

Hermeneutics

NBST-610

CG Section 8WK 11/08/2019 to 04/16/2020 Modified 05/25/2021

Course Description

An advanced course in hermeneutics including a study of the history of interpretation, both biblical and extra-biblical, and an examination of the current status of various interpretive approaches to the Scriptures.

Requisites

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog \(https://catalog.liberty.edu/\)](https://catalog.liberty.edu/).

Rationale

Believers from all realms of life need the ability to interpret God's Word correctly. Pastors, associate pastors, and teachers need these abilities to develop expository sermons and lessons. Those in other fields, such as counseling, business, and education, need these abilities in order to integrate biblical truths with the principles and hypotheses of people in their fields. All believers need hermeneutical skills in order to identify and defend against heretical teachings and to grow in their Christian lives. Believers also need to recognize that there may be more than one plausible interpretation of a biblical passage, and be willing to show tolerance and acceptance when others interpret Scriptures differently than they do. It is important that believers hold to their theories tentatively, so that they are willing to change their opinions when new biblical data would warrant doing so.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the principles involved in validly interpreting a biblical text.
- B. Apply those principles to a biblical passage in order to understand its meaning.
- C. Analyze alternative interpretations of a given passage.
- D. Evaluate the major hermeneutical problems confronting the study of various books of the Bible.

Course Resources

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: [Liberty University Online Bookstore \(https://bncvirtual.com/liberty/\)](https://bncvirtual.com/liberty/).

Additional Materials for Learning

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Canvas [recommended browsers \(https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas-Basics-Guide/What-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-Canvas/ta-p/66)
- D. Microsoft Word
- E. [Interactive Turabian-Based Writing Guide \(https://rise.articulate.com/share/er1g36fWyDNZkE3q1GA6CLbk3rQSmUiQ#/%20\)](https://rise.articulate.com/share/er1g36fWyDNZkE3q1GA6CLbk3rQSmUiQ#/%20)

Course Assignments

Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in the Course Overview.

Discussions (5)

Discussions are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each discussion. Each thread must respond to 2 questions selected from the provided list and include at least 400 words for each question. For each thread, the student must support his or her assertions with at least 3 citations from at least 2 different sources in current Turabian format. Acceptable sources include the Bible, textbooks, video lectures, scholarly articles, and online sources approved by the instructor. In addition to the thread, the student must reply to at least 1 classmate's thread. Each reply must be at least 200 words. For each reply, no sources are needed, but if used, must be cited properly in current Turabian format.

For the Discussion: Thesis, Outline, and Bibliography Assignment, the student will submit the thesis, passage outline, and bibliography for the Exegetical Paper for discussion among his or her classmates and evaluation by the instructor. The student will then submit at least 1 reply of at least 200 words to a classmate's thread. (MLO's: A, B, C, D)

Book Critique Assignment

The student will write a 1,250–2,500-word book critique of *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes*. The critique must include a summary of the book and be in current Turabian format. (MLO's: A, D)

Exegetical Paper: Passage and Bibliography Assignment

The student will choose 1 passage from the list provided in the course. The student will indicate which passage he or she has chosen for the Exegetical Paper and provide a bibliography of at least 7 scholarly sources related to the passage and generate a bibliography that will be incorporated in the final Exegetical Paper. The course textbooks do not count toward the total number of required sources, and all sources must be in current Turabian format. (MLO's: B, C, D)

Exegetical Paper: Final Assignment

The student will write a 2,500–4,250-word exegetical paper based on his or her chosen passage. The title page, table of contents, and bibliography are not included as part of the total word count. The paper must include at least 7 scholarly sources and be in current Turabian format. (MLO's: B, C, D)

Quizzes (4)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned Module: Week as well as the preceding Module: Week. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes; contain 20 multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and/or essay questions; and have a 1-hour time limit. (MLO's: A, D)

✓ Course Grading

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussions (5 at 60 pts ea)	300
Book Critique Assignment	125
Exegetical Paper: Passage and Bibliography Assignment	10

Exegetical Paper: Final Assignment	225
Quizzes (3 at 80 pts ea, 1 at 100 pts)	340
Total	1010

* Course Policies

Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

Policies

Late Assignment Policy

Course Assignments, including discussion boards, exams, and other graded assignments, should be submitted on time.

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week after the due date will receive up to a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week and less than 2 weeks late will receive up to a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted outside of special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant personal health issues), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.
4. Group projects, including group discussion board threads and/or replies, and assignments will not be accepted after the due date outside of special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant personal health issues), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.

Disability Assistance

Students with a disability and those with medical conditions associated with pregnancy may contact Liberty University’s Online Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu for accommodations. Such accommodations require appropriate documentation of your condition. For more information about ODAS and the accommodations process, including how to request an accommodation, please visit <https://www.liberty.edu/online/online-disability-accommodation-support/> (<https://www.liberty.edu/online/online-disability-accommodation-support/>). Requests for accommodations not related to disabilities or pregnancy must be directed to the Registrar’s Office, which generally handles medical needs support.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](https://www.liberty.edu/media/1226/Liberty_University_Discrimination_Harassment_and_Sexual_Misconduct_Policy.pdf) (https://www.liberty.edu/media/1226/Liberty_University_Discrimination_Harassment_and_Sexual_Misconduct_Policy.pdf) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](http://www.liberty.edu/media/8021/Disability_Grievance_Procedures.pdf) (http://www.liberty.edu/media/8021/Disability_Grievance_Procedures.pdf).

Course Attendance

In an effort to comply with U.S. Department of Education policies, attendance is measured by physical class attendance or any submission of a required assignment within the enrollment dates of the course (such as examinations, written papers or projects, any discussion board posts, etc.) or initiating any communication with one’s professor regarding an academic subject. More

information regarding the [attendance policy](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.os.liberty.edu%2Fdisplay%2FIE%2FOnline%2BAttendance%2BAnd%2BNon-Attendance&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613719138&sdata=%2BNBTsPOoXuHAPLfISQRugK7cRSuV6UyC7qD3agf3l2k%3D&reserved=0) (<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.os.liberty.edu%2Fdisplay%2FIE%2FOnline%2BAttendance%2BAnd%2BNon-Attendance&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613719138&sdata=%2BNBTsPOoXuHAPLfISQRugK7cRSuV6UyC7qD3agf3l2k%3D&reserved=0>) can be found in the [Academic Course Catalogs](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.liberty.edu%2Findex.cfm%3FPID%3D791&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613729132&sdata=DjjhMiRBFnF%2B2ZJUC8eBd1OdNb26S9ADukODYsilXIA%3D&reserved=0) (<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.liberty.edu%2Findex.cfm%3FPID%3D791&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613729132&sdata=DjjhMiRBFnF%2B2ZJUC8eBd1OdNb26S9ADukODYsilXIA%3D&reserved=0>). Regular attendance in online courses is expected throughout the length of the term. Students who do not attend within the first week of a sub-term by submitting a required academic assignment (such as the Course Requirements Checklist, an examination, written paper or project, discussion board post, or other academic activity) will be dropped from the course. Students who wish to re-engage in the course are encouraged to contact Academic Advising to discuss their enrollment options. Students who begin an online course, but at some point in the semester cease attending, and do not provide official notification to withdraw, will be assigned a grade of “FN” ([Failure for Non-Attendance](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.os.liberty.edu%2Fdisplay%2FIE%2FUnofficial%2BWithdrawals&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613729132&sdata=MoMvZdPfza69InuhVHMHAVgu59ZP0Fw45xJTU9PIBrU%3D&reserved=0) (<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwiki.os.liberty.edu%2Fdisplay%2FIE%2FUnofficial%2BWithdrawals&data=02%7C01%7Caccollins2%40liberty.edu%7Cd91431fa6ac547056b5408d833029e1a%7Cbf8218eb3024465a9934a39c97251b2%7C0%7C0%7C637315433613729132&sdata=MoMvZdPfza69InuhVHMHAVgu59ZP0Fw45xJTU9PIBrU%3D&reserved=0>)). Students wishing to withdraw from courses after the official start date should familiarize themselves with the [withdrawal policy](#).

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
940-1010	920-939	900-919	860-899	840-859	820-839	780-819	760-779	740-759	700-739	680-699	679 and below

For courses with a Pass/NP final grade, please refer to the Course Grading section of this syllabus for the assignment requirements and/or point value required to earn a Passing final grade.

Add/Drop Policy

The full policy statement and procedures are published in the [Policy Directory](https://wiki.os.liberty.edu/display/IE/Dropping+and+Adding+Online+Classes) (<https://wiki.os.liberty.edu/display/IE/Dropping+and+Adding+Online+Classes>).

Honor Code

Liberty University comprises a network of students, Alumni, faculty, staff and supporters that together form a Christian community based upon the truth of the Bible. This truth defines our foundational principles, from our Doctrinal Statement to the Code of Honor. These principles irrevocably align Liberty University’s operational procedures with the long tradition of university culture, which remains distinctively Christian, designed to preserve and advance truth. Our desire is to create a safe, comfortable environment within our community of learning, and we extend our academic and spiritual resources to all of our students with the goal of fostering academic maturity, spiritual growth and character development.

Communities are predicated on shared values and goals. The Code of Honor, an expression of the values from which our Doctrinal Statement was born, defines the fundamental principles by which our community exists. At the core of this code lie two essential concepts: a belief in the significance of all individuals, and a reliance on the existence of objective truth.

While we acknowledge that some may disagree with various elements of the Code of Honor, we maintain the expectation that our students will commit to respect and uphold the Code while enrolled at Liberty University.

Adherence to the principles and concepts established within facilitates the success of our students and strengthens the Liberty community.

The Code of Honor can be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=19155> (<http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=19155>).

Additional Items

Program Learning Outcomes for NBST 610

NBST 610 supports the following academic programs in the John W. Rawlings School of Divinity:

Master of Arts (Biblical Exposition)

Master of Arts (Biblical Studies)

Master of Arts (Christian Apologetics)

Master of Arts (Theological Studies)

Master of Arts in Religion

Master of Divinity

Master of Divinity in Professional Chaplaincy

Master of Arts in Sports Chaplaincy

The program learning outcomes for these programs are listed with the program in the Rawlings School of Divinity Graduate Catalog. This course is related to at least one of the program learning outcomes listed for each of these programs and contributes to your success in acquiring the knowledge and skills that are described. Here is the link to the catalog page where this information can be found:

John W. Rawlings School of Divinity Graduate Catalog (<https://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=41704>)
(<https://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=41704>)

Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Course Overview	Student Acknowledgements	Course Requirements Checklist
Module 1: Week 1	Learn	Read: 2 items Watch: 4 items
	Apply	Discussion: Introduction to Hermeneutics
Module 2: Week 2	Learn	Read: 3 items Watch: 2 items
	Apply	Discussion: Tools for Hermeneutics Quiz: Introduction and Tools for Hermeneutics
Module 3: Week 3	Learn	Read: 2 items Watch: 2 items
	Apply	Book Critique Assignment Discussion: Contexts for Hermeneutics
Module 4: Week 4	Learn	Read: 2 items Watch: 2 items

When	Topic	Notes
	Apply	Exegetical Paper: Passage and Bibliography Assignment Quiz: Context, the Bible, and Meaning
Module 5: Week 5	Learn	Read: 2 items Watch: 2 items
	Apply	Discussion: Thesis, Outline, and Bibliography
Module 6: Week 6	Learn	Read: 2 items Watch: 3 items
	Apply	Discussion: Acts, Letters, and Revelation Quiz: Application, Gospels, Acts, Letters, and Revelation
Module 7: Week 7	Learn	Read: 2 items Watch: 2 items
	Apply	Exegetical Paper: Final Assignment
Module 8: Week 8	Learn	Read: 2 items Watch: 4 items
	Apply	Quiz: Poetry, Wisdom, Narrative, Law, and Prophets