

Course Syllabus

Course Number | Name: BIB207NT Principles of Biblical Interpretation

Course Credits: 3

Course Duration: 8 weeks

Course Description:

This is a course in biblical hermeneutics, the science and art of rightly interpreting and understanding the Scriptures. It will teach principles for understanding genres, texts, and phenomena in light of grammatical, historical, literary, and theological considerations. The course will emphasize sound principles of biblical interpretation for the application of the text to one's life personally and for the corporate life of the local church as well as its theological significance for the universal church.

Biblical & Theological Studies Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs*):

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Apply basic research methods and utilize quality resources for personal Bible study, sermon/lesson preparation, and academic theological research. |
| 2 | Apply basic research methods and utilize quality resources for personal Bible study, sermon/lesson preparation, and academic theological research. |
| 3 | Demonstrate a functional understanding of Christian Scripture, Christian heritage, Christian beliefs, and Christian living. |
| 4 | Identify the relationship between biblical and theological knowledge, a personal relationship with God, and a commitment to service in the local church. |
| 5 | Evaluate differing viewpoints on key biblical and theological issues to identify biblical and logical consistency. |
| 6 | Support a commitment to the authority and inerrancy of the Word of God for all matters of faith and practice. |
| 7 | Formulate a system of doctrine that is thoroughly biblical, internally consistent, and functionally relevant for faith, life, and ministry. |

***Every Biblical and Theological Studies course must include assessments of some, but not all of the PLOs. The highlighted ones are assessed in this course.**

BUS207NT – Principles of Biblical Interpretation – Course Syllabus

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

#	CLOs	Bloom's*	PLO(s)~
1	Describe the characteristics of different genres of biblical literature.	2	1,2,3
2	Explain the key and controversial issues in biblical interpretation.	2	1,2,3,5,6
3	Apply sound hermeneutical principles by using appropriate tools, resources, and methods.	3	1,2,3
4	Demonstrate proficiency in applying sound principles of biblical interpretation to texts of varying genres for personal discipleship, ministry in the local church, and theological significance in the universal church.	3	1,2,3,4,6,7
5	Critique the validity of differing interpretations of specific biblical passages.	5	1,2,3,4,6

*Indicates Bloom's Taxonomy cognitive domain level.

~Indicates which PLO(s) are aligned with the CLO.

Biblical Worldview Integration Plan:

1. As this is a course in biblical interpretation, you will be expected to actually *read* and *interpret* Scripture. Throughout the course, you will be asked to analyze certain sections of biblical texts exegetically and interpret them both literally and contextually, using the principles of the historical-grammatical interpretive method. Eventually, these exercises will extend into the realm of application, where you will be asked to rightly apply given passages to modern audiences (including yourself) with respect to the historical, grammatical, and literal context. The purpose of arranging the course in this way is to gradually move you through the steps of the interpretive process.
2. At the end of the course, you will be expected to turn in a final paper that reflects your ability to read a passage of Scripture exegetically, explain (exposit) that passage contextually (historically/grammatically/literarily), and then apply it accurately to a modern reader. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate your ability to use all the tools that you have been supplied with to read and interpret the Bible.

BUS207NT – Principles of Biblical Interpretation – Course Syllabus

Required Media:

Fee, G. and Stuart, D. (2014) *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Fourth Edition). Zondervan. ISBN-13: 9780310517825. Paper

Holy Bible (ESV)

Grading Grid:

Assessments (# in parentheses) - # pts. each if > 1	Total Points
Weekly Discussions (8) - 25 pts. each	200
Weekly Quizzes (8) - 25 pts. each	200
Weekly Writing Assignments (8) - 50 pts. each	400
Final Paper (2 parts) - 100 pts. each	200
Total Points:	1,000

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Media:

Course and Week 1 Overview Video

Fee and Stuart, Chapter One: "Introduction: The Need to Interpret"

C. M. Patton, "Three Steps to Studying the Bible" Article

Assignments:

Assignment 1-1 Quiz

Assignment 1-2 Writing Assignment - See Instructions in the course

Wk1 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 2

Media:

Week 2 Overview Video

Fee and Stuart, Chapter Two: "The Basic Tool: A Good Translation"

L. Ryken, "A Missing Ingredient in Today's Preaching," Article

Assignments:

Assignment 2-1 Quiz

Assignment 2-2 Writing Assignment - See Instructions in the course

Wk2 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

BUS207NT – Principles of Biblical Interpretation – Course Syllabus

Week 3

Media:

Week 3 Overview Video

Fee and Stuart, Chapters Three: "The Epistles: Learning to Think Contextually" and Four: "The Epistles: The Hermeneutical Questions"

D. S. O'Donnell and L. Ryken, "10 Things You Should Know about the Genres of the Bible," Article

Assignments:

Assignment 3-1 Quiz

Assignment 3-2 Writing Assignment - See Instructions in the course

Wk3 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 4

Media:

Week 4 Overview Video

Fee and Stuart, Chapters Five: "The Old Testament Narratives: Their Proper Use" and Six: "Acts: The Question of Historical Precedent"

Assignments:

Assignment 4-1 Quiz

Assignment 4-2 Writing Assignment - See Instructions in the course

Wk4 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 5

Media:

Week 5 Overview Video

Fee and Stuart, Chapters Seven: "The Gospels: One Story, Many Dimensions" and Eight: "The Parables: Do You Get the Point?"

Luke 15 (ESV)

Assignments:

Assignment 5-1 Quiz

Assignment 5-2 Writing Assignment - See Instructions in the course

Wk5 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

BUS207NT – Principles of Biblical Interpretation – Course Syllabus

Week 6

Media:

Week 6 Overview Video

Fee and Stuart, Chapters Nine: “The Law(s): Covenants Stipulations for Israel” and Ten: “The Prophets: Enforcing the Covenant in Israel”

Romans 7 and Hebrews 10 (ESV)

Assignments:

Assignment 6-1 Quiz

Assignment 6-2 Writing Assignment - See Instructions in the course

Wk6 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 7

Media:

Week 7 Overview Video

Fee and Stuart, Chapters Eleven: “The Psalms: Israel’s Prayers and Ours” and Twelve: “Wisdom: Then and Now”

Assignments:

Assignment 7-1 Quiz

Assignment 7-2 Writing Assignment - See Instructions in the course

Wk7 Discussion - See Instructions in the course

Week 8

Media:

Week 8 Overview Video

Fee and Stuart, Chapter Thirteen: “Revelation: Images of Judgment and Hope”
1 Peter 1-5 (ESV)

Assignments:

Assignment 8-1 Quiz

Assignment 8-2 Writing Assignment - See Instructions in the course

Assignment 8-3 Final Paper: Part One - See Instructions in the course

Assignment 8-4 Final Paper: Part Two - See Instructions in the course

Wk8 Discussion - See Instructions in the course