

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

NBST 610

HERMENEUTICS

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.

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.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. 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.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (5)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. 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 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 Discussion Board Forum 4, 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: A, B, C, D)

- D. Book Critique

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: A, D)

- E. Exegetical Paper Passage and Bibliography

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 your 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: B, C, D)

- F. Exegetical Paper

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

G. Exams (4)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module/week as well as the preceding module/week. Each exam 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: A, D)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums (5 at 60 pts ea)		300
Book Critique		125
Exegetical Paper Passage and Bibliography		10
Exegetical Paper		225
Exam 1	(Modules 1–2)	80
Exam 2	(Modules 3–4)	80
Exam 3	(Modules 5–6)	80
Exam 4	(Modules 7–8)	100
	Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LUSD Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

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

E. Course Changes

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

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

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](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

NBST 610

Textbooks: Duvall & Hays, *Grasping God's Word* (2012).
 Klein et al., *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (2017).
 Richards & O'Brien, *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes* (2012).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Klein et al.: chs. 1–3 Richards & O'Brien: Introduction, chs. 1–3 4 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 60
2	Duvall & Hays: chs. 2–4 Klein et al.: ch. 5 Richards & O'Brien: chs. 4–7 2 presentations	DB Forum 2 Exam 1	60 80
3	Klein et al.: chs. 4, 7 Richards & O'Brien: chs. 8–9, Conclusion 2 presentations	DB Forum 3 Book Critique	60 125
4	Duvall & Hays: chs. 1, 5–9 Klein et al.: ch. 6 2 presentations	Exegetical Paper Passage and Bibliography Exam 2	10 80
5	Duvall & Hays: chs. 10–13, 15, Appendices 1–2 Klein et al.: chs. 10–12 (ch. 10 – Gospels only) 2 presentations	DB Forum 4	60
6	Duvall & Hays: chs. 14, 16–17 Klein et al.: ch. 10 (Acts, Epistles, Revelation) 3 presentations	DB Forum 5 Exam 3	60 80
7	Duvall & Hays: chs. 20, 22 Klein et al.: chs. 8–9 (ch. 9 – Poetry and Wisdom) 2 presentations	Exegetical Paper	225
8	Duvall & Hays: chs. 18–19, 21 Klein et al.: ch. 9 (Narratives, Law, Prophecy) 4 presentations	Exam 4	100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.