

B 1701

Biblical Interpretation I: Hermeneutics

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The John Leland Center for Theological Studies
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Course Description

Biblical Interpretation I: Hermeneutics is a course designed to introduce the student to the contemporary currents in interpretation theory. The focal point is done on the proponents of the so-called “hermeneutical movement.” However, the course is not limited to hermeneutics as philosophically defined. Christian traditions and preoccupations in interpretation, especially those related to the interpretation of the Bible, are discussed and placed into a perspective related to the hermeneutical movement.

As a preparation for *Biblical Interpretation II: Exegesis* (to be offered in the Spring 2012), this course reviews the nature of understanding and the types of hermeneutics, introduces the student to the principles of general hermeneutics and its impact in biblical exegesis, and studies the special character of scriptural writings – revelation, sanctification and inspiration– and the development and use of the historical-critical and other contemporary methods of biblical exegesis; with the overall intention of developing in the student a comprehension of the hermeneutical task needed for the work of biblical exegesis.

Students will read, write short reports on readings, participate in class discussions, and write two term papers, all of which will constitute evaluation materials.

Required Bibliography

Knight, Douglas A. *Methods of Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2004. ISBN 0-687-03706-9.

Klemm, David E. *Hermeneutical Inquiry, Volume 1: The Interpretation of Texts*. Atlanta: Scholars Press (AAR #43), 1986. ISBN 1-55540-033-7.

Schökel, Luis Alonso. *A Manual of Hermeneutics*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998. ISBN 1-85075-850-6.

Webster, John. *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. ISBN 0-521-53846-7