

North Portland Bible College
Portland, Oregon

**BF101 Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics Independent
Summer 2017
(3 credits)**

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Independent Course (June 26th to July 28th)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce the hermeneutical process, highlighting context and observation of the text. The student will be shown each step of the hermeneutical process that is covered, and then will practice that step on their own.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Better understand the need for careful study of the biblical text.
2. Understand and explain the importance of genre in the study of the biblical text.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in making observations and asking good questions of the biblical text.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Sailhamer, John. *How We Got the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub., 1998. **978-0310203919**
2. Stein, Robert H. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011. **978-0801033735**

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The following resources are not required for the course, but can be helpful for further study. We will discuss each in class. If you plan on buying any of these, it is recommended that you wait until after they have been discussed, so you are able to see if they will be a wise investment.

1. Carson, D. A., and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005. **978-0310238591**
2. Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. **978-0310246046**
3. Garland, David E. *NIV Application Commentary: Colossians and Philemon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 1998. **978-0310484806**
4. Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Leicester: IVP Academic, 1993. **978-0830817788**
5. *Zondervan NASB Exhaustive Concordance*. Grand Rapids, MI: ZondervanPublishingHouse, 2000. **978-0310236252**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading: All assigned reading should be completed by the following Saturday at 12:00am. For example, the first reading is assigned Monday June 26th and is due July 1st. This includes reading from the required text, as well as assigned supplementary articles. See Course Schedule below for due dates.

Assignments:

Hermeneutical Projects (7): Each student will select a paragraph from the book of Colossians, with the approval of the instructor. For each hermeneutical step the student will complete a project based on the chosen paragraph to practice that step. Projects should be emailed to the professor on the Due Date.

1. **Historical Background Study:** The student will complete a Historical Background Study of the book of Colossians using the method described in the assignment handout. **Due: Jun. 29th**
2. **Synthetic Outline:** The Student will complete a synthetic outline of the book of Colossians using the method described in the assignment handout. **Due: Jul. 6th**
3. **Observations/Interpretive Questions:** The student will make observations on the paragraph they have selected from the book of Colossians, and write interpretive questions based on those observations. **Due: Jul. 11th**
4. **Word Study:** The student will do a word study on a term from their selected paragraph (and approved by the instructor) from Colossians **Due: Jul. 13th**
5. **Mechanical Layout:** The student will complete a Mechanical Layout of their chosen paragraph from the book of Colossians. **Due: Jul. 18th**
6. **Application Assignment:** The student will identify one principle from their passage in the book of Colossians and apply that principle to their own life and experience. **Due: Jul. 25th**
7. **Teaching/Preaching Outline:** The student will develop a teaching or preaching outline from their passage in the book of Colossians. Further instruction will be given in the assignment handout. **Due: Jul. 27th**

Scripture Memorization: The student will reproduce from memory one verse from the passage chosen for their hermeneutical projects. When the passage is chosen, the student will need to identify which translation they will be memorizing, and they will be graded against this translation throughout the term. Student will divide the passage into 7 parts so that they can memorize the portions weekly. Student will type out from memory their verse into an email and send it to the professor every Friday by 5:00pm.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Evaluation and Grading Policy

Letter Grades will follow the standards given on page 14 of the current catalog.

A	90-100	Excellent	4
B	80-89	Good	3
C	70-79	Average	2
D	60-69	Poor	1
F	0-59	Failure	0
W	-	Withdraw	0
Inc.	-	Temporary Extension	

Grades will be based on the following:

1. Attendance and participation 15%
2. Reading 15%
3. Hermeneutical Projects 50%
4. Scripture Memorization 20%

Late assignment policy

Assignments are due on the date specified, although situations may arise requiring an extension. It is the student's responsibility to request an extension from the instructor when necessary. Any assignment turned in later than 11:59 pm on the date due will incur a 5% grade reduction per day. Please let me know if you are having trouble and need additional help or an extension.

Guidelines for submitting written work

All papers should be typed double space in 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins on all sides, and should have a cover page and bibliography. Papers should be in MLA format, with all sources cited in parenthetical notes, with the reference listed in the Bibliography. Papers should reflect research and thought on their topic, include proper source citation, and be written with proper English grammar.

NPBC Writing Standards

All written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity and constitutes a serious breach of scholarship standards at North Portland Bible College. When quoting the work of an author or an author's ideas are used in your paper, document, document, and document.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Course Topic	Reading Assignments Due Date	Assignments
Jun. 26	Syllabus/Intro Historical-Grammatical Interpretation		
Jul. 1	Development of the Canon History of the English Bible Choosing a Translation	Stein: Introduction, Ch. 1, 2, & 3.	Historical Background Study
		Sailhamer pp. 9-28, 33-34, 36-42, 51-88	Scripture Memorization #1
Jul. 8	Implications of Genre	Stein Ch. 4- 'Different Games in the Same Book'	Synthetic Outline
	Genre: Epistles	Stein Ch. 14-'The Game of Correspondence' Fee & Stuart: "The Epistles: The Hermeneutical Questions"	Scripture Memorization #2
Jul. 15	Genre: Biblical Narrative	Stein Ch. 5- 'The Game of Stories'	Observations/ Interpretive Questions
			Scripture Memorization #3
Jul. 15	Genre: Parables	Stein Ch. 12 '12. The Game of Comparison' "Parable" in DOBI	Word Study
			Scripture Memorization #4
Jul. 22	Genre: Prophecy and Typology	Stein Ch. 10 'The Game of Prediction' McQuilkin: "Biblical Prophecy"	Mechanical Layout
			Scripture Memorization #5
Jul. 22	Genre: Poetry Figures of Speech	Stein Chs.7(Poetry), 11(Idioms), & 13 (Overstatement) "Defining Terms: Image, Symbol, Metaphor, Simile" in DOBI	Scripture Memorization #6
Jul. 29	Genre: Proverbs/Wisdom Literature	Stein Ch. 9 'The Game of Wisdom'	Application Project
			Scripture Memorization #7
Jul. 29	Genre: Law	Stein Ch. 6 'The Game of Rules'	Teaching/Preaching
		Verbruggen: Of Muzzles and Oxen	Outline
Jul. 29	Genre: Apocalyptic	"Apocalypse: Genre Of" and "Apocalyptic Visions of the Future" in DOBI	Scripture Memorization #8

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2nd edition. Baker Academic, 1996. Print.
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2003. Print.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2010. Print.
- Jr, Stanley E. Porter, and Beth M. Stovell, eds. *Biblical Hermeneutics: Five Views*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2012. Print.
- Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert I. Hubbard Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation, Revised Edition*. Revised & Updated. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004. Print.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Richard Patterson. *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2011. Print.
- Lubeck, Ray. *Read the Bible for a Change: Understanding and Responding to God's Word*. Reprint edition. S.l.: Wipf & Stock Pub, 2009. Print.
- Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Revised and Expanded edition. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2007. Print.
- Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman III, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. 1st edition. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1998. Print.
- Sailhamer, John H. *How We Got the Bible*. 1st Edition, 2nd Printing edition. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 1998. Print.
- Stein, Robert H. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. 2 edition. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2011. Print.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. et al., eds. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. First Edition. London: Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2005. Print.
- Wegner, Paul D. *The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible*. Second Printing, June, 2005 edition. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2004. Print.