



# LEAVELL COLLEGE

## NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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### BSCM1300-30: Hermeneutics

Spring 2019 (193) Thursday 8:00 PM – 9:59 PM

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*The mission of Leavell College of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.*

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#### Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *Doctrinal Integrity* – “Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.” Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

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#### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to develop a sound method for biblical interpretation. The student will be introduced to the basic principles, steps, and major resources available for practicing biblical exegesis. This course is a prerequisite for all interpretation and preaching classes.

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#### General Education Competencies (GECs)

Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Quantitative Reasoning

This course addresses GEC #1 and #3.

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#### Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM PSLOs) AND Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Worship Program Student Learning Outcomes (BAM PSLOs)

Leavell College has identified three program Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Biblical Interpretation (BACM PSLO #1)
1. Worship Leadership (BAM PSLO #1)
2. Service and Leadership (both BACM PSLO #2 and BAM PSLO #2)
3. Historical and Theological Interpretation (both BACM PSLO #3 and BAM PSLO #3)

This course addresses BACM PSLO #1.

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## Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

In order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student, by the end of the course should:

1. **Understand** the fundamental principles of biblical interpretation.
2. **Be able** to distinguish the principles involved in interpreting the various genres of Scripture.
3. **Be able** to incorporate the message of Scripture into practical ministry.
4. **Recognize** the importance of proper interpretation within practical ministry.

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## Course Texts

The following textbooks are required:

Duvall, J. Scott, and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Richards, E. Randolph, and Joseph R. Dodson. *A Little Book for New Bible Scholars*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2017.

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## Course Information

### Units

1. Introduction to Biblical Scholarship
2. How to Read the Book
3. Context
4. Meaning and Application
5. The Interpretive Journey—Old Testament
6. The Interpretive Journey—New Testament

### Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies of lecture, class discussion, readings, and individual learning assignments.

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## Course Requirements and Grading

1. Each student will read the textbooks in preparation for each class period (see schedule below). A quiz will be given each class period based on the required reading for that day. Missed quizzes **cannot be made up**. *This assignment relates to GECs #1, CSLOs #1.*
2. Each student will take a midterm exam and a final exam. Sickness, funerals, and pregnancy are the only excuses for missing exams. In case of sickness, a doctor's note will be required. *This assignment relates to GECs #1, CSLOs #1, #2 and #3, BACM PSLO #1.*
3. Each student will complete the historical and literary setting of four (4) passages—two (2) from the Old Testament and two (2) from the New Testament. A list will be provided that the students will use. Students will be required to use the provided sources, but additional research of 3-5 sources is also expected. The paper should be written according to standard guidelines (Turabian 8<sup>th</sup> edition; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced; 1-inch margins, footnotes, etc.). *This assignment relates to GECs #1, #3, CSLOs #2, #3 and #4, BACM PSLO #1.*

*Passages for Historical and Literary Papers:*

Old Testament

1. Exodus 7-12 (12:21-28)
2. Jeremiah 29 (4-14)

New Testament

3. Luke 15 (1-10 or 11-31)
4. Acts 15 (12-21)

4. Each student will complete an exegetical paper on one of the assigned passages. The exegetical paper should be a verse-by-verse explanation of the biblical text. Students should use no less than 5 commentaries on this assignment with a minimum of 10 resources where one journal article is from the last 3 years. The paper should be written according to standard guidelines (Turabian 8<sup>th</sup> edition; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced; 1-inch margins, footnotes, etc.). *This assignment relates to GECs #1, #3, CSLOs #1, #2, #3, and #3, BACM PSLO #1.*

Passages for Exegetical Paper:

Old Testament

Exodus 7-12 (12:21-28)  
Jeremiah 29 (4-14)

New Testament

Luke 15 (1-10 or 11-31)  
Acts 15 (12-21)

*Evaluation Criteria*

The final grade for the course will be tabulated according to the following percentage breakdown:

Daily Quizzes	15%
Exams	30%
Historical Context Papers	40%
Exegetical Paper	15%

**Course Outline\***

All topics and dates (excluding the final exam) are subject to change. **Note: Reading should be completed before coming to class.**

<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Class Theme</b>	<b>Textbook Reading Assignment</b>	<b>✓ Completed</b>
1/24	Introduction to the Course Discussion of Hermeneutics	Note: Assignments from <i>Richards &amp; Dodson</i> in <b>bold</b>	
1/31	The Hermeneutical Model	pp. 443-454 (canon not covered in this course)	
	The History of Interpretation	<b>Intro: A Noble Calling</b>	
2/7	Chapt. 1: Bible Translations	pp. 21-38	
	Chapt. 2: The Interpretive Journey	pp. 39-49; <b>Ch 1: Fall in Love</b>	

2/14	Chapt. 3: How to Read the Book – Sentences	pp. 51-68	
	Chapt. 4: How to Read the Book – Paragraphs	pp. 69-90	
	Chapt. 5: How to Read the Book – Discourses	pp. 91-112 <b>Ch 2: More stuff, Less Fluff</b>	
2/21	Chapt. 6: The Historical-Cultural Context	pp. 113-136	
	Chapt. 7: What Do We Bring to the Text?	pp. 137-147 <b>Ch 3: Hold Your Horses!</b>	
2/28	Chapt. 8: The Literary Context	pp. 149-162	
	Chapt. 9: Word Studies	pp. 163-187; <b>Review</b>	
3/7	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>		
	Chapt. 10: Who Controls the Meaning?	pp. 189-202	
3/14	Chapt. 11: Levels of Meaning	pp. 203-224 <b>Ch 4: Don't Play Marbles with Diamonds</b>	
<b>HCC Due</b>	Chapt. 12: The Role of the Holy Spirit	pp. 225-234	
3/21	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
3/28	Chapt. 13: Application	pp. 235-248	
	Chapt. 14: New Testament – Letters	pp. 249-268 <b>Ch 5: Speak the Local Language</b>	
4/4	Chapt. 15: New Testament – Gospels	pp. 269-290	
	Chapt. 16: New Testament – Acts	pp. 291-308 <b>Ch 6: Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing</b>	
4/11	Chapt. 17: New Testament – Revelation	pp. 309-330	
	Old Testament Law – Discussion	<b>Ch 7: Don't Get Puffed Up</b>	
4/18	Chapt. 19: Old Testament – Law	pp. 355-372	
	Chapt. 18: Old Testament – Narrative	pp. 331-354 <b>Ch 8: Biblical Studies...</b>	
4/25	Chapt. 20: Old Testament – Poetry	pp. 373-396	
	Chapt. 21: Old Testament – Prophets	pp. 397-419	
		Ch 9: Stay the Course	
		<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>5/2</b>	<b>Exegetical Study Due</b>		
	Chapt. 22: Old Testament – Wisdom	pp. 421-442	
5/9	Overview of Course		
	<b>Exam Review</b>		
5/16	<b>Final Examination</b>		

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## Additional Course Information

*Attendance Policy:* As per the Leavell College Catalog, school policies regarding absences and tardies will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than nine hours will automatically receive a grade of “F” for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will be counted as one hour of absence. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period and after each break. The student is responsible for contacting the teacher if he/she is tardy and the roll has already been taken. The student is responsible for all material, including that which was covered during an absence. Any missed assignments must be made up within one week of the original due date or the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. **Unless otherwise noted, all late assignments will be penalized five points for the first day and one point per day thereafter.**

### *Official Leavell College Plagiarism Policy*

*Plagiarism Policy:* A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited. Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.

### *ITC Contact Information*

If you have any questions about Blackboard, SelfServe, or ITC services, please access the ITC page on our website: [www.nobts.edu/itc/](http://www.nobts.edu/itc/) General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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## Selected Bibliography

- Black, David Alan, and David S. Dockery, eds. *Interpreting the New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001.
- Bray, Gerald. *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Carson, D.A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.
- Corley, Bruce, Steve W. Lemke, and Grant I. Lovejoy, eds. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture*. 2d ed. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996.
- Dockery, David S. *Biblical Interpretation: Then and Now*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Duvall, Scott and Daniel Hays. *Living God’s Word: Discovering Our Place in the Grand Story of Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Efird, James M. *How to Interpret the Bible*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1984.
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*. 3d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Fountain, Thomas E. *Keys to Understanding and Teaching Your Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers,

1983.

Guthrie, George. *Read the Bible for Life: Your Guide to Understanding and Living God's Word*. Nashville: B and H Publishing Group, 2011.

Hendricks, Howard G., and William D. Hendricks. *Living by the Book*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

Kaiser, Walter C., and Moises Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Klein, William W., et. al. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1993.

McQuilkin, Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1983.

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1991.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. 3d ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Terry, Milton. *Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There a Meaning in this Text?: the Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Knowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Williams, Michael. *How to Read the Bible through the Jesus Lens*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

See the professor for further resources.