



SYLLABUS

Department of Life Long Learning for Non-credit, Church-based Training
TIM Centre Diploma: Foundations of Missional Ministry & Church Leadership

COURSE: BIBLE INTERPRETATION – How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth

FACILITATOR: Rev. Dr. Michael Krause

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

We all discover meaning in the Bible. Even though most of it was written more than 2000 years ago to people who had different languages and cultures than we do, it still speaks to us today. This process of discovering what the text is really saying in its original context is called exegesis. Interpreting what that text means to us is called hermeneutics. This course is designed to help students read and study the Bible with greater understanding by teaching them the basics of good interpretation for the various types of literature (genres) that make up the Bible. Once we have understood the text and discerned its meaning, we also need to communicate it to others. This course will also incorporate exercises that outline the text to help find the main idea of passage so that it can be taught and preached more effectively – which is Homiletics. Please remember that any time we interpret Scripture we are interpreting language and grammar and sentence structure. This course will require a good basic understanding of the English language. The course is based on the book *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart).

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the hermeneutical framework, progressing from exegesis (what the text meant) to exposition (what it means to the Christian Church at large) and on to appropriation (what it means to individual members of the faith community). This will be demonstrated using block diagrams, exegetical and homiletical outlines, an exegetical summary and a class presentation in the form of a teaching or sermon.
2. Follow the principles of good exegesis in understanding “The World behind the Text.”
3. Describe the major literary genres of the Old and New Testaments displaying how each genre impacts interpretation (sometimes called “the first horizon” or “The World of the Text”).
4. Incorporate an understanding of the role of our culture and current context to correctly interpret the Bible displaying the principles of proper appropriation and application (sometimes called “the second horizon” or “The World in front of the Text”).

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

In addition, each student must have access to at least *two* modern translations of the Bible, preferably employing different translation techniques. For example, students may choose one of the following “dynamic” translations: NIVI, NIV, NEB, GNB; and one of the following “formal” translations: NRSV, RSV, NASB, NKJV.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING:

Tate, W. Randolph. *Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach*. 3rd ed. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 2008.

Walter C. Kaiser, J. *Toward an Exegetical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Sproul, R. C. *Knowing Scripture*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Books, 2009

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Class Participation – 30%

Because the Foundations of Missional Ministry course incorporates a cohort learning style, and because the class only meets 7 times, it is crucial that students attend and participate in all classes. Any class missed reduces the participation mark by 50% (i.e. 15% of total mark). Three missed classes results in a fail. A missed class can be made up by doing an extra assignment – either another block diagram or a book report (2 max).

2. Preparing and presenting a Sermon or Bible Study

a. Exegetical/Homiletic Outline – 20% Due: Week 3

Prepare an exegetical outline (block diagram) of a pericope of scripture and include an exegetical outline and a possible homiletical outline.

b. Expository Assignment – 30% Due: Week 7

Prepare an exposition (three to four pages) of one of the suggested passages (pericope). Cover all three levels of the hermeneutical framework: What it meant in the original context, what it means to the Christian church at large and what it means to you as a contemporary interpreter/reader. This will require consulting other resources and commentaries but use your own words and ideas. A detailed outline of what is expected will be presented in class.

c. Class Presentation – 20% Due: Week 8

Present you exposition as a 5 minute sermon or teaching to the rest of the class. The rest of the class will give feedback and analysis. Hand in a hard copy of your presentation.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic polices on Academic Honesty, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System, etc. The Academic Calendar is posted at www.tyndale.ca/seminary/calendar.

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage
Class Participation	Each Class	30%
Exegetical/Homiletic Outline	Class 3	20%
Expositional Assignment	Class 7	30%
Class Presentation & Hard Copy	Class 8	20%
Total Grade		100%

E. COURSE SCHEDULE (36 hours total course time- class and study time)

CLASS DATES: To Be Determined (Monday or Tuesday evenings, Jan to Apr)

Expected individual study/reading time (12 hours)

1. Principles of Biblical Interpretation: From “what it meant” to “what it means”; the merging of the “two horizons”; basic tools and methods of biblical interpretation; basic block diagrams, exegetical and homiletical outlines, .

2. Interpreting the OT: Narratives, Wisdom Literature, Poetic Literature

Introduction to narratology; narrative reading strategies; characterization of biblical characters; demonstration of worked-out examples, guidelines for interpretation; reading/interpretive strategies for Job and Ecclesiastes, the use of parallelism, imagery and metaphor and other literary forms;

3. Interpretation of NT Texts: New Testament narratives (Acts), New Testament Letters (Epistles).

Assignments Due: Exegetical/Homiletic Outline (Block Diagram)

4. Interpretation of NT Texts: Synoptics; block diagrams, homiletical outlines

5. Exposition of a Bible Passage: Looking at author, date, occasion and purpose of a biblical passage, how to do word studies,

6. Principles of Appropriation: From what it meant to what it means to us (the Christian Church at large) and what it means to me as a member of the faith community, Appropriating the biblical message to the postmodern human and ecclesiastical life; newer models of interpretation

7. Interpreting Difficult Texts (Presentations?): Interpreting Prophetic literature and Apocalyptic literature. **Assignments Due:** Expositional Outline Assignment

8. Class Presentations

Assignments Due: Presentations and hard copy of class presentation