

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **DM802—Biblical Interpretation for Life and Ministry (3 credits)
Section DF — Florida-Dunnam Campus in Orlando**

Concentration: *Required*

Date of Course: July 27 – 31, 2009

Enrollment Limit: 30

Instructor: Brian D. Russell
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COURSE DESCRIPTION/GOALS

This course seeks to upgrade the student's use of Scripture in personal formation, in their D.Min. Project/Dissertation, and in ministry, by focused attention on the several critical tasks involved in biblical interpretation. The course will emphasize inductive interpretation of the Scripture in its several contexts. In light of the Church's experience of interpreting the text and benefiting from advances in critical study Scripture, students will increase their interpretive skills by doing interpretive work on passages important to their ministry and/or project/dissertation.

INSTRUCTOR

Brian D. Russell (B.A., M.Div., and Ph.D) is Professor of Biblical Studies. He has served on the Orlando campus since July 2000. Brian is passionate about the intersection of missiology and Biblical Studies. An ordained pastor, Brian has planted churches, served in rural and urban settings, and experimented with organic church models. He is an award winning teacher and a frequent speaker at conferences and churches around the country. Brian is the author of *The Song of the Sea: The Date of Composition and Influence of Exodus 15:1-21* (Peter Lang: 2007), three editions of the curriculum resource *Adult Bible Studies—Teacher* (United Methodist Publishing House: Winter 2005-06, Fall 2007, and Summer 2009), and many articles and book reviews. His upcoming book *(Re)aligning with Scripture: Reading the Bible Missionally for the Church and the World* will be published by Wipf and Stock in 2010. Read his latest thinking on his blog: <http://realmealministries.org/WordPress>.

STUDENT COMPETENCIES

Having successfully completed this course, participants should be able to:

- Articulate the significance of context, and especially theological and ecclesial contexts, for engagement in biblical interpretation;
- Assess critically a range of tools appropriate to biblical interpretation for Christian ministry;
- Practice biblical interpretation at an advanced level appropriate for faithful leadership in Christian communities; and
- Understand key issues in communicating the message of the Scripture in pre-Christian or post-Christian contexts.

TEXTS

- Required—Each D.Min. class requires a minimum of 2000 pages of reading.

Baukhram, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in the Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004. 128 pp.

Davis, Ellen F., and Richard B. Hays, eds. *The Art of Reading Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003. 336 pp.

Flemming, Dean. *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2005. 334 pp.

Goldingay, John. *Models for Interpretation of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. 340 pp.

Green, Joel. *Seized by Truth: The Bible as Christian Scripture*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007. 150 pp.

Oswalt, John. *Called to Be Holy*. Evangel Publishing House, 1999. 208 pp.

Wright, Christopher. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2006. 581 pp.

- Recommended

Bauer, David R. *An Annotated Guide to Biblical Resources for Ministry*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2003.

ASSIGNMENTS

All work assumes 1" margins, 12 pt Times New Roman Font, double-spaced.

- Pre-Class

1) Seminar participants will prepare 2-3 page book critiques for each required text. In preparing the book critiques, the final ½ to 1 page should include key questions based in your reading of the text in terms of its strengths and weaknesses. *Due by beginning of class 7/27.*

2) Prepare a two-page position paper on your current understanding and practice of biblical interpretation. This essay should reflect your own best practices that you deploy regularly in your ministry. *Due by beginning of class 7/27.*

3) Select an OT text and a NT text that could be potentially relevant to a future dissertation or for preaching/teaching within your community of faith. Each text should be 10-15 verses in length. Be prepared to identify them at our first class session.

- In-Class
Brief written assignments (some individual/some group) will be assigned during the week of the seminar.
- Post-Class

Final Integrative Paper. Students will prepare a major (15-20 page) interpretive essay:

- a) An exegetical study of the selected passage (10 pages);
- b) Theological reflection on how the passage seeks to shape individuals and communities (3-5 pages);
- c) Reflection either on how this text shapes/informs your dissertation project or how you would preach or teach on the message of the text (3-5 pages).

Final paper due no later than 11:59 PM 30 September 2009. Submit via attached file to brian.russell@asburyseminary.edu

MEANS OF EVALUATION

35% Reflection Papers
15% In-class Participation
50% Final Integrative Paper

COURSE SCHEDULE

The class will meet 8:30 – 4:30 Monday – Thursday and 8:30 – Noon on Friday. Our in-class time will consist of hands on projects, discussion (plenary and group), and lecture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Websites for the Study of Scripture:

<http://www.ntgateway.com>
<http://prophetess.lstc.edu/~rklein/>
<http://www.itanahk.org>
<http://www.OpensourceTheology.net/>
http://realmealministries.org/WordPress/?page_id=753

List A: Issues of Method

Brown, Jeannine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2007.

Camery-Hoggatt, Jerry. *Reading the Good Book Well: A Guide to Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.

- Goldingay, John. *Models for Interpretation of Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis, Revised and Expanded*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2009.
- _____, ed. *Scripture: An Ecumenical Introduction to the Bible and Its Interpretation*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2005.
- Green, Joel B., ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Thompson, David L. *Bible Study that Works*. Evangel, 1984.
- Traina, Robert. *Methodical Bible Study*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

List B: Issues of Perspective

- Blount, Brian K. *Cultural Interpretation: Reorienting New Testament Criticism*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- Brown, Michael Joseph. *Blackening of the Bible: The Aims of African American Biblical Hermeneutics*. Harrisburg, Penn.: Trinity, 2004.
- de la Torre, Miguel A. *Reading the Bible from the Margins*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- Felder, Cain Hope, ed. *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1991.
- Flemming, Dean. *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2005.
- González, Justo L. *Santa Biblia: The Bible through Hispanic Eyes*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- Sugirtharajah, R.S., ed. *Vernacular Hermeneutics*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- West, Gerald O., ed. *The Bible in Africa: Transitions, Trajectories, and Trends*. Atlanta: SBL, 1998.
- Yeo, Khiok-khng (K.K.). *What Has Jerusalem to Do with Beijing: Biblical Interpretation from a Chinese Perspective*. Harrisburg, Penn.: Trinity, 1998.

List C: Issues of Theological and Ecclesial Hermeneutics

- Adam, A.K.M., et al. *Reading Scripture with the Church: Toward a Hermeneutic for Theological Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2006.
- Bockmuehl, Markus. *Seeing the Word: Refocusing New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2006.
- Briggs, Richard. *Reading the Bible Wisely*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2003.
- Bryan, Christopher. *And God Spoke: The Authority of the Bible for the Church Today*. Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley, 2002.
- Callen, Barry L., and Richard P. Thompson, eds. *Reading the Bible in Wesleyan Ways: Some Constructive Proposals*. Kansas City, Miss.: Beacon Hill, 2004.
- Fowl, Stephen E., ed. *The Theological Interpretation of Scripture: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell, 1997.
- Green, Joel B., and Michael Pasquarello III. *Narrative Reading, Narrative Preaching: Reuniting New Testament Interpretation and Proclamation*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2003.
- Green, Joel B., and Max Turner, eds. *Between Two Horizons: Spanning New Testament Studies and Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000.
- Hart, Trevor. *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology*. Wipf and Stock: 2005.

- Jones, Scott J. *John Wesley's Conception and Use of Scripture*. Nashville: Kingswood, 1995.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *Beyond the Bible: Moving from Scripture to Theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2004.
- Mulholland, M. Robert. *Shaped by the Word*. Nashville: Upper Room, 1985.
- O'Keefe, John J., and R.R. Reno. *Sanctified Vision: An Introduction to Early Christian Interpretation of the Bible*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005.
- Watson, Francis. *Text, Church, and World: Biblical Interpretation in Theological Perspective*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Wright, John W. *Telling God's Story: Narrative Preaching for Christian Formation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2007.