

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO 2018 Spring

COS 121 – Bible I: Introduction

April 13-14, May 11-12, 2018

Instructor: Dr. David Eastman

dleastma@owu.edu

Course Description

This course introduces biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the inspiration, formation, and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture. The importance of the Bible as a witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity will be emphasized.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the place of scripture in the life of the congregation and the role of the pastor in interpretation.
2. Understand the inspiration and formation of the canon and its authority within the community of faith.
3. Understand and apply historical, literary, and theological approaches to various types of literature in scripture using Genesis, Hosea and Amos, Mark, and Philippians.
4. Develop a method of exegesis consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible.

Texts

Required

- Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd ed.; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003). □Paperback, ISBN 978-0310246046.
- John Hayes & Carl Holladay, *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook* (3rd ed.; Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007). Paperback, ISBN 978-0664227753.
- A translation of the Bible, preferably the NRSV, NIV, or ESV. No paraphrases, please (that is, **not** The Message).
- **Reference:**
 - *The Interpreters One-Volume Commentary*
 - *Harper Collins Bible Dictionary*
 - *NRSV – New Interpreter's Study Bible**(*Students will have the book from a previous class or Licensing School.)

Recommended

- Natalie R. Wilson Eastman, *Women, Leadership, and the Bible: How Do I Know What to Believe? A Practical Guide to Biblical Interpretation.* 978-1-60899-913-2.

Supplementary

- *Archaeological Study Bible* (Zondervan)
- Michael J. Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*, rev. ed. 978-0801046407.

Course Requirements

1. Attend all class sessions.
2. Participate fully in class sessions. This means showing up on time and staying through the entire class session, completing required readings in advance, and contributing to class discussions.
3. Complete all written assignments.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (April 13-14): Genesis, Hosea, Amos

Before coming to class, please read:

- Genesis, Hosea, Amos
- Fee and Stuart ch. 1-2, 5, 9-12
- Hayes & Holladay ch. 1-3

Week 2 (May 11-12): Mark, Philippians

Before coming to class, please read:

- Mark, Philippians
- Fee and Stuart ch. 7-8, then 3-4
- Hayes & Holladay ch. 13

Assignments

All assignments should be submitted in twelve-point, Times New Roman font. They should be double spaced with margins of 1 inch all around. For the specific requirements of each exercise, see below.

Assignment #1: Due in class April 13. 2-3 pages. Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and create a timeline for creation. Specify what is happening, the order in which it is happening, and how long it takes. Then read Genesis 2:4-25 and complete the same exercise. After doing this, compare your timelines. Where do they intersect, and are there any points at which they diverge? As you consider these points of intersection and/or divergence, think about what might they teach us about how to interpret these texts. Also, note any particular questions or insights that result from your close analysis of these texts.

Assignment #2: Due in class May 11. 3-4 pages. Locate two passages in Mark in which the author shows a clear awareness of his Gentile audience. What in the text allows you to detect this awareness, and how does understanding Mark's audience influence the way you might interpret and preach these texts? Or put another way, how does an awareness of audience help us understand the proper context of Mark, and how should we interpret the text in light of that context. Again in this paper, note any particular questions or insights that result from your close analysis of these texts.

Assignment #3 (in a Word document submitted by email) – due by midnight on Saturday, May 26. 7-8 page capstone project. Write a sermon on a text of your choice from any of the books covered in the class. The text of the sermon should be 5-6 pages of the total paper, and you should spend the other 2 pages reflecting on the exegetical process. What challenges and/or insights did you find while writing this? More information on this assignment will be given in class. You are advised to begin this project as early as possible!

Method of Determining Final Grade

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Assignment 1	20%
Assignment 2	20%
Assignment 3 (Sermon)	40%
Class participation	20%

Academic Honor

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions: (1) warning; (2) probation; (3) suspension for the remainder of the course; (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio; (5) grade of Fail for the course. Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.