

**Syllabus for
BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS IN THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE
BIB 790/890**

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I. Seminar Description

Catalogue Description: A study of selected issues in biblical literature (Prerequisite: BIB550 or the equivalent).

Expanded Description: This is a seminar consisting largely of readings and responses to the readings that will focus on a variety of issues concerning the theological appropriation of the Bible as Christian scripture. Possible issues to be considered in the seminar include: the relation of Christian biblical theology to the discipline of systematic theology; the interaction of the church with its scripture; the significance of philosophical and theological hermeneutics (e.g., Gadamer, Ricoeur, Barth, ideological readings, etc.); important shifts in the Bible's interpretive context (pre-modern, modern, and postmodern), and the nature of biblical authority.

II. Textbooks Required to Purchase

Burnett, Richard E. *Karl Barth's Theological Exegesis: The Hermeneutical Principles of the Römerbrief Period*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Davis, Ellen and Richard Hays, eds. *The Art of Reading Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2003.

Fowl, Stephen E., ed. *The Theological Interpretation of Scripture: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. London: Blackwell, 1997.

O'Keffe, John J. and R. R. Reno. *Sanctified Vision: An Introduction to Early Christian Interpretation of the Bible*. Baltimore/London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005.

Zimmerman, Jen. *Recovering Theological Hermeneutics: An Incarnational-Trinitarian Theory of Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

III. Other Required Books/Articles to be supplied through NTS Library or Blackboard

Archer, Ken. "The Spirit and Theological Interpretation." Paper to be presented to the 2005 SBL Group on the Theological Hermeneutics of Christian Scripture (provided by instructor on Blackboard).

- Cosgrove, Charles. "Toward a Postmodern *Hermeneutica Sacra*: Guiding Considerations in Choosing between Competing Plausible Interpretations of Scripture," in *The Meanings We Choose: Hermeneutical Ethics, Indeterminacy and the Conflict of Interpretations*. Edited by Charles Cosgrove. London/New York: T. & T. Clark, 2004, 39-61 (NTS Library Reserve).
- Green, Joel. "Contribute or Capitulate? Wesleyans, Pentecostals, and Reading the Bible in a Postcolonial Mode." *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, 39 (2004): 74-90 (NTS Library).
- _____. "Scripture and Theology: Failed Experiments, Fresh Perspectives." *Interpretation*, 56 (2002): 5-20 (NTS Library).
- Gunton, Colin. "Historical and Systematic Theology," in *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Doctrine*. Cambridge: University Press, 1997, 3-19 (NTS library reserve).
- Johnson, Andy. "The "New Creation," the Crucified and Risen Christ, and the Temple: A Pauline Community as an Audience for Mark." (Blackboard)
- _____. "Resurrection, Ascension, and the Developing Portrait of the God of Israel in Acts," *Scottish Journal of Theology*, 57 (2004): 146-62 (NTS Library).
- _____. "Response to Ken Archer's, 'The Spirit and Theological Interpretation.'" Response to be presented to the 2005 SBL Group on the Theological Hermeneutics of Christian Scripture (provided by instructor on Blackboard).
- Ollenburger, Ben. "What Krister Stendahl 'Meant'—a Normative Critique of 'Descriptive Biblical Theology,'" *Horizons in Biblical Theology* 8 (1986): 61-98 (NTS Library).
- Sandys-Wunsch, John and Laurence Eldredge. "J. P. Gabler and the Distinction between Biblical and Dogmatic Theology: Translation, Commentary, and Discussion of His Originality," *Scottish Journal of Theology* 33, 133-158 (NTS Library).
- Stendahl, Krister. "Biblical Theology, Contemporary." *Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible*, 1:418-432 (NTS Library reference section).
- Stuckenbruck, Loren. Johann Philipp Gabler and the Delineation of Biblical Theology. *Scottish Journal of Theology* 52 (1999): 139-157 (NTS Library).
- Out of Egypt: Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004, Essays 13-16 (NTS library Reserve).

IV. Requirements

- 1. Regular Seminar Attendance, Preparation, and Participation:** You may earn up to 150 points by actively participating in class discussion. You will be evaluated based on how well prepared I perceive you to be based on your contributions to the discussion. If you have an unexcused absence for the day, you will receive a zero for your participation grade that day (15 points per day available).
- 2. Seminar Presentation:** You may earn up to 250 points for a descriptive and critical presentation on one day's assigned readings (see Reading Schedule below). The purpose of these papers is to identify key issues and offer an initial response to them. You should conclude your paper by proposing 5-7 questions designed to help guide seminar discussion. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman font, approximately 1250-1750 words (i.e., 5-7 pages). The paper must be posted as an MS Word file in the Seminar Presentations/Responses Forum in Blackboard **no less than twenty-four hours before** the seminar is due to begin. Each student will be expected to print it out and bring it to the seminar.
- 3. Seminar Response:** You may earn up to 150 points for a critical response to a presentation on one day's assigned readings. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman font, approximately 500-750 words (i.e., 2-3 pages). The paper is due in written form **to the instructor and the presenter** (see requirement 2 above) at the beginning of the session for which the reading is assigned. In addition, by the time the session begins, it must be posted as an MS Word file in the Seminar Presentations/Responses Forum in Blackboard as a response to the thread on which the presentation to which it is related was posted.
- 4. Summary of Seminar Discussion:** Each student will summarize the content of the discussion that ensues in the seminar after the presentation and response papers are given. The summary should state the most important issues raised, significant agreements reached, significant disagreements that remain, and issues needing further exploration. It should be posted as an MS Word file in the Summary of Seminar Sessions Forum in Blackboard by 10:00 AM on Thursday morning following the seminar meeting on Tuesday. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman font, approximately 500 words (i.e., 2 pages). You may earn up to 50 points for this summary.

5. Final Take-Home Exam/Essay: You will write a 2500-3000 word (i.e., 10-12 pages) essay in which you will reflect constructively on your understanding of/proposal for theological hermeneutics. You may be asked to do so in conjunction with offering a theological reading of a particular biblical text. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman font. **It will assume your familiarity with and understanding of the entirety of the seminar readings.** To submit your essay, go into the Assignments Tab in Blackboard to the Final Essay assignment. Click on View/Complete Assignment at the bottom of the description. Then upload your assignment as an MS Word file by December 13 at 11:00 AM. You may earn up to 400 points for this essay.

V. Summary of Grading Policy

The final grade will be computed using the following point scale. There are 1,050 possible points.

150	points	Class Participation
250	points	Seminar Presentation
150	points	Seminar Response
50	points	Seminar Summary
400	points	Final Essay

The following point scale will determine letter grades:

A	1,000-900
B	899-800
C	799-700
D	699-600
F	599-0

VI. Reading Schedule

Date	Assigned Reading	# pages	Presenting	Response	Summary
09/13	Planning Day				
09/20	O’Keffe and Reno; Fowl: 1 & 2	182	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
09/27	Sandys-Wunsch, Stuckenbruck, Stendahl, Ollenburger, Barth’s Prefaces to <i>Römerbrief</i> and background (Appendix 1 in Burnett, 265-92), Green (02), Gunton	158	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
10/04	Fowl: 3, 4, 6, 7-16	178	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
10/11	Davis and Hays: xiv-159	166	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
10/25	Burnett: 1-124	124	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
11/01	Burnett: 125-264	140	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
11/08	Davis and Hays: 181-273; Johnson <i>SJT</i> ; Johnson, “Mark and New Creation” (Blackboard)	151	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
11/15	<i>Out of Egypt</i> : 341-441; Cosgrove; Green, <i>WTJ</i> ; Archer, Johnson: Response to Archer	140 + A & J	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
11/29	Zimmerman: 1-132	132	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
12/06	Zimmerman: 230-322	93	1. 2.	1. 2.	1. 2.
12/13	Final Exam Due at 11:00 AM				