

TCM INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

Haus Edelweiss
Sattelbach 16, Heiligenkreuz
Austria

Hermeneutics

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Course Rationale and Description

This course examines the principles of interpreting the Bible. Special focus is made on particular issues related to the different genres of literature in the Bible. Examples of these principles from each of the genres are discussed in the class. Practical experience in interpretation and hermeneutics is provided.

Objectives

1. Understand the need for interpretation of the Bible
2. Understand the difference between interpretation and hermeneutics
3. Understand some of the issues in contemporary postmodernist hermeneutics
4. Understand the principles of interpretation applicable to the various genre of literature in the Bible
5. Understand the principles of hermeneutics applicable to the various genre of literature in the Bible
6. Demonstrate interpretive principles of selected passages of the Bible
7. Demonstrate hermeneutical principles of selected passages of the Bible
8. Become familiar with some literature in interpretation

Texts

Required:

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.

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

Recommended:

Grant R. Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1991.

Pre-class Assignments

Students are encouraged to read the text prior to the beginning of class. It is also helpful to begin to outline the chapters of the text which can form the basis of the writing project described above.

Students should also read and outline 1 Corinthians using literary elements within the letter to structure this outline.

Pre-class (continued)

In addition to the texts mentioned above, an English translation of the Bible with paragraphs is helpful for the class.

Writing Project

As a special pre-class assignment, students should prepare extended outlines of lectures appropriate for a class to church persons covering interpretation principles and examples of each of the genre of Biblical literature covered in this class. This project is meant to be a practical one; students are encouraged to use these lecture outlines for actual classes in their home churches. The sources for this assignment include the texts, lectures, and discussions in this class. The project will be graded on completeness and clarity of understanding the principles of hermeneutics. The project should be typed. The approximate length of this project is normally 40-60 pages.

I prefer to receive this assignment in a digital format, which allows for modification during the class period and allows students to keep the assignment for modification and later use. If digital format is not possible, I will accept a paper copy of the assignment.

In-Class Activities

Lectures

I will cover parts of the text in summary fashion and spend time illustrating the principles covered there.

Praxis

Occasionally, the class will be divided into working groups to work on various assigned passages for interpretation.

Examination

Students must successfully complete a final examination covering the principles of interpretation covered in the text and lectures. This examination will be given during the last day of class. The examination will be graded upon completeness and clarity of understanding the principles of hermeneutics.

Grading

Writing Project	50%
Final Examination	35%
Praxis Sessions	15%

Seminar Sessions

Seminar sessions may be scheduled outside the normal class schedule to discuss issues which arise during class time or to further explore implications of hermeneutical principles. Selected readings from recommended texts will be discussed.

Course Schedule

Day 1	What is Interpretation	Chapter 1
Day 2	Interpreting the Epistles	Chapter 3
Day 3	Interpreting the Epistles	Chapter 4
Day 4	Interpreting the Historical Narrative	Chapter 5
Day 5	Interpreting the Acts	Chapter 6
Day 6	Interpreting the Gospels	Chapter 7

Day 7 Interpreting the Law and Prophets Chapters 9-10
Day 8 Interpreting Apocalyptic Chapter 13

Ministry Competencies

1. To know and apply Scripture responsibly
2. To communicate effectively the truths of Scripture in whatever culture ministry takes place
3. To develop global awareness and cross-cultural sensitivity
4. To develop theologically sound critical reasoning, strategic thinking and problem-solving skills for ministry
5. To develop a plan for life-long learning

Mediagraphy

I would like for you to search the Internet for one of the following works and be prepared to present a review of that work from your exposure via the Internet:

Stanley Fish, *Is There a Text in this Class?: The Authority of Interpretive Communities*. Boston: Harvard University Press, 2005

Michael J. Hyde, Walter Jost, *Rhetoric and Hermeneutics in Our Time: A Reader (Yale Studies in Hermeneutics)*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000

Various articles by Richard Palmer, noted philosopher of Hermeneutics can be found at:

<http://www.mac.edu/faculty/richardpalmer/relevance.html>

Milton Terry, *Biblical Hermeneutics*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1999

http://www.audiowebman.org/bbc/books/bh/BH_index.htm

Gene Edward Veith, *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994

Extensive website with links to many articles on Hermeneutics can be found at

<http://hermeneutics.kulikovskyonline.net/hermeneutics/hermeneutics.htm>

A website with several articles and links concerning Biblical Hermeneutics:

<http://www.ntgateway.com/resource/hermeneutics.htm>

A website dealing with “foundationalism” and hermeneutics:

<http://www.friesian.com/hermenut.htm>