

Reformed Theological Seminary  
Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics  
NT524 (2 Credit Hours)  
Spring 2013  
Thursday 2:00-4:00 pm  
BS 1

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### I. Course Objectives

- The first part of the course concerns the theological basis of interpreting the Bible, whereas the second division of the courses focuses on the exegetical method. Students will develop a method that will furnish them with an ability to interpret Scripture.

### II. Texts

- Poythress, Vern. *In the Beginning Was the Word: Language—A God-Centered Approach*. Crossway, 2009.
- Beale, G. K. *Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation*. Baker, 2012.

### III. Course Requirements

- **Course Grading Scale**
  - Weekly Assignments 30%
  - Quizzes 25%
  - Reading 30%
  - Classroom Participation/Attendance 15%
- **Weekly Assignments**-For the second portion of the course, students will be

required to turn in weekly assignments. These assignments will cover that week's topic. Late assignments will result in one letter grade per class.

- **Reading**- Students are required to read from the course textbooks. The professor will ask how much was read from Beale (*Handbook*) at the end of each online quiz. Reading must be completed at the time of the quiz. Students do **not** receive credit if the reading is late. Poythress (*In the Beginning*) is required to be read by **May 2**.
- **“Barbarians”**-Though this class is tailored for MDiv students who have a working knowledge of Greek, it is possible for those who do not know Greek to take the class. “Non-Greek” students are required to do all the assignments except translations. Additional reading will be assigned to non-Greek students, however. When doing discourse analyses, non-Greek students must take their translation from NASB (1995).
- **Quizzes**- Students will take online quizzes based on the reading.
- **In-Class Computer Use**- Students are prohibited from using computers during class.
- **Attendance**- Each student is expected to attend all lectures, which comprises 15% of the total grade. *Students who have more than two unexcused absences will be penalized 5 points off the total grade.* **Presbytery meetings and all conferences (ETS/SBL, T4G, Twin Lakes, etc.) are unexcused.** Students should consult their calendar at the beginning of the semester and discuss any conflicts with the professor. Any additional unexcused absences will result in 5 more points, and so on. If you are sick or have a family emergency, you must email the professor asap.

0-2 Unexcused Absences	No Penalty
3-5 Unexcused Absences	-5 Points
6-8 Unexcused Absences	-10 Points
9-11 Unexcused Absences	-20 Points

- **Grading Scale:** The grading scale for this course is the seminary's grading scale. You may find it listed at the *RTS Catalog*, p.44.

#### IV. Assigned Reading/Lecture Topic

January 30 Guest Lecture-Bruce Baugus

February 6 Guest Lecture-Bruce Baugus

February 13 Guest Lecture-Bruce Baugus

February 20 Discourse Analysis

February 27 Research Methods

**Reading:** Beale, “Hermeneutical and Theological Presuppositions of the New Testament Writers,” 95-102

**Weekly Assignment #1:** D.A./Translation of Colossians 2:1-5.

**Quiz #1:** Beale, pgs. 95-102

March 6 Use of the OT in NT-Part 1

**Weekly Assignment #2:** D.A./Translation of 1 Peter 1:22-25

**Short Essay Question:** Write a half-page summary of the immediate OT context of Isa 40:6-8 (single spaced). Also, trace the cross references of Isa 40:8 (stay within the book of Isaiah) and write a half-page analysis of your findings (single space).

**Reading:** Beale, “Seeing the Old Testament in the New,” 29-40 and “An Approach to Interpreting the Old Testament in the New,” 41-54

**Quiz #2:** Beale, pgs. 41-54

March 13 SPRING BREAK

March 20 Use of the OT in NT-Part 2

**Weekly Assignment #3:** D.A./Translation of Eph 5:29-32

**Short Essay Question:** Write a one-page summary of the immediate OT context of Gen 2:24 and its hermeneutical use in the NT text (analogical, abiding authority, etc.).

**Reading:** Beale, “Primary Ways the New Testament Uses the Old Testament,” 55-93

**Quiz #3:** Beale, pgs. 55-93

March 27 Making Observations

**Reading:** Beale, “A Case Study Illustrating the Methodology of This Book,” 133-148

**Weekly Assignment #4:** Hosea 11:1 in Matt 2:15 (D.A./Translation of Matt 2:13-15)

**Short Essay Question:** Write a one-page summary of the immediate OT context of Hos 11:1 and its hermeneutical use in the NT text (analogical, abiding authority, etc.).

**Quiz #4:** Beale, pgs.133-148

April 3 Translation Comparison

**Weekly Assignment #5:** Observations of Acts 1:8.

April 10 Dictionaries and Maps

**Weekly Assignment #6:** D.A./Translation/Comparison of 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

April 17 The Use and Abuse of Commentaries

**Weekly Assignment #7:** D.A./Translation/Comparison/Consult Dictionaries on

John 7:1-5.

**Short Essay Question:** Using a few dictionaries, write two-paragraphs on the Festival of Tabernacles and one paragraph on its significance in John 7:1-5. The essay will, therefore, be three single-spaced paragraphs.

April 24 From Text to Sermon-Part 1

**Weekly Assignment #8:** D.A./Translation/Comparison/Consult Commentaries on Gal 1:15-17.

**Short Essay Question:** Using two major commentaries (New International Greek Testament Commentary, Word Biblical Commentary, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary, New International Commentary on the New Testament), compare and contrast your conclusions based on your D.A. of Gal 1:15-17 to the commentaries. Look for similarities and differences between your D.A. and what you find in the commentaries. The commentary may not use “DA lingo,” but it will interact, to some degree, with the logical flow of the text. Your essay should be at least three single-spaced paragraphs.

May 1 From Text to Sermon-Part 2

**Weekly Assignment #9:** D.A./Translation/Comparison/Sermon Outline on Galatians 2:19-21.

**Reading:** Poythress, *In the Beginning*, pgs. 9-300.

**Course Objectives Related to M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes**

<b><u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Course provides theological framework and basic exegetical principles for interpreting Scripture
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	See course title and description
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Reformed distinctives on Scripture and its interpretation are carefully considered
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Scripture is the primary means of grace, its study ought to be an act of love toward God
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Focused on interpreting Word of God rightly
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Minimal	Though we hope the professors and students exemplify this spirit

<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Must understand what the text means to preach it rightly
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Course is relevant to worship but is not centered on worship, as such
<b>Shepherd</b>	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Using Scripture rightly is central to good shepherding
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Though alternative approaches to Scripture will be considered and application of original meaning to contemporary contexts