

BS3010P/ BS3019P
Reading and Interpreting the Bible in Contemporary Times

Intensive unit: BS3010P -14, 15, 16, 21, 22 August

Online: BS3019P- not available in academic year 2020

Description

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 (Historical-Critical, Literary, Feminist, Queer, Ecological, Liberational, Postcolonial, Postmodern, Psychological, Popular Culture, Disability, etc) of the Bible; explore the questions raised by them and assess both their strengths and weaknesses. The course will instruct how these methods are applied to select texts from the Old Testament 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.

Learning outcomes

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. Recognise and compare 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. Understand and appreciate the context of the text as well as one's own cultural contexts in the process of biblical interpretation
6. Apply and employ these methods in their reading and interpretation of Biblical texts

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Descriptive Essay (2000 words)	40%
Short Essay on Reading Material (1000 words)	20%
Exegetical Essay (2000 words)	40%

Pre-requisite: Old Testament Foundational Unit.

Lecturer: Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon

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.

Brown, William P. *A Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox, 2017.

Davies, Eryl W. *Biblical criticism: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: Bloomsbury, T & T Clark, 2013.

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.

Gillingham, S. E. *One Bible: Many Voices: Different Approaches to Biblical Studies*. London: SPCK, 1998.

*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.

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

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

Sugirtharajah, R. S. (ed.), *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World*. 25th Anniversary Edition, Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 2016.

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

BS9010P/ BS9019P
Reading and Interpreting the Bible in Contemporary Times

Intensive unit: BS9010P - 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 August

Online: BS9019P- not available in academic year 2020

Description

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 (Historical-Critical, Literary, Feminist, Queer, Ecological, Liberational, Postcolonial, Postmodern, Psychological, Popular Culture, Disability, etc) of the Bible; explore the questions raised by them and assess both their strengths and weaknesses. The course will instruct how these methods are applied to select texts from the Old Testament 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.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of biblical interpretation
2. Explain the significant approaches, hermeneutical principles, methods and practices of biblical interpretation
3. Analyse the assumptions of the many schools/approaches and perspectives of biblical method and criticism
4. Evaluate the contemporary claims for Biblical truth through the appropriate application of various approaches to interpretation.
5. Understand and appreciate the context of the text as well as one's own cultural contexts in the process of biblical interpretation
6. Apply and employ these methods in their reading and interpretation of Biblical texts

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Essay (3000 words)	40%
Short Essay on Reading Material (1000 words)	20%
Exegetical Essay (3000 words)	40%

Pre-requisite: Old Testament Foundational Unit.

Lecturer: Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon

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.

Brown, William P. *A Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox, 2017.

Davies, Eryl W. *Biblical criticism: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: Bloomsbury, T & T Clark, 2013.

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.

Gillingham, S. E. *One Bible: Many Voices: Different Approaches to Biblical Studies*. London: SPCK, 1998.

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