

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5650

ST3550 Bible Interpretation (Spring 2012)
Professor: Rev. Thad James Jr. (PhD Cand)
Class Hours: 2

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Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the theory and practice of Biblical Interpretation or Hermeneutics. To assist students in gaining the skills and knowledge necessary to determine the meaning of any passage of Scripture and to apply it authentically to the contemporary context.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to basic principles and prerequisites of Bible Interpretation.
2. To enhance the students ability to exegete Scripture in its original historical and cultural context.
3. To refine the students understanding of presuppositions at work in Scripture and in the interpreter. Thus enhancing the development of a Biblical Worldview.
4. To introduce students to the development of methods of studying God's Word for preaching, teaching and personal improvement.
5. To sharpen the students skill in applying Scripture in a responsible manner to contemporary contexts.
6. To broaden the students awareness of tools available for Biblical study.

Course Texts

Required Texts:

McQuilken, Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible: Revised and Expanded* Moody Press, Chicago ISBN 9780802490926

Sproul, R. C. *Knowing Scripture: Revised Edition* IVP Books ISBN 9780830837236

Zodhiates, Spiros *Greek-Hebrew Key Study Bible*

Logos Bible Software - **Libronix Digital Library System** (See www.birminghamseminary.org)

Book for Book Critique:

Duvall, Scott J. and J. Daniel Hays *Grasping God's Word* 2 Ed. Zondervan ISBN 0310259664

Recommended:

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* Zondervan Grand Rapids ISBN 9780310246046

Doriani, Daniel *Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting and Applying the Bible* P & R Publishing ISBN 978-0875522388

Arthur, Kay and David Arthur and Pete DeLacy *The New How to Study Your Bible* Harvest House Publishers ISBN 0736926829

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London ISBN 0226816273

Vyhmeister, Nancy J. *Quality Research Paper* Zondervan, Grand Rapids ISBN 0310239451

Adler, Mortimer J. and Charles Van Doren *How to Read A Book* Touchstone Publishing ISBN 0671212095

StyleEase for Chicago and Turabian Style CD www.StyleEase.com StyleEase Software, LLC

Course Requirements

1. **Plan your time wisely** for weekly assignments, book critique, Mid-term and your exegetical paper. Do not wait until the end of the semester. **Proper Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance**.
2. Submit a **400** word essay of your personal learning objectives, what you expect to learn and how this course may enhance your Christian service. Please think this through (**due week two, typed**)
3. Course Study Guide is in conjunction with McQuilken's and Sproul's book and is **designed to assist you in your pre-class reading and study preparation**. In your pre-class readings fill in the workbook this will enable you to be prepared to participate in class discussions. The lectures are intended to fill in the gaps and bring clarity to your readings and studies.
4. Course assignments and /or self-studies at the end of each chapter in the course study guide are designed to enhance your understanding of the material.
5. Book Critique is to be a **three-page critique** of the book. Do not merely summarize the contents; rather evaluate the book's strengths and weaknesses. As you read, ask yourself these questions, read critically:
 - a. What is the book about as a whole? (**Description**)
 - b. What is the author saying in detail and how is it said? (**Interpretation**)
 - c. Is the book true, in whole or in part? (**Critical thinking, Agree? Disagree? Why & what is the foundation for your response?**)
 - d. What is the significance of the book? (**Personally, Spiritually, & Academically**) (**What are the formations and or applications to your life and ministry?**)
 - e. As you write your paper your goal is to answer these four questions concisely and achieving Master's level requirements. **This is not a book report, think through critically.**
6. There will be one exam, a mid-term from Robertson McQuilken's and R. C. Sproul's book and course lectures. Your workbook is the study guide for your mid-term.
7. **Exegetical Paper** – interpret (exegete) the passage using the techniques and principles learned from the course. This paper will be 12-15 pages not including cover page, table of contents and bibliography. You should have a minimum of seven (7) **scholarly** references **other than your required texts**, along with proper citations of footnotes and bibliography. One (1) of the references must come from a **scholarly** journal; two (2) from Logos Bible Software and only one (1) reference may come from a commentary and/or the internet. **Wikipedia is not a scholarly resource.** (See T.H.E. R.O.A.D. and Guidelines for Exegetical Paper in your Course Study Guide for format and instructions) Choose one of the passages from the following:

A. John 15:5-7	D. Hebrews 12:1-3
B. I John 1:1-4	E. I Peter 2:9-10
C. Ephesians 1:3-6	F. Romans 8:28-30

Course Grading

1. Class preparedness and Workbook assignments from study guide 20%
2. Book Critique 20%
3. Exegetical paper 35%
4. Mid-term 25%
5. All work must be submitted on the prescribed due dates (e-mailed to professor prior to start of class), late papers will not be accepted. Carefully **proofread** your work before submitting, all submissions must be error free.

BTS Format and Style Standards

Note: All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. All papers are to be #12 font Times New Roman and Double-Spaced. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

Reading Assignments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
Wk. 1 (Jan 24 th)	Class Introduction	Review Syllabus & Workbook (WB)
Wk. 2 (Jan 31 st)	Intro. Continued/Weltanschauung (Sproul Chaps. 1, 3)	Objectives Due
<u>Part I: Presuppositions and Principles</u>		
Wk. 3 (Feb. 7 th)	McQuilken Chap. 1-2 (Sproul Chap. 5)	
Wk. 4 (Feb. 14 th)	McQuilken Chap. 3-4	
Wk. 5 (Feb. 21 st)	McQuilken Chap. 5-6 (Sproul Chap. 2)	Things of God Assignment (WB 30)
<u>Part II: Guidelines and Skills – Human Authorship: Application</u>		
Wk. 6 (Feb. 28 th)	McQuilken Chap. 7-8	
Wk. 7 (Mar. 6 th)	McQuilken Chap. 9-10 (Sproul Chap. 6)	Faulty Approaches Assignment (WB 17-18)
Wk. 8 (Mar. 13 th)	<u>Spring Break</u>	
Wk. 9 (Mar. 20 th)	Mid-term	
Wk. 10 (Mar. 27 th)	McQuilken Chap. 11-12	Word Study – Perfect (WB 24)
Wk. 11 (Apr. 3 rd)	McQuilken Chap. 13-14 (Sproul Chap. 4)	
<u>Divine Authorship: Interpretation</u>		
Wk. 12 (Apr. 10 th)	McQuilken Chap. 15-16	Book Critique
Wk. 13 (Apr. 17 th)	McQuilken Chap. 17-18	
<u>Divine Authorship: Application</u>		
Wk. 14 (Apr. 24 th)	McQuilken Chap. 19-20	Exegetical Paper Due

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) 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 (6) weeks grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

Additional Bibliography

- Louis Berkhof, *Principles of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1950.
- Gerald Bray, *Biblical Interpretation Past and Present*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Donald A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984.
- David S. Dockery, Kenneth A. Mathews, and Robert B. Sloan, eds. *Foundations for Biblical Interpretation: A Complete Library of Tools and Resources*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1994.
- Elmer Dyck (editor), *The Act of Bible Reading: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1996. Contributions by Gordon D. Fee, Craig M. Gay, James Houston, and J. I. Packer.
- Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament exegesis: a handbook for students and pastors*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.
- Norman L. Geisler, *Explaining Hermeneutics: A Commentary on the Chicago Statement on Biblical Hermeneutics*. Oakland, California: International Council on Biblical Inerrancy, 1983.
- John H. Hayes and Carl R. Holladay, *Biblical Exegesis: a Beginner's Handbook*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987.
- Walter C. Kaiser, *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Walter C. Kaiser and Moisés Silva, *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Walter C. Kaiser, *The Uses of the Old Testament in the New*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.
- Grant R. Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1991.
- James I. Packer, "Infallible Scripture and the Role of Hermeneutics," in *Scripture and Truth*, ed. by D.A. Carson and J.D. Woodbridge. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
- Leland Ryken *How to Read the Bible as Literature* Grand Rapids Zondervan
- Henry A. Virkler, *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981.
- Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991.
- Roy B. Zuck, *Rightly Divided: Readings in Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids Kregel Publications 1996
- Dr. William W. Klein, Dr. Craig L. Blomberg and Dr. Robert L. Hubbard, *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. W Publishing Group: Nashville 1993
- Easton, M.G. *Easton's Bible Dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996, c1897.
- Strong, James. *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Test of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order*. electronic ed. Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996.
- Bullinger, Ethelbert William. *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*. London; New York: Eyre & Spottiswoode; E. & J. B. Young & Co., 1898.
- MacArthur, John, Jr. *How to Study the Bible*. John MacArthur's Bible Studies. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996,
- Thomas, Robert L. *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries : Updated Edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981.
- Ryrie, Charles Caldwell. *A Survey of Bible Doctrine*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1995, c1972.