

BS1010P / BS1019P: Reading and Interpreting the Bible in Contemporary Times

Semester 2: Intensive

Semester 2: online

Description

How has the Bible been read and interpreted? How important is method in our study and interpretation of the Bible? What are the methods or hermeneutical principles one can employ? How can we effectively interpret the Bible so that it might speak to our contemporary times? This course will survey the many approaches, methods and hermeneutical principles employed by readers and practitioners of the Bible; explore the questions raised by them and assess both their strengths and weaknesses. The course will explore how these methods may be applied to the books of Exodus and Matthew as test cases to encourage the students to appreciate not only the variety of methods but also the multiplicity of meaning inherent within the Biblical text.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that Level 1 students will be able to:

1. Describe the history of biblical interpretation
2. Discuss the approaches, hermeneutical principles, methods and practices of biblical interpretation
3. Analyse and describe the assumptions of the many schools/approaches and perspectives of biblical method and criticism
4. Apply and employ these methods in their reading and interpretation of Biblical texts

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Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Broyles, Craig C. (Ed). *Interpreting the Old Testament: A Guide for Exegesis*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2001.

Crain, Jeanie C. *Reading the Bible as Literature: An Introduction*. Cambridge, U.K.: Polity Press, 2010.

Deppe, Dean B. *All Roads Lead to the Text: Eight Methods of Inquiry into the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011.

*Dozeman, Thomas B (ed.). *Methods for Exodus*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010

*McKenzie, Stephen L. and John Kaltner (Eds). *New Meanings for Ancient Texts: Recent approaches to Biblical Criticisms and their Applications*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

*Powell, Mark Allan (ed.). *Methods for Matthew*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Schüssler-Fioorenza, Elisabeth, (ed.). *Searching the Scriptures: A Feminist Introduction*, New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 2000.

*Soulén, Richard N and R. Kendall Soulén. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism, Fourth Edition* Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011.

Sugirtharajah, R. S. *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World. Revised and Expanded Third Edition*, Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 2006.

Tate, Randolph W. *Handbook for Biblical Interpretation: An Essential Guide to Methods, Terms and Concepts. Second Edition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2012.

BS8010P / BS8019P: Reading and Interpreting the Bible in Contemporary Times

Semester 2: Intensive

Semester 2: online

Description

How has the Bible been read and interpreted? How important is method in our study and interpretation of the Bible? What are the methods or hermeneutical principles one can employ? How can we effectively interpret the Bible so that it might speak to our contemporary times? This course will survey the many approaches, methods and hermeneutical principles employed by readers and practitioners of the Bible; explore the questions raised by them and assess both their strengths and weaknesses. The course will explore how these methods may be applied to the books of Exodus and Matthew as test cases to encourage the students to appreciate not only the variety of methods but also the multiplicity of meaning inherent within the Biblical text.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Describe the history of biblical interpretation
2. Discuss the approaches, hermeneutical principles, methods and practices of biblical interpretation
3. Analyse and describe the assumptions of the many schools/approaches and perspectives of biblical method and criticism
4. Apply these methods in their reading and interpretation of Biblical texts
5. Evaluate claims made in the world today about Biblical truth.
6. Understand and appreciate the context of the text as well as their own cultural contexts in the process of biblical interpretation.

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Recommended reading

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Crain, Jeanie C. *Reading the Bible as Literature: An Introduction*. Cambridge, U.K.: Polity Press, 2010.

Deppe, Dean B. *All Roads Lead to the Text: Eight Methods of Inquiry into the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011.

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