

**Birmingham Theological Seminary**  
**2200 Briarwood Way**  
**Birmingham, Alabama 35243**

**Fall 2010**

**BC7606 Using the Bible in Counseling**

**Tuesdays: 5:30-7:30PM BWD-W203**

**Professor: Dr(s). White/Orteza**

**Class Hours: 2**

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**COURSE PURPOSE**

This course is designed to equip counselors to accurately and effectively use Scripture in a consistent and biblical way. The objective is the incorporation of the full counsel of God, avoiding proof-texting and easy answers, while bringing to bear the rubrics of reformed theology on daily living.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The adult learner will be able to describe Inductive Bible Study methodology.
2. The adult learner will be apply Inductive Bible Study methodology for the purpose of utilizing scripture in counseling
3. The adult learner will be able develop counseling homework that will enable the counselee to apply God's understanding and solutions to the personal counseling problems.
4. The adult learner will be able to articulate a basic biblical theology that provides the framework for the use of homework in counseling.

**COURSE TEXTS**

**Required Texts:**

Adam, Peter. *Hearing God's Words*. Chicago: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Arthur, Kay. *How to Study Your Bible*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1994.

Millar, J. Gary. *Now Choose Life*. Apollos, 2001

Doriani, Dan. *Putting the Truth to Work*. New Jersey: P&R Publishing Company, 2001.

**Collateral or Recommended Texts:**

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Dorani, Dan. *Getting the Message*. New Jersey: P&R Publishing Company, 2001.

Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Hendricks, Howard G., and William D. Hendricks. *Living by the Book*, rev. ed. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2007.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**More than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.**

1. Reading assignments per week and class attendance.
2. Mid-term—You will be given a passage to apply inductive Bible Study and out of the study to create a counseling homework assignment
3. Create a Study Guide for *Putting the Truth to Work* that you could give to a counselee to help him/her learn how to “get the message.” Each chapter should have at least three questions and the answers. The answers should be in italics.
4. Create a Workbook of counseling assignments similar to the model that we will use in class. You are to be creative and this should grow out of your own study. You may choose the passages of scripture that you utilize. There should be five different projects. Each one should extend for at least five sessions of weekly counseling appointments. The ramp-up is critical (that is, giving clear directions to the counselee, providing the purpose or desired outcome) for each of the five projects.

Note: the papers for this class will be required to fit the Turabian style in the following ways:

- 1) Each paper will have an appropriate title page
- 2) Assignment 4 will have appropriate citations to the textbooks, any commentary you might use or any other book you may utilize in the process. You may need to give a citation for example for an idea you gained reading some book for another class that linked with your Inductive Bible Study and triggered the creation of one of your projects.
- 3) A bibliography is required for number.

**This will replace both the final exam and the usual research paper done for a Masters class.**

## **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

NOTE: All papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

All course materials must be submitted to the professor at the end of the semester (last day of class). Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six week grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

## **COURSE GRADING**

1. Weekly participation 20%
3. Mid-term exam 20%.
4. Study Guide for Putting the Truth to Work 20%
5. Workbook 40%

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS AND LECTURES**

### **September 14 (Dr. Orteza)**

Introduction to the class

Class Exercise: II Chronicles 6:21-42

Determine what characterizes this prayer

Consider what the people heard in this prayer

Extrapolate the application of this prayer for your counselee

PP—Inductive Bible Study #1

[Note: by Oct 12 you are to have completed the reading of Kay Arthur's book

You will want to complete your Study Guide for *Putting the Truth to Work* as quickly as possible.]

**September 21 (Dr. White)**

Reading: First third of *Hearing God's Words*  
Discussion of the basic principles of Inductive Bible Study—  
PP—Inductive Bible Study # 2  
Practice the application of the process: Isaiah 1

**September 28 (Dr. Orteza)**

Read: *Second third of Hearing God's Words*  
Discussion of basic principle of Inductive Bible Study—  
PP—Inductive Bible Study #3  
Practice the application of the process:

**October 5**

No Class Tonight

**October 12 (Dr. White)**

Read--complete reading of Kay Arthur and be prepared for a round table discussion of basic principles of Inductive Bible Study around the Kay Arthur book. Each of you should be prepared to be able to present three passages that you have studied *inductively* and relate how the observations, interpretations and applications were influence by the Arthur book as well as the lectures. Share at least one counseling homework assignment that has grown out of your study so far.

**October 19 (Dr. Orteza)**

Reading: Last third of *Hearing God's Words*  
Discussion of the basic principles of Inductive Bible Study—  
PP—Inductive Bible Study #4  
Mid-term exam

**October 26 FALL BREAK**

**November 2 (Dr. White)**

Read: Chapter two of *Now Choose Life*  
Discussion of basic principles of Inductive Bible Study—  
PP—Inductive Bible Study #5  
A look at Isaiah 5 and application to the counseling situation

**November 9 (Dr. Orteza)**

Read: Pages 108-114 of *Now Choose Life*  
Discussion led by Dr. Dave Matthews

**November 16 (Dr. White)**

Discussion of the basic principles of Inductive Bible Study  
A look at Old Testament stories as counseling applications  
PP-Using OT Narratives in Biblical Counseling

**November 23 (Dr. Orteza)**

Discussion of *Putting the Truth to Work*

**Study Guide for *Putting the Truth to Work* is due tonight.**

Exploring I Timothy in class

**November 30 (Dr. White)**

Guest facilitator: **TBA**

Guest presentation: **TBA**

Discussion of material presented

**December 1 (Dr(s) White/Orteza)**

Guest presentation : **TBA**

Discussion of material: **TBA**

**December 8**

**Open. We will determine how to use this class towards the end of the semester.**

## **Bibliography**

**Overview of the basic contents of books of the Bible:**

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough. *Encountering the New Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

**Fundamentals of inductive Bible study methods, especially guidelines for application:**

Arthur, Kay. *How to Study Your Bible*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1994.

Dorani, Daniel M. *Getting the Message*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1996.

Dorani, Daniel M. *Putting the Truth to Work: The Theory and Practice of Biblical Application*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2001.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Hendricks, Howard G., and William D. Hendricks. *Living by the Book*, rev. ed. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2007.

Kuhatschek, Jack. *Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Longman, Tremper, III. *Reading the Bible with Heart & Mind*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.

McCartney, Dan, and Charles Clayton. *Let the Reader Understand: A Guide to Interpreting and Applying the Bible*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2002.

Muck, Terry, general editor. *The NIV Application Commentary*.

[There are a projected 44 commentaries in this series organized in the same manner: The book of the Bible under investigation is broken up into literary segments. These authors examine each segment from three perspectives: (1) “Original Meaning,” (2) “Bridging Contexts,” and (3) “Contemporary Significance.” The first perspective considers what the passage likely meant to God’s people when it was first delivered to them. The second perspective seeks to distinguish the culture- and time-specific elements of the passage from the universal principles applicable to all cultures at all times. From the third perspective the commentators suggest legitimate ways the passage can be applied today. Though not equivalent in stature, the series provides a helpful model for how to interpret and apply Scripture in a responsible manner.]

Pratt, Richard L. *He Gave Us Stories*. Brentwood: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1990. Reissued by P & R Publishing, Phillipsburg, NJ in 1993.

Veerman, Dave. *How to Apply the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

### **Detailed discussions of questions related to the interpretation of Scripture**

Brown, Jeannine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Kaiser, Walter C., and Moises Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, rev. ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*, rev. ed. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2006.

**Subject orientation--what the Bible teaches about various topics (doctrine of God, doctrine of humanity, doctrine of Christ, doctrine of salvation, etc.):**

[Part of the legitimate application of Scripture is the understanding the “worldview” of the biblical writers. Considering the progress of doctrine within modulating worldviews to develop the analogy of the faith is the task of systematic theology.]

Systematic theology is the study of what the Bible as a whole teaches on specific topics. It helps to provide a framework and foster a worldview within which the relationships of individual passages of Scripture are clarified (and thus, it also aids the process of legitimate application.)

Erickson, Millard. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Grudem, Wayne. *Bible Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

Milne, Bruce. *Know the Truth*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1998.

Marshall, I. Howard, Kevin J. Vanhoozer, and Stanley E. Porter. *Beyond the Bible: Moving from Scripture to Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

**Historical and cultural backgrounds of the Bible:**

Douglas, J. D., and Merrill C. Tenney, eds. *The New International Dictionary of the Bible, Pictorial Edition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

Keener, Craig. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1993.

Walton, John H., Victor H. Matthews, & Mark W. Chavalas. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2000.

**Acquiring theological and exegetical terminology:**

DeMoss, Matthew. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of New Testament Greek*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.

DeMoss, Matthew, and J. Edward Miller. *Zondervan Dictionary of Bible and Theology Words*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Murphy, Todd J. *Pocket Dictionary for the Study of Biblical Hebrew*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003.

**Grasping the process of exegesis:**

Carson D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.

Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

**Writing serious seminary papers-- theological research:**

Barber, Cyril J., and Robert M. Krauss, Jr. *An Introduction to Theological Research*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2000.

Vyhmeister, Nancy Jean. *Quality Research Papers for Students of Religion and Theology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.