



## **Online GBIB-512 Course Syllabus**

### **Bethesda University of California**

#### **BETHESDA UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:**

Bethesda University of California is a Christ-centered community of higher education preparing Korean/English speaking men and women with professional competence, academic excellence, and spiritual integrity to be servant leaders in the Church, community, and global society.

Course Number and Title: GBIB 512 Biblical Hermeneutics

Semester: Fall 2015

Professor: Dr. George T. Winney

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#### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will help the student, as a Christian looking forward to serve the Lord in a much greater capacity in the future, in learning how to correctly interpret the Bible. In order to prepare sermons, lessons, or provide counseling, it is fundamental to understand the principles that allow the minister to discern the correct original meaning of the biblical text.

On the other hand, every Christian should be able to identify and defend our faith against heretical teachings or false interpretation. The study of

hermeneutics provides the necessary skills to understand and apply the Word of God in the student's personal life and ministry.

## **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Understand the authority of Scripture and learn the principles involved in biblical interpretation.
- 2) Understand and use those principles to discover the correct meaning of biblical texts in order to develop sound Christian teaching, preaching, counseling, and other ministerial practices.
- 3) Analyze and objectively evaluate the relative value of alternative biblical interpretations.
- 4) Evaluate with an open mind and in a non-dogmatic manner the different points of view related to biblical interpretation.
- 5) Apply the principles of biblical interpretation to the student's personal study of the Bible and in the application of sound biblical doctrines in their lives.
- 6) Use the newly learned skills to deepen the student's personal relationship with the Lord.

## **III. COURSE MATERIALS:**

### **1) Required texts:**

Klein, William, Craig Blomberg, Robert Hubbard. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Revised and Updated.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Duvall, J.S. and Hays, J.D. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

## 2) Study Bible:

NIV Study Bible (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002).

## 3) Required Additional Readings:

Fee, Gordon D. and Stuart, D. *How to Read the Bible for all Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.

Hendricks, H. and Hendricks, W. *Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2007.

## 4) Other Helpful Resources:

Ramm, Bernard. *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*. Third Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1970.

Strong, J. *The Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. 21<sup>st</sup>. Century Edition, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Perschbacher, W. *The New Analytical Greek Lexicon*. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1990.

Brown, F., Driver, S. and Briggs, C. *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2007.

## IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND TIME ESTIMATES:

Requirements	Weight
Class Participation	Must participate in every class
Participation in Peer Interaction/ Discussion	20%

Book Review I (Due on Week #6)	20%
Book Review II (Due on Week #13)	20%
Exegetical Paper (Due date: TBA)	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Due to the nature of online courses, the student must be able to participate in all the programmed sessions. Extraordinary cases would be discussed with the professor.

**Format for Written Assignments:**

**Note:** All written assignments for this online course must be sent to the professor’s e-mail according to the due dates.

**TURABIAN (preferred):** A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Eight Edition) by Kate L. Turabian, or

**MLA:** Handbook for Writer of Research Papers (Seventh Edition).

**For the two Book Reviews (sent to Professor’s e-mail):**

The student will write a book report (no less than 3 double-space pages not including cover page, font size 12, preferably New Times Roman or Arial). The paper must have **1) Introduction, 2) Critical Interaction and 3) Conclusions.**

- **Book Review I:** “How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth” by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart. **Due on Week #6** sent via e-mail to Dr. Winney.
- **Book Review II:** “Living by the Book” by Howard and William Hendricks. **Due on Week #13** sent via e-mail to Dr. Winney.

**For the Exegetical Paper on Colossians 1:21-29 (sent to Professor’s e-mail):**

The exegetical paper will be no less than 15 pages in length (not including Front Page and Bibliography), typed in MS-Word, double-spaced and font size 12

(preferably New Times Roman or Arial). The paper will have footnotes according to Turabian or MLA guidelines. The Bibliography will appear at the end. The deadline for the Exegetical Paper will be announced sometime during the first 3 weeks of the semester.

**Note:** For the Exegetical Paper the student will do an **exegetical analysis of Colossians 1:21-29**. The Exegetical Paper will be sent by the student via e-mail to Dr. Winney (Due date: To be announced during the first 3 weeks of class).

**Content:**

- 1. Title Page (1 Page):** The title page should clearly state the school's name, course title, the professor's name, the date submitted, your name and the biblical text you are working on.
- 2. Main Idea and Outline (1 Page):** Identify biblical passage, summarize the main idea, and show how the main idea develops. Write the verses that correspond to each main point of your structural outline. Every single verse from your passage should be part of the main points of the outline.
- 3. Introduction (1/2 -1 page):** The introduction has to gain the reader's attention, increase their interest in the subject and invite them to keep reading. Include in this section the main idea of your passage.
- 4. Context (1 or more pages):** The first part of this section must include an explanation of the historical-cultural context of the book. Information about the author, the original audience, the socio-political environment, etc. The second part of this section must include the literary context of the biblical text.
- 5. Content (6-10 pages):** This section is the body of the exegetical paper. The main points of the outline may serve as sub-headings in this section. Include under each subheading a detailed explanation of the passage and the analysis of the meaning of critical words and concepts, as well. Include a summary of your own opinions with those of the commentaries. A minimum of 4 scholarly sources must be used.
- 6. Application (1-2 pages):** Elaborate on no less than 3 contemporary applications for this biblical text. These applications must be relevant in

today's society.

**7. Bibliography:** Follow Turabian or MLA formatting guidelines.

**V. GRADING INFORMATION:**

**1) Grading Scale**

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	Quality of Performance
A	95-100	Outstanding
A-	90-94	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good +
B	84-86	Good
B-	80-83	Good -
C+	77-79	Satisfactory +
C	74-76	Satisfactory
C-	70-73	Satisfactory -
D+	67-69	Poor
D	64-66	Very Poor
D-	60-63	Extremely Poor
F	59 or lower	Failure

**VI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Plagiarism and cheating are categorically unacceptable. Read Bethesda University's policies related to plagiarism and academic integrity.

**VII. COURSE SCHEDULE:**

Week		Class Topic	Reading	Assignments
1		Introduction: The Importance	Klein: Chapter 1.	Be prepared for participation in

		and Need for Hermeneutics.	Pages 3-19.	online discussion about this chapter.
2		History of Biblical Interpretation and Recent Literary and Social-Scientific Approaches to Interpretation.	Klein: Chapters 2 and 3. Pages 23-96.	Be prepared to share online your opinion on two of these recent approaches to biblical interpretation.
3		The Interpretative Journey and How to Read the Book.	Duvall: Part 1. Chapters 1-4 of Grasping God's Word. Pages 19-83.	Select your own O.T. (short) passage and apply what you learned in chapter 1 (follow the Joshua 1:1-9 example given in the book). Be prepared to share it online.
4		The Canon and Translations.	Klein: Chapter 4. Pages 103-130. Duvall: Chapter 9. Pages 157-172.	Select one of your favorite Bible passages from at least 3 different English Bible versions. Be prepared to share online your opinion about the differences.
5		The Interpreter and The Goal of	Klein: Chapters 5	Be prepared to participate online in a group

		Interpretation.	and 6. Pages 135-201.	discussion. <b>Book Report I (Fee/Stuart) is due on Week #6.</b>
6		Understanding Biblical Literature. General Rules of Hermeneutics: Prose. The Historical-Cultural and Literary Contexts.	Klein: Chapter 7. Pages 213-264. Duvall: Chapters 6-8. Pages 98-156.	Be prepared to participate online in a group discussion.
7		General Rules of Hermeneutics: Poetry.	Klein: Chapter 8. Pages 273-316. Duvall: Chapter 20. Pages 346-367.	Select 1 of your favorite psalms and 3 of your favorite proverbs. Be prepared for a group discussion online.
8		Understanding Bible Genres. Genres of the Old Testament: Narratives.	Klein: Chapter 9. Pages 323-339. Duvall: Chapter 18. Pages 305-327.	Read Judges 7:1-15.
9		Genres of the Old Testament: Law.	Klein: Chapter 9. Pages 341-350.	Read Exodus 21:7-11.



			Duvall: Chapter 19. Pages 328-345.	
10		Genres of the Old Testament: Poetry.	Klein: Chapter 9. Pages 351-357. Duvall: Chapter 20. Pages 346-367.	Read Psalm 119.
11		Genres of the Old Testament: Prophecy and Wisdom.	Klein: Chapter 9. Pages 359-397. Duvall: Chapters 21 and 22. Pages 368-408.	Read Isaiah 5:1-7 & Proverbs 30:24-28.
12		Genres of the New Testament: Gospels and Acts.	Klein: Chapter 10. Pages 399-424. Duvall: Chapters 15 and 16. Pages 244-281.	Read John Chapter 8 and Acts Chapter 11. <b>Book Report II (Hendricks) is due on Week #13.</b>
13			Klein: Chapter 10.	

		Genres of the New Testament: Epistles.	Pages 426-439. Duvall: Chapter 14. Pages 227-243.	Read Philemon.
14		Genres of the New Testament: Revelation.	Klein: Chapter 10. Pages 440-448. Duvall: Chapter 17. Pages 282-301.	Read Revelation Chapters 1-3 and Chapters 5-6.
15		Using the Bible Today	Klein: Chapter 11. Pages 451-475.	Be prepared to participate in a group discussion online.
16		The Application of Scripture and The Role of the Holy Spirit,	Klein: Chapter 12. Pages 477-503. Duvall: Chapter 12. Pages 205-212.	<b>Double-check when is your Exegetical Paper due.</b>