

North Portland Bible College  
Portland, Oregon

**BF102 Bible Interpretation  
Independent Study  
Winter 2018  
(3 credits)**

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

January 8 to March 23

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The student will study the development of the hermeneutical process from the time of the early church until the present, highlighting major hermeneutical challenges of our time.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

1. Understand and explain the development of the hermeneutical process throughout the history of the church
2. Demonstrate an awareness of current hermeneutical issues of the current day.
3. Apply critical thinking to the evaluation of current hermeneutical issues.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Corley, Bruce, Steve Lemke, and Grant Lovejoy, eds. Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction To Interpreting Scripture, Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2002. **978-0805424928**

**RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

The following resources are not required for the course, but can be helpful for further study. A brief description will be provided during the course. 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.

- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. How To Read the Bible For All Its Worth. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. **978-0310246046**
- Porter, Stanley E. and Beth M. Stovell, eds. Biblical Hermeneutics: Five Views. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012. **978-0830839636**
- Klein, William W., Craig Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Dallas, TX: Word Pub., 2004. **978-0785252252**
- Schultz, Richard. Out of Context: How to Avoid Misinterpreting the Bible. Grand Rapids,

MI: Baker Books, 2012. **978-0801072284**

- Wegner, Paul D. *The Journey from Text to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999. **978-0801027994**

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### Bible Project Video

Student will receive links to YouTube videos published by the Bible Project regarding hermeneutics. Student will write a brief survey/evaluation of these videos (three pages). Due Date is 3/19 and this project is worth 10% of student's overall grade.

### Reading:

All assigned reading should be completed by due date (see schedule below). This includes reading from the required text, as well as assigned supplementary articles. At the end of the term, the student will be asked to make a true statement regarding the amount of reading completed on time. 40 pages of additional readings will be assigned as directed by the professor Reading is worth 20% of the final grade.

### Assignments:

#### *Hermeneutical Projects:*

Each student will use Philippians 3:1-11 to produce four Hermeneutical projects. These projects include a Mechanical Layout, Historical/Cultural Analysis, Application Assignment, and a Teaching outline. Each assignment will be discussed in class before and after the assignments due date. Hermeneutical Projects are worth 40% of the final grade (Each project worth 10%).

**I. Mechanical Layout:** Students will complete a Mechanical Layout of Philippians 3:1-11 using the following method. **Due: January 15**

1. Use a blank sheet of paper, turned so that the long edge is horizontal. This gives more room for lateral recording. (This can be done in a word processing program as well).
2. Work from left to right and top to bottom.
  - a. Main ideas begin at the left margin.
  - b. Subordinate ideas are placed under those terms they modify. This creates a "stair-step" effect toward the lower and right sections of the layout.
  - c. The initial idea is placed at the top, with the following ideas moving toward the bottom of the layout.
  - d. Coordinate ideas or clauses should begin in the same vertical column under and parallel to the previous phrases they co-ordinate.
3. "Correct" form allows some flexibility in the manner in which thoughts are divided, but any particular horizontal line of the diagram should not include too many words or ideas.
4. Lists should be placed in vertical columns with modifiers placed so that the list format is not destroyed.

NOTE: This assignment can be turned in as a handwritten document or submitted electrically.

**II. Historical/Cultural Analysis:** Using Biblical Dictionaries and Commentaries, students

will study the Historical/Cultural aspect of Philippians 3:1-11. Students will research issues including: who Paul is calling the Philippians to guard against (Col. 3:2) and the significance of Paul's personal background (3:5-6). Student should include other historical issues in this passage. For producing this assignment use the following steps. **Due:**

**January 29**

1. Background material for Research: Select three works from two categories (Commentaries and Biblical Dictionaries) to assist in your research. Here are some suggested works.  
Commentaries: Arnold, C. E., Thielman, F. S. & Baugh, S. M. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon. (Zondervan, 2015). Fee, G. D. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. (Eerdmans, 1995). Silva, M. Philippians. (Baker Academic, 2005). Thielman, F. S. Philippians: The NIV Application Commentary. (Zondervan, 1995).  
Bible Dictionaries: Freedman, D. N. The Anchor Bible Dictionary, Volume 5. (Anchor Bible, 1992). Dictionary of Paul and His Letters. (IVP Academic, 1993). The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible: Revised Full-Color Edition. (Zondervan, 2009).
2. Write a summary of your findings, in 2-3 pages, double-spaced. Be sure to credit your sources with reference notes. These may be footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical notes. Also, please include a bibliography of works you used.
3. Relate your findings to Philippians 3:1-11, identifying the relationship between your historical research and the passage.

**III. Application Assignment:** Students will identify one principle from Philippians 3:1-11 and apply that principle to their own life and experience, using the following method. **Due:** **February 26**

1. Identify one principle from the Philippians passage.
  - a. State it in a complete, declarative sentence, worded in a timeless way.
  - b. Identify which truth/principle type it is (i.e., command, axiom, promise, example, or affirmation about God)
2. In a paragraph or so, explain how you derived it. Was it a timeless statement to begin with, confirmed in the analogy of faith? Did you have to search the context for clues, and if so, which clues were significant? Did you abstract a historical or cultural specific to a generalized statement, and if so, what was the lineage of your thought? These paragraphs may reflect further interpretive work that you find necessary if the principle requires answers to interpretive questions you haven't yet addressed.
3. Make a personal application to your own life. Be sure to incorporate the following guidelines:
  - a. Apply in a selective manner.
  - b. Make the application specific.
  - c. Make the application personal.
  - d. Write it out.
  - e. Establish time frames.
  - f. Establish a plan for accountability

**IV. Teaching/Preaching Outline:** The student will develop a teaching or preaching outline from Philippians 3:1-11, using the following method. **Due: March 12**

1. Provide a mechanical outline of the passage you selected.

2. Identify the structure of the passage.
3. Identify your main points.
4. Give your message/lesson a title.

Exams:

There will be a midterm and final exam, covering material covered in the assigned reading. A study guide will be provided one week before each exam. The exams will be posted or emailed and student will have 24 hours to start the exam and 1 hour to finish the exam once started. Exams are scheduled for **February 12** and **March 19**. Exams are worth 30% of students over all grade.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES**

Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend and participate in classroom activities. Students are expected to attend at least nine of the eleven scheduled classes for completion of a course of study. It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with instructors for completing classwork and meeting attendance requirements.

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	

Final grades will be based on the following:

1. Hermeneutical Videos by the Bible Project 10%
2. Hermeneutical Readings 20%
3. Hermeneutical Project 40%
  - Project 1 10%
  - Project 2 10%
  - Project 3 10%
  - Project 4 10%
4. Midterm Exam 15%
5. Final Exam 15%

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 week. Please let instructor 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**

Date	Course Topic	Preparation for Class	Assignments Due
1/8	Syllabus/Introduction Method: Mechanical Layout Practice: Mechanical Layout	Read Corley, Lemke, Lovejoy p. 176-193	
1/15	Method: Historical and Cultural Analysis Ancient Jewish Hermeneutics Hermeneutics of the Early Church Fathers	Read Corley, Lemke, Lovejoy p. 56-71, 90- 100	<b>Mechanical Layout</b>
1/22	Discussion of alternate theories on the occasion for Colossians Hermeneutics of the Medieval and Reformation Era Post-Reformation Protestant Hermeneutics	Read Corley, Lemke, Lovejoy p. 101-130	
1/29	Modern Interpretation	Read Corley, Lemke, Lovejoy p. 131-162	<b>Historical/ Cultural Analysis</b>
2/5	Contemporary Philosophical, Literary and Sociological Hermeneutics	Read Corley, Lemke, Lovejoy p. 163-174 Read Goldsworthy p. 155-166	
2/12	Exam review/Exam	Preparation for Exam	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
2/19	Method: Application Practice: Application Human Language and Divine Truth Contextualization	Read Corley, Lemke, Lovejoy p. 208-216, 374-386 Read section on selected passage from NIV Application Commentary	

2/26	Method: Teaching/Preaching Outline Practice: Teaching/Preaching Outline Sermons and Lessons that are true to the text	Read Corley, Lemke, Lovejoy p. 398-432 Read section on selected passage from The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Revised Edition	<b>Application Project</b>
3/5	Basics of Textual Criticism	Read Corley, Lemke, Lovejoy p. 217-229 Read Wegner p. 337-340	
3/12	Understanding Arguments form Text Critics	Read Ehrman p. 152-175	<b>Teaching/Preaching Outline</b>
3/19	Exam review/Exam	Preparation for Exam	<b>Final Exam</b>

### **COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Arnold, Clinton E., Frank S. Thielman, and Steven M. Baugh. *Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*. Place of publication not identified: Zondervan, 2015. Print.

Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2nd edition. Baker Academic, 1996. Print.

Ehrman, Bart D. *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*. Reprint edition. HarperCollins e-books, 2009. Print.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003. Print.

Fee, Gordon D. *Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. Eighth Impression edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995. Print.

Freedman, David Noel. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary, Volume 5*. New York: Anchor Bible, 1992. Print.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Gospel-Centered Hermeneutics: Foundations and Principles of Evangelical Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2010. Print.

Hawthorne, Gerald F., Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. y First edition. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 1993. 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, MI: Zondervan, 1998. Print.
- Stein, Robert H. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. 2 edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011. Print.
- Silva, Moisés. *Philippians*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005. Print.
- Tenney, Merrill C., and Moisés Silva, eds. *The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible: Revised Full-Color Edition*. Box Rev edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009. Print.
- Thielman, Frank S. *Philippians: The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995. Print.
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. et al., eds. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. First Edition. London: Grand Rapids, MI: 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.