Hermeneutics: Interpreting & Applying the Biblical Text

BSTH 2013 Y1

Instructor: Dr. Paul Theophilus, PhD 鄭貽富博士
Phone: 647-308-7993
Email: ptheophilus@tyndale.ca ptpaulthe@gmail.com

Class Days: Oct 10, 17, 24, 31 & Nov 7, 2018 (Wednesdays)
Class Hours: 12:45-6:35pm
Room: To be advised

Office: By appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an orientation to the different types of literature in the Bible, with a practical study of relevant methods used in their interpretation. Students will learn to recognize and work with the various genres of biblical literature and will gain an overview of various approaches to Scripture. In addition students will be introduced to the various research tools, methods, and skills for interpretation in order to make meaningful application of the Bible in our contemporary context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Grow in their ability to interpret Scripture accurately and faithfully
2. Understand the importance and value of proper exegesis of a biblical text
3. Develop skill in the close reading of the biblical text
4. Identify the various genres of bible literature and know the methods for their interpretation
5. Know and practice the various tools for studying and understanding the Bible

August 16, 2018
6. Acquire a greater appreciation and love for the Word of God and have a desire to become transformed by it and in turn share it with others.

懂得運用各種釋經工具

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS 必讀課本


(Supplementary texts 推薦閱讀書目)


(COURSE OUTLINE 課程進度表)

Oct. 10
(I) 釋經學導論 (參課本第五章, 83-92 頁)
1. 釋經能沒有前設嗎
   Can Interpretation without presuppositions possible
2. 福音派信仰解經之前設
   The presuppositions of Evangelical Interpretation
3. 釋經學的定義及重要性
   The definition and importance of Hermeneutics

Oct. 17
(II) 釋經原則
1. 從文學/文法角度來解經 (參課本第一單元, 21-80 頁)
   Literary/grammatical Interpretation
2. 從歷史/文化角度來解經 (參課本第二單元, 93-170 頁)
   Historical/cultural Interpretation

Oct. 24
(III) 釋經原則 (續)
1. 從神學/教義角度來解經 (參課本第三元, 175-226 頁)
   Theological/doctrinal Interpretation
2. 從解經到應用 (參《活用聖經全接觸》)
   From Interpretation to Application
3. 簡介有關釋經之“工具書”
   Introducing “tool-books” needed for proper Interpretation

Oct. 31
(IV) 詮釋之旅及練習解經 (參課本第五單元, 314-431 頁)

August 16, 2018
Student’s presentation and practical exercise
1. 舊約聖經不同文體
   Different genre of O.T. text
2. 學生指定之小作業
   Student’s assignment

Nov. 7
(V) 詮釋之旅(續)及考試 (參課本第四單元, 228-311 頁)
1. 新約聖經不同文體
2. 學生指定之小作業
3. 考試

EVALUATION & ASSIGNMENTS: 評核及作業

Summary of Grading 分數總結:
1. Attendance & class participation 10%
2. Student’s presentation and practice 30%
3. Term Paper : Text book review and comparison (due Nov. 19) 30%
4. Final Exam (Nov. 7) 30%
   Total Grade 總分 100%

For proper citation style, consult the Chicago-Style Quick Guide (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the Chicago Manual of Style Online, especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.46 to 10.51 and 14.253 to 14.254.

COURSE & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

Faithful attendance at classes is an important indicator of student maturity and involvement. Class attendance and participation are part of the evaluation of the student and may have a bearing on the final grade for the course.

When a student misses a significant number of classes because of illness, he or she should notify the Dean of Student Life in person or by phone. The student will need to submit a doctor’s certificate upon return. The Dean of Student Life will notify the student’s professors of the reason for the absence and suggest that they take this reason into consideration when grading assignments.

The University College faculty have adopted the following guidelines to define student responsibilities in this matter and to assist the student in developing a disciplined life:

Attendance Policy for Fall and Winter Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absence from once-per-week courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 or 2 absences:  Absence from class for any reason (including illness) is permitted twice without penalty.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3 or 4 absences: Students with three or four absences without legitimate reason will lose one grade level from their total course grade. Legitimate absences include personal illness or injury or death in the immediate family. Students are responsible to report to the instructor the reason for all absences.

5 absences or more: Absenteeism for any reason that exceeds four absences will automatically mean the student has chosen not to complete the course and a grade of “F” will be assigned. Students who are absent because of extended illness or injury verified by a doctor’s certificate are eligible to apply through the Academic Standards Committee for permission to complete the subject. If excessive absenteeism due to illness or injury extends into the following semester, the student must have a reduced load in the following semester.

The above policy should be considered as being in effect unless the instructor indicates otherwise at the beginning of the semester. Instructors have the prerogative of instituting their own attendance policies for individual courses.

COMMUNICATION & COURSE WEBPAGE

Email
Students must use their myTyndale email accounts for all course-related email correspondence.

Classes.Tyndale.ca (Moodle)
Students are required to check the Classes.Tyndale.ca course page on a regular basis for updates regarding classes as well as any materials required for participating in lectures and completing assignments. Readings may be posted on the course page at classes.tyndale.ca. Students are also required to respect the university’s copyright policy and not post works that infringe copyright on the course webpage. For more information on the “Fair Dealing Policy”, see http://libguides.tyndale.ca/fair.

Commuter Hotline
Class cancellations due to inclement weather or illness will be announced/posted on the commuter hotline at 416-226-6620 ext. 2187.

COURSEWORK

Submitting Assignments & Late Policy
Assignments
Major assignments will be specified at the beginning of a semester in the course syllabus, so that students can organize their time effectively. All essays and other written assignments shall be written at the university level as far as grammar, style and structure are concerned. When this is not the case, instructors shall:

1. Comment in writing on the deficient parts of the essay or other written assignment;
2. Recommend that the student get help from the Centre for Academic Excellence; and
3. Lower the grade in proportion to the seriousness of the deficiency.

Research papers for University College courses should conform to the style requested by the professor. A summary of the three standard forms is found on The Centre for Academic Excellence webpage: www.tyndale.ca/academic-excellence.

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Students are required to keep backup copies of all assignments submitted.

**Electronic Submission**
1. For courses where electronic submission of assignments is required, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the instructor has received the assignment by the established due date and to ensure that the assignment submitted is the complete and correct version.
2. Any student may be requested to submit papers in electronic form to facilitate the professor’s routine checks for academic fraud.

**Late Assignments**
Assignments should be submitted on the due date in order to receive full credit. The penalty for unexcused late assignments will be determined by the following scale:
1. For each day or part thereof late, the instructor will reduce the assigned grade by one-third of a letter; e.g., “A” to “A-,” “B+” to “B.” Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are excluded from the reckoning.
2. The above policy should be considered as being in effect unless the instructor indicates otherwise at the beginning of the semester in the syllabus. Instructors have the prerogative of implementing their own late assignment policies for individual courses.
3. Excessively late assignments may receive no credit and result in failure. In some subjects, no late assignments will be accepted for credit, and this will be communicated to the students at the beginning of the course.

**Extensions on Assignments**
No instructor may grant extensions on any assignments, nor accept assignments after the final day of exams in the fall or winter semesters. Students requiring extension must follow the procedures outlined below. Penalties for late assignments and attendance expectations will be stipulated in each course syllabus. The following procedure will be followed for students requesting extensions:
1. If a student is not able to complete all assignments within a course by the last day of exams, the student may appeal to the Registrar for an extension. Such an appeal should be made in writing using a form available from the Office of the Registrar or online at www.tyndale.ca/registrar/forms.
2. Extensions will be granted by the Registrar only in cases where the student was clearly prevented from completing the assignments by circumstances beyond his or her control (e.g., hospitalization, illness documented by a note from a doctor, etc.). Extensions are not granted for what best could be described as “poor time management” or “over involvement” in an extracurricular activity.
3. If a student is unsure if he or she has a valid reason to appeal, the student may wish to discuss the matter with the Registrar.
4. If an extension or grade of “incomplete” is granted by the Registrar, all work for the course will be due with a new deadline. Once an “incomplete” is granted, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor and make satisfactory arrangements to complete the outstanding work.
5. Failure to submit assignments by the deadline will result in failing grades (a grade of “F”) on those assignments, and the final grades on courses will be calculated accordingly.
6. The decision of the Registrar may be appealed in writing to the Academic Standards Committee. The Academic Standards Committee will respond in writing to the student and provide a copy of the decision to the various parties. The decision of the Academic Standards Committee is final.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT**

**Laptops/Electronics**

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Electronics Policy:
Professors have the right to prohibit the use in class of some or all electronic communication devices. Students who require electronic devices (such as laptop computers) because of officially documented disabilities will be exempted from such prohibitions.

Recording of Classes
1. Students must request permission from the professor of the particular class that they would like to record.
2. Where permission is granted, students are expected to supply their own equipment.
3. If a student is not able to attend a lecture and would like to have it recorded, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain the professor’s permission, find another student to record the lecture and to supply that student with the recording device.

TYNDALE POLICIES & RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Academic Integrity 學術誠信
Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors, using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment, improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism.

Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to apply consequences for academic dishonesty. Students are advised to consult the Academic Calendar http://www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar for more information on this policy and its application to their work in this course.

The Centre for Academic Excellence

Tyndale’s Centre for Academic Excellence has been established to help students achieve their full potential as learners. The Centre consists of Writing and Tutoring Services, Accessibility Services, and Academic Advising. These areas have been designed to work in tandem, guiding students toward academic success through an integrative, supportive network of skilled advisors. The Centre for Academic Excellence is committed to the success, support, and academic flourishing of its students. Students at all levels of ability can profit from the Centre’s free services by booking one-on-one sessions, attending workshops and group study sessions, and accessing resources both online and at the Centre.

Academic Tutoring
Friendly, knowledgeable tutors are available to help UC students in free one-on-one sessions in multiple areas of study. Tutors can assist students with any of the following:
- Mastering course material
- Sharpening note-taking and research skills
- Refining study and test-taking skills

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According to student need, tutors will also host group study sessions for selected courses. For further details visit the Centre for Academic Excellence website or contact academictutoring@tyndale.ca.

**Writing Consultation**
The Centre offers a comprehensive program of writing support to students regardless of skill level or area of study. Writing Consultants can assist at any stage of the writing process, including the following:

- Starting an assignment
- Organizing and outlining ideas
- Learning to edit
- Refreshing grammar skills
- Documenting sources
- Refining style

Students may also bring essays that have been graded to identify patterns and improve their skills. For more information, please contact Writing and Tutoring Services by email at writing@tyndale.ca or academictutoring@tyndale.ca, or by phone at 416.226.6620 ext. 2179.

**Accessibility Services**
The Accessibility Services Office supports students who have permanent and temporary disabilities. Services such as academic accommodations, learning strategies, and assistive technology training are provided to support students in meeting their academic demands while managing their disabilities functional limitations.

Accessibility Services strives to create a safe and comfortable environment for students by providing services that respect their dignity, encourage independence and promote full participation throughout their academic career at Tyndale. Students experiencing difficulties in their learning and academic performance due to the functional limitations of their disability are encouraged to book a confidential appointment with the Accessibility Specialist.

- **New students** must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services.
- **Current students** must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

For more information, please contact the Accessibility Services Office at accessibilityservices@tyndale.ca, 416.226.6620 ext. 2189.

**Advising Services**
Advising Services is available to students at any stage of their academic program. Students can approach Advising Services with questions related to their program of choice, advice on selecting the correct program or courses, guidance on how to balance their workload, or suggestions on how to implement an academic plan. Students can also speak to Advising Services to understand their learning style and how it can best serve their academic experience. At any point in the semester, Advising Services may contact students for progress meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to understand how a student is progressing during the semester, identify any challenges that might be affecting their performance, and refer students to support services at Tyndale. Advising Services has a close relationship with faculty and may intervene and provide assistance to students on a faculty member’s recommendation.

Midterm progress reports are administered at the halfway point in the fall and winter semesters. Faculty will release midterm grades to Advising Services and in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar, students will
be informed of their progress, if appropriate. It is understood that midterm progress meetings are mandatory for any students who are contacted.

For more information on Advising Services or to arrange an appointment, contact schuah@tyndale.ca, 416.226.6620 ext 6745.

**Tyndale Grading System & Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td><strong>Excellent, Good</strong>&lt;br&gt;These grades are earned only when evidence indicates that the student has consistently maintained above average progress in the subject. Sufficient evidence may involve such qualities as creativity, originality, thoroughness, responsibility and consistency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td><strong>Satisfactory</strong>&lt;br&gt;This grade means that the student has fulfilled the requirements of the subject to the satisfaction of the instructor. These requirements include the understanding of subject matter, adequacy and promptness in the preparation of assignments and participation in the work of the class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td><strong>Poor</strong>&lt;br&gt;This grade indicates that the accuracy and content of work submitted meets only the minimal standards of the instructor. Performance at this level is considered inadequate for graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td><strong>Failing</strong>&lt;br&gt;Work submitted is inadequate. Attitude, performance and attendance are considered insufficient for a passing grade.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Bibliography 附加書目**


陸蘇河博士，解經有路：從解經學到生活應用，E. Brunswik, 更新傳道會, 2009 (2 刷)
陈润棠、陈金獅，簡易讀經與解經法，香港：天道書樓, 2002 (三版六刷)