

AP2600P/ AP2609P/ AP3600P/ AP3609P

Hermeneutics

Semester 2: Classroom-based: (AP2600P, AP3600P)

Online: (AP2609P, AP3609P)

Description

This unit explores issues in hermeneutics from a philosophical perspective, keeping in mind the engagement of that perspective with the theological in the interpretation of biblical and other texts. Following a survey of traditional hermeneutic models, the unit addresses modern developments, considering Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger, Gadamer and Ricoeur, and the contributions of structuralists, poststructuralists and others, while engaging the following questions. What meanings of the term "hermeneutics" link antiquity to modernity? What accounts of truth and meaning emerge from the definitions of hermeneutics that modern philosophy has sequentially offered? Included here are issues of how textual meaning might be authoritatively determined, and whether an adequate "explanation of explanation" is to be had.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Articulate fundamental issues attending textual interpretation.
2. Distinguish modern interpretive approaches from traditional methods.
3. Discuss the particular challenges confronting biblical interpretation.
4. Identify a range of interpretive approaches to texts.
5. (For Level 3 only) Critically discuss the relationship between theological stances and interpretive approaches.

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Classroom-based – Level 2	
Essay (2250 words)	50%
Essay (2250 words)	50%
Online – Level 2	
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Online Participation (500 words)	20%
Classroom-based – Level 3	
Essay (2500 words)	50%
Essay (2500 words)	50%
Online – Level 3	
Essay (2200 words)	40%
Essay (2200 words)	40%
Online Participation (600 words)	20%

Pre-requisite: For AP2600P: 15 points in Philosophy. For AP3600P: 15 points in Philosophy at Level 2

Lecturer: J John Martis, SJ

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Bleicher, Josef (ed). *Contemporary Hermeneutics: Hermeneutics as Method, Philosophy, and Critique*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1980.

Caputo, John D. *Radical Hermeneutics: Repetition, Deconstruction and the Hermeneutic Project*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987.

Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Diane Michelfelder and Richard Palmer, eds. *Dialogue and Deconstruction: The Gadamer- Derrida Encounter*. Albany, NY: Suny Press, 1989..

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Gadamer, Hans-Georg. *Truth and Method*. Trans. William Glen Doepel. 2nd Ed. London: Sheed and Ward, 1979.

Heidegger, Martin. *Being and Time: A Translation of Sein and Zeit*. Trans. Joan Stambaugh. Albany, NY: SUNY, 1996.

Jasper, David. *A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.

Jensen, Alexander S. *The Hermeneutics Reader*. Ed. Kurt Mueller- Vollmer. New York: Continuum, 2006.

*Palmer, Richard E. *Hermeneutics: Interpretation Theory in Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger, and Gadamer*. Chicago: Northwestern University Press, 1969.

Ricoeur, Paul. *Interpretation Theory: Discourse and the Surplus of Meaning*. Fort Worth, TX: Texas Christian University Press, 1976.

Schneiders, S.M. *The Revelatory Text: Interpreting the New Testament as Sacred Scripture*. San Francisco: Harper, 1991.

Schmidt, Lawrence K. *Understanding Hermeneutics*. Stocksfield, UK: Acumen, 2006.

The Bible and Culture Collective (eds.) *The Postmodern Bible*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995.

Thistleton, Anthony C. *Hermeneutics: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009.

Tracy, D. *Plurality and Ambiguity: Hermeneutics, Religion, Hope*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1987.

Wilson, Barrie A (compiler). *About Interpretation: from Plato to Dilthey: A Hermeneutic Anthology*. New York: Peter Lang, 1989.

AP9600P/ AP9609P

Hermeneutics

Semester 2: Classroom-based: (AP9600P)

Online: (AP9609P)

Description

This unit explores issues in hermeneutics from a philosophical perspective, keeping in mind the engagement of that perspective with the theological in the interpretation of biblical and other texts. Following a survey of traditional hermeneutic models, the unit addresses modern developments, considering Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger, Gadamer and Ricoeur, and the contributions of structuralists, poststructuralists and others, while engaging the following questions. What meanings of the term "hermeneutics" link antiquity to modernity? What accounts of truth and meaning emerge from the definitions of hermeneutics that modern philosophy has sequentially offered? Included here are issues of how textual meaning might be authoritatively determined, and whether an adequate "explanation of explanation" is to be had.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Articulate fundamental issues attending textual interpretation.
2. Distinguish modern interpretive approaches from traditional methods.
3. Discuss the particular challenges confronting biblical interpretation.
4. Identify a range of interpretive approaches to texts.
5. Critically discuss the relationship between theological stances and interpretive approaches.
6. Develop a written argument for an interpretive approach to a text or texts.

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Classroom-based	
Essay 1 (3000 words)	50%
Essay 2 (3000 words), following prior presentation at seminar of 2000 word draft of the essay*. *Seminar presentation of draft [clarity of presentation plus leadership of subsequent discussion to be assessed (40% of assessment for this essay)]; followed by submission of the written-up essay, assessed as a written piece of work (60%).	50%
Online	
Essay 1 (2400 words)	40%
Essay 2 (2400 words), following prior online posting and leadership of discussion of draft essay* *Online posting of discussion-amenable draft, together with itemised, well-chosen, points of discussion, and leadership /stimulation of subsequent online discussion, to be assessed (40% of assessment for this essay); followed by submission of the written-up essay, assessed as a written piece of work (60%).	40%
Online Participation (1200 words)	20%

Pre-requisite: Undergraduate philosophical studies, or comparable literary or cultural studies.

Lecturer: J John Martis, SJ

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Bleicher, Josef (ed). *Contemporary Hermeneutics: Hermeneutics as Method, Philosophy, and Critique*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1980.

Caputo, John D. *Radical Hermeneutics: Repetition, Deconstruction and the Hermeneutic Project*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987.

Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Diane Michelfelder and Richard Palmer, eds. *Dialogue and Deconstruction: The Gadamer- Derrida Encounter*. Albany, NY: Suny Press, 1989..

Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Gadamer, Hans-Georg. *Truth and Method*. Trans. William Glen Doepel. 2nd Ed. London: Sheed and Ward, 1979.

Heidegger, Martin. *Being and Time: A Translation of Sein and Zeit*. Trans. Joan Stambaugh. Albany, NY: SUNY, 1996.

Jasper, David. *A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.

Jensen, Alexander S. *The Hermeneutics Reader*. Ed. Kurt Mueller- Vollmer. New York: Continuum, 2006.

*Palmer, Richard E. *Hermeneutics: Interpretation Theory in Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger, and Gadamer*. Chicago: Northwestern University Press, 1969.

Ricoeur, Paul. *Interpretation Theory: Discourse and the Surplus of Meaning*. Fort Worth, TX: Texas Christian University Press, 1976.

Schneiders, S.M. *The Revelatory Text: Interpreting the New Testament as Sacred Scripture*. San Francisco: Harper, 1991.

Schmidt, Lawrence K. *Understanding Hermeneutics*. Stocksfield, UK: Acumen, 2006.

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Thistleton, Anthony C. *Hermeneutics: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009.

Tracy, D. *Plurality and Ambiguity: Hermeneutics, Religion, Hope*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1987.

Wilson, Barrie A (compiler). *About interpretation: from Plato to Dilthey: A Hermeneutic Anthology*. New York: Peter Lang, 1989.