

**BT701 ADVANCED HERMENEUTICS AND THEOLOGICAL METHOD**

**Course:** BT701 Advanced Hermeneutics and Theological Method (Blended)  
**Credit:** 3 Semester Hrs.  
**Semester:** Fall 2020, Cycle 3 (October 19- December 11)  
**Class Mtg:** Monday, October 26 – Wednesday October 28, 8:00am – 5:00pm  
**Location:** The Center for Advanced Biblical Research and Engagement, Rm 101  
**Professor:** STAFF

**I. DESCRIPTION**

This course will study biblical hermeneutics focusing on the literal grammatical-historical method. This course will consider comparative and historical methods for biblical interpretation and delineate theological implications for faith and practice. Students will interact with philosophical and practical aspects of hermeneutical theory, comparing methodologies with a literal grammatical-historical hermeneutic, and will compare theological systems deriving from each method.

*\* This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.*

**II. OBJECTIVES****A. General competencies to be achieved. You will:**

1. Determine, through exegetical analysis, the hermeneutic principles and methods applied within the Biblical writings themselves.
  - a. Program Objective 1
  - b. Assignments A1, B1
2. Classify, through comparative synthesis, distinctives of each hermeneutic model discussed.
  - a. Program Objective 2
  - b. Assignments A2, B2
3. Differentiate hermeneutic factors in assessing theological outcomes and employing practical applications.
  - a. Program Objective 4
  - b. Assignments C1, C2, C3

**B. Specific competencies to be achieved. You will:**

1. Model the distinctive components and methodological principles of an exegetical approach through textual analysis, and a theological approach through comparative synthesis.

- a. Program Objective 1
- b. Assignments A1, B1, C3
2. Identify and explain a formal hermeneutic model based on synthesis of competing models.
  - a. Program Objective 3
  - b. Assignments A2, B1, C3
3. Compare theological outcomes and their hermeneutic influences.
  - a. Program Objective 4
  - b. Assignments C1, C2, C3
4. Report research on the hermeneutic methods of Biblical writers and how hermeneutic factors in their writing impact their prescriptions.
  - a. Program Objective 5
  - b. Assignments C2, C3

### III. REQUIRED MATERIALS

#### A. Bible

**The Bible** is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

#### B. Original Language Bible Study Software (Accordance, Bible Works, Logos, or equivalent)

Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*, *Nestle Aland 28 (NA28)* – both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta (LXX)*, *A Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)* by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* by Koehler and Baumgartner.

#### C. Other Textbooks

\* required texts labeled as **electronic** below are included in the course materials in the online classroom:

Bateman, Herb. *Three Central Issues in Contemporary Dispensationalism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel. 1999. 978-0825420627. \$24.99

Chou, Abner. *The Hermeneutics of the Biblical Writers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel. 2018. 978-08254443244. \$23.99

Cone, Christopher. *Integrating Exegesis and Exposition: Biblical Communication for Transformational Learning*. Fort Worth, TX: Exegetica. 2015. 978-0-9765930-5-8. \$14.00

Cone, Christopher. *Priority in Biblical Hermeneutics and Theological Method*.  
Raymore, MO: Exegetica Publishing. 2018. 978-0998280523. \$16.00

Cone, Christopher. *Prolegomena on Biblical Hermeneutics and Method, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed*. Fort  
Worth, TX: Tyndale Seminary Press. 2016. 978-1938484032. \$21.00

Gerstner, John. *Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth: A Critique of Dispensationalism*.  
Nicene Council. 2009. 978-0977851690. \$30.00

Grondin, Jean. *Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics*. New Haven, CT: Yale  
University Press. 1997. 978-0300070897. \$25.00

Kaiser, Walter, and Silva, Moises. *Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search  
for Meaning*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 2007. 978-0310279518. \$39.99

Terry, Milton. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Treatise on the Interpretation of the Old and  
New Testaments*. New York, NY: Hunt and Eaton. 1890. Electronic.

Thomas, Robert L. 2010. *Evangelical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Kregel  
Publications. ISBN: 978-0825438394, Price: \$ 28.99

Van Til, Cornelius. *A Survey of Christian Epistemology*. Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian  
and Reformed. 1969. Electronic.

Webb, William. *Slaves, Women and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of  
Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP. 2001. 978-0830815616. \$28.00

#### **IV. EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE (1000 points)**

##### **A. Attendance and Participation (240 points)**

(1) All students must attend class. Campus students are required to attend all modules in person at the scheduled time and location. Online students are required to attend by viewing or listening to the class recording within 24 hours of its posting in the online classroom. Points for attendance will accrue based on successful completion, as listed below.

(2) All students must participate in classroom discussion through the online classroom, beginning no later than 24 hours after the class recording is posted in the online classroom. This discussion is part of the contact time for the course, and will include answering the weekly discussion question (identified in the weekly lectures) with at least a 300-word response, interacting with responses of other students and, and interacting with the professor. Points for participation will accrue based on successful completion, as listed below.

##### **B. Reading and Reading Accountability (400 points)**

(1) Students will complete all assigned reading as listed in the Course Schedule, and (2) will write (and present, as instructed) a 1000-1500-word report on *each* assigned reading (sometimes there may be more than one reading assigned per class). Reading summaries should be reflective and should include two elements: (a) an objective summary of the reading, and (b) a justified critique or

affirmation of the ideas presented in the reading.

**C. Research and Writing (360 points)**

Students will complete three major research projects on the following topics, in Turabian style:

1. Hermeneutic Overview (Due 3/29): Write a 4000-word hermeneutic overview discussing (a) place in worldview, (b) structure and organization, (c) bases for legitimacy, (d) essential principles, and (e) necessary outcomes and implications.
2. Exegetical Overview (Due 4/12): Apply hermeneutic principles to a section of Scripture, and write a brief exegesis overview of 3000 words on an approved Scripture of the students choosing, consisting of the following components:
  - a. Text and translation summary, 300 words
  - b. Context overview, 300 words
  - c. Structural summary, 300 words
  - d. Grammatical and syntactical highlights, 300 words
  - e. Biblical and theological context overview, 300 words
  - f. Secondary verification summary, 500 words, 10 good academic primary and secondary sources
  - g. Exposition, 1000 words
3. Journal Article (Due 5/3): Write a journal quality article of 7000-9000 words on an approved topic related to one of the four specific course objectives. This assignment must also be submitted to a peer reviewed academic journal.

**D. Grading Rubric**

<i>Attendance and Participation</i>	<i>240 points</i>
Attendance	15 points per module x8
Participation (discussion/interaction)	15 points per module x8
<i>Reading and Reading Accountability</i>	<i>400 points</i>
Reading Summaries	50 points per module x8
<i>Research and Writing</i>	<i>360 points</i>
Hermeneutic Overview	100 points
Exegetical Overview	80 points
Journal Article	180 points

\*Research grading matrix: Style 20%, Justification 40% points, Content 40%

*Total* *1000 points*

### E. Grading Scale

96–100	A
94–95	A-
92–93	B+
88–91	B
86–87	B-
0–85	F

### F. Assignment Notices

**All assignments** are to be submitted in the online classroom. No hard copies will be accepted.

**All research papers** must be submitted in Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition.

**Students with disabilities** have the responsibility of informing the DSS Coordinator ([dss@calvary.edu](mailto:dss@calvary.edu)) of any condition that may require support.

**The Clark Academic Center** ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary students.

**Plagiarism** is defined as copying any information without proper citation, including taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own. Assignments including plagiarized information will not be assigned any points, and further disciplinary action is possible.

## V. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

### **Week 1 (Oct 19-25) Reading and Research – Worldview, Hermeneutics, and Implications**

Reading and Reading Accountability: Cone (Prolegomena), Kaiser and Silva, Terry (Chapters 1-4)

### **Week 2 (Oct 26-Nov 1) Course Modules**

#### **Seminar 1 (Oct 26): Worldview, Hermeneutics, and Implications**

Discussion Analysis: Address KRQ (key research question) and interact.

#### **Seminar 2 (Oct 26): Bases for Hermeneutic Systems**

Discussion Analysis: Address KRQ (key research question) and interact.

#### **Seminar 3 (Oct 27): Hermeneutics in Philosophical Context**

Discussion Analysis: Address KRQ (key research question) and interact.

#### **Seminar 4 (Oct 27): Reformed Hermeneutics**

Discussion Analysis: Address KRQ (key research question) and interact.

**Seminar 5 (Oct 27): Progressive Hermeneutics**

Discussion Analysis: Address KRQ (key research question) and interact.

**Seminar 6 (Oct 28): Postmodern, Trajectory, and Cultural Analysis Hermeneutics**

Discussion Analysis: Address KRQ (key research question) and interact.

**Seminar 7 (Oct 28): Hermeneutic Principles and Exegesis**

Discussion Analysis: Address KRQ (key research question) and interact.

**Seminar 8 (Oct 28): Implications and Forward Looking**

Discussion Analysis: Address KRQ (key research question) and interact.

**Week 3 (Nov 2-8): Reading and Research – Bases for Hermeneutic Systems**

Reading and Reading Accountability: Cone (Priority), Chou

*Research and Writing: Hermeneutics Overview Due March 29*

**Week 4 (Nov 9-15): Reading and Research – Hermeneutics in Philosophical Context**

Reading and Reading Accountability: Grondin, Van Til, Thomas (Part 1)

**Week 5 (Nov 16-22): Reading and Research – Reformed and Progressive Hermeneutics**

Reading and Reading Accountability: Gerstner, Bateman

*Research and Writing: Exegetical Overview Due April 12*

**Week 6 (Nov 23-29): Reading and Research – Postmodern, Trajectory, and Cultural Analysis Hermeneutics**

Reading and Reading Accountability: Webb, Thomas (Part 2)

**Week 7 (Nov 30-Dec 6): Reading and Research – Hermeneutic Principles and Exegesis**

Reading and Reading Accountability: Cone (Integrating, Section 2), Terry (Part 1 and 2)

**Week 8 (Dec 7-11): Reading and Research**

*Research and Writing: Journal Article Due December 11*