



Fellowship Institute
Bible Study Methods: Hermeneutics
Spring 2025

I. Course Instructor

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II. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the task of biblical hermeneutics, from understanding to explanation, designed to equip the student with the tools necessary to understand the biblical text in its historical and cultural context, and then interpret and apply it to the modern cultural context.

III. Course Objectives

Students who complete this course will be able to:

- 1) **Understand** the essential nature of hermeneutics as both a skill and an art and recognize the barriers to understanding meaning in communication.
- 2) **Apply** a methodological approach to studying the Bible, utilizing the steps of observation, interpretation, correlation, and application.
- 3) **Analyze** the exegetical proposals provided by biblical scholarship, in order to gain a greater awareness of how to both use these tools as well as **evaluate** them.
- 4) Gain tools useful to **evaluate** the world of the text as well as the world of the reader.
- 5) **Apply** and **analyze** the different genres represented in the Biblical text, and the tools needed for rightly interpreting each.
- 6) **Create** a ministry tool useful for real-world ministry experience, in order to teach others how to use the skills learned in this class.

IV. Inclement Weather Policy

We will follow the Fayetteville Public School closings, and I will post on google classroom as well as sending out an email if we are NOT going to have class. But assume if Fayetteville Public Schools are out, class is cancelled.

V. Course Schedule

Week of	Topic	Assignment (Due by the date on each line)
06/02 or ¹ 06/04	The Task of Hermeneutics: An Introduction	Read: Yarbrough xi-xviii, 106-122; Fee & Stuart: 33-53 PDF Work: Read Philemon 5 separate times out loud
06/09 or 06/11	Understand the Cultural/Historical Context	Read: Yarbrough 143-163; Wright ???? Work: 3 page historical/backgrounds paper
06/16 or 06/18	Understand the Canonical Context	Read: Yarbrough 6-58; Bock & Blaising ??? PDF Work: Read the Gospel of Mark and find Old Testament quotation or allusion
06/23 or 06/25	Understand the Situational Context	Read: Yarbrough 235-251 Work: Read the Gospel of Mark and identify 5 unifying themes
06/30 or 07/02	Understand the Literary Context: Genre	Read: Yarbrough 164-179; Ryken 11-32 PDF Work: Read the Gospel of Mark and identify plot elements
07/07 or 07/09	Understand the Literary Context: Discourse Analysis	Read: Yarbrough 252-266 Work: Read Ephesians 3 times and identify major discourse units
07/14 or 07/16	Understand the Literary Context: Below the Clause	Read: Yarbrough 79-106 Work: 25 observations on Ephesians 1:3
07/21 or 07/23	Understand the Literary Context: Above the Clause	Read: Yarbrough 123-142 Work: 50 observations on Ephesians 1:3-6
07/28 or 07/30	Synthesize Meaning & Theology	Read: Yarbrough 215-234; Köstenberger Work: Create 4-level outline of Ephesians
08/04 or 08/06	Explain for Personal Application	Read: Yarbrough 283-305 Work: Personal Application Assignment
08/11 or 08/13	Explain for Public Application	Read: Köstenberger Work: Ministry Application Assignment

¹ We are deciding between Monday evening and Wednesday morning and may end up doing both.

VI. Required Textbooks

***** If you are a part of the global track and intend on moving over-seas, I highly suggest buying all of these digitally. *****

- A. English Translation of the Bible of your choice.
- B. Yarbrough, Mark. *How to Read the Bible Like a Seminary Professor*. New York: Faithwords, 2015.
- C. **One** of the following books:
 - i. Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
 - ii. Köstenberger, Andreas J. and Richard D. Patterson. *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2011.
 - iii. Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature...and Get More Out of It*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
 - iv. Traina, Robert A. *Methodical Bible Study*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1952.
 - v. Zuck, Roy B. *Basic Bible Interpretation*. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1991.
- D. **One** additional book from the list of “Recommended Additional Resources”

VII. Recommended Additional Resources

- A. Epistemology and Determining Meaning
 - i. Hirsch Jr., E.D. *Validity in Interpretation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967.
 - ii. Porter, Stanley E. and Beth M. Stovell. *Biblical Hermeneutics: Five Views*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2012.
 - iii. Porter, Stanley E. and Jason C. Robinson. *Hermeneutics: An Introduction to Interpretive Theory*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011.
 - iv. Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There a Meaning in This Text?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
 - v. _____. *Mere Christian Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2024.
- B. Canonical Studies
 - i. Brotzman, Ellis R. and Eric J. Tully. *Old Testament Textual Criticism: A Practical Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1994.
 - ii. Childs, Brevard S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.
 - iii. Longman III, Tremper. *The Old Testament as Literature: Foundations for Christian Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2024.
 - iv. Metzger, Bruce M. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission Corruption, and Restoration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1968.
 - v. Scacewater, Todd A. *Discourse Analysis of the New Testament Writings*. Dallas: Fontes Press, 2020.
 - vi. Tov, Emmanuel. *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.
- C. Historical/Cultural Background Resources
 - i. Green, Joel B. and Lee Martin McDonald. *The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
 - ii. Greer, Jonathan S., John W. Hilber, and John H. Walton. *Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Cultural, Social and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018.

- iii. Longenecker, Bruce W., Elizabeth E. Shively, and T.J. Lang. *Behind the Scenes of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2024.
- iv. Wright, N.T. and Michael F. Bird. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

VIII. Assignments

A. Non-Seminary Tracks (Global, Staff, Church Planter, Discipleship Cohort)

Choose **ONE** of the following:

- i. TBD
- ii. TBD

B. Seminary Track

- i. TBD
- ii. TBD

IX. Technology

This course will utilize google classroom. Assignments will be turned in here. Class documents and handouts will be posted here. Class announcements will be posted here as well. The class code is: **5chenoef**

The Fellowship Registration link is:

TBD