Jeremiah 29:10-14; d) Matthew 6: 25-34; e) John 10:22-30; f) Acts 2:36-41; g) Romans 10:5-13; h) Revelation 3:14-22. Each group must do its own work and may not compare notes with the interpretation of another group. Each group will follow the explicit guidelines found on pages 455-457 of the text. More information will be shared during class.

Grading of the paper:

Form and style (typing, spelling, grammar)	10%
Research (use of resources)	10%
Main idea and outline	10%
Context (historical, cultural, and literary)	20%
Content (theological accuracy, length, logic)	20%
Application	20%
Team Work	10%

Since students will present these as a team effort, late papers will not be accepted.

6. Participation [10% of final grade]: Active participation in class discussion, based upon a careful reading of the assigned chapters and completion of assigned worksheets is mandatory for each student taking this course. The following are some sample questions, which the course instructor will use as criteria in evaluating each student's participation in class discussion:

- 1) Is the student present? The college's policy requires a student to attend at least 75% of class sessions to receive course credit. In a 15-week course, the maximum allowable absences is three (3). If a student needs to make up a class session due to excusable circumstances, he/she can discuss this with the professor.
- 2) Is the student punctual and attentive during the class session?
- 3) Is the student articulate and logical in his/her statement(s)?
- 4) Is the student accurate and directly relevant to the instructor's questions/topics?
- 5) Does the student's statement give evidence of significant familiarity with the assigned readings?
- 6) Does the student express himself/herself in a respectful and constructive manner?
- 7) Is the student's comment to his/her classmates insightful and/or helpful in clarifying the given issues and furthering the discussion of those issues in class?

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

Duvall, Scott J., Hays, Daniel J. *Grasping God's Word*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN: 13: 978-0-310-49257-3.

The Bible (A translation, not a paraphrase).

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Per the Spurgeon College catalog, there is a minimum attendance requirement of 75% of total class sessions. This means that a student may miss only three class sessions. If you are not able to attend a class session, please let the instructor know immediately. If a person registers for the class after the beginning course session, the class or classes missed will be counted as absences.
2. Students are responsible for reading the material assigned even if the professor does not include it in the presentation.
3. Plagiarism is a serious ethical and legal matter and instances of plagiarism will result in an "F" for the course. The student is warned to pay attention this while writing the exegetical paper. The same is true for copying or sharing information during quizzes and exams. Students are to read and abide by the section entitled "Integrity in Seminary Studies" found in the current MBTS Academic Catalog.

GRADING:

The grading scale is as follows:

Letter	Number Grade	GPA Point Value
A	100-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	88-89	3.3
B	83-87	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	78-79	2.3
C	73-77	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	68-69	1.3
D	63-67	1.0
D-	60-62	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

COURSE OUTLINE

Week/Date Hermeneutics Fall 2019	Weekly Quiz	Topic(s)	Reading Assignments: Duvall & Hays Grasping God's Word	Reports Due at beginning of class
Week 1 (Aug 20)		Introduction		Prayer for Exegetical Paper
Week 2 (Aug 27)	Quiz 1	<u>How to Read the Book</u> Bible Translations, The Interpretive Journey	Chapters 1-2	
Week 3 (Sept 3)	Quiz 2	Sentences, Paragraphs, Discourses	Chapters 3-5	Select Topic of Exegetical Paper
Week 4 (Sept 10)	Quiz 3	<u>Contexts</u> The Historical Contexts	Chapter 6	
Week 5 (Sept 17)	Quiz 4	What do we bring to the text? The Literary Context	Chapters 7-8	
Week 6 (Sept 24)	Quiz 5	Word Studies	Chapter 9	Main Idea & Outline of Exegetical Paper
Week 7 (Oct 1)	Quiz 6	<u>Meaning and Application</u> Who Controls the Meaning? Levels of Meaning	Chapters 10-11	Reading Report
Week 8 (Oct 8)		Mid Term Exam		
(Oct 15)		KNCSB Annual Convention- No Class		
Week 9 (Oct 22)	No Quiz	The Role of the Holy Spirit, Application	Chapters 12-13	Context of Exegetical Paper
(Oct 29)		HCN Annual Convention- No Class		
Week 10 (Nov 5)	Quiz 7	<u>New Testament</u> Letters, Gospels	Chapters 14-15	
Week 11 (Nov 12)	Quiz 8	Acts, Revelation	Chapters 16-17	Content of Exegetical Paper
Week 12 (Nov 19)	Quiz 9	<u>Old Testament:</u> Narrative	Chapter 18	
Week 13 (Nov 26)	Quiz 10	Law, Poetry, Wisdom	Chapters 19-20, 22	Final Draft of Exegetical Paper
Week 14 (Dec 3)	Quiz 11	Prophets Review	Chapter 21	Reading Report
Week 15 (Dec 10)		Final Exam		

Note: The Professor may invite guest speakers to present

READING REPORT

Week/Date Hermeneutics Fall 2019	Topic(s)	Reading Assignments: Duvall & Hays Grasping God's Word	Your Initials that you have read the Chapters	Reports Due at beginning of class
Week 1 (Aug 20)	Introduction			
Week 2 (Aug 27)	<u>How to Read the Book</u> Bible Translations, The Interpretive Journey	Chapters 1-2		
Week 3 (Sept 3)	Sentences, Paragraphs, Discourses	Chapters 3-5		
Week 4 (Sept 10)	<u>Contexts</u> The Historical Contexts	Chapter 6		
Week 5 (Sept 17)	What do we bring to the text? The Literary Context	Chapters 7-8		
Week 6 (Sept 24)	Word Studies	Chapter 9		
Week 7 (Oct 1)	<u>Meaning and Application</u> Who Controls the Meaning? Levels of Meaning	Chapters 10-11		Reading Report
Week 8 (Oct 8)	Mid Term Exam			
Week (Oct 15)	KNCSB Annual Convention- No Class			
Week 9 (Oct 22)	The Role of the Holy Spirit, Application	Chapters 12-13		
(Oct 29)	HCN Annual Convention- No Class			
Week 10 (Nov 5)	<u>New Testament</u> Letters, Gospels	Chapters 14-15		
Week 11 (Nov 12)	Acts, Revelation	Chapters 16-17		
Week 12 (Nov 19)	<u>Old Testament:</u> Narrative	Chapter 18		
Week 13 (Nov 26)	Law, Poetry, Wisdom	Chapters 19-20, 22		
Week 14 (Dec 3)	Prophets Review	Chapter 21		Reading Report
Week 15 (Dec 10)	Final Exam			

Name _____ Check date: 10/1 _____ 11/26 _____

Signed _____