

Ph.D. Syllabus

BT701 ADVANCED HERMENEUTICS AND THEOLOGICAL METHOD

Course: BT701 Advanced Hermeneutics and Theological Method
Credit: 3 Credit hours
Semester: Fall 2026 Session 1
Dates: August 18 –October 6, 2026
Classes meet: September 22-25, 2026 (9am-12noon and 1pm-4pm)
Place: Microsoft Teams and/or Calvary University (in person)
Professors: Dr. Gary Gromacki and Dr. H.Wayne House

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will study biblical hermeneutics focusing on the literal grammatical-historical method. Students will critique contemporary hermeneutical theories and theological systems from the perspective of traditional dispensationalism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course the student should have achieved the following measurable outcomes:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the philosophy and methodology of biblical interpretation covered in this course. (PLO 1-5; Assignments 1-4)

The student will present carefully reasoned written work that demonstrates an understanding of the science and art of biblical interpretation (PLO 1-5; Assignments 1-4)

The student will explain various arguments pro and con on the views of biblical interpretation and the process of interpreting the Bible according to authorial intent consistent with the literal historical grammatical method of interpretation. (PLO 1-5; Assignments 1-4)

The student will be able to differentiate between various views on biblical interpretation covered in the class and be able to state their strengths and weaknesses. (PLO 1-5; Assignments 1-4)

The student will contrast clear logical thinking with logical fallacies often used in arguments for alternative views of interpretation covered in the class. (PLO 1-5; Assignments 1-4)

The student will make applications of Scripture that are consistent with the intent of the authors of the Bible. (PLO 1-5; Assignments 1-4)

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Original Language Bible Study Software (Accordance or Logos)

Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*, *Nestle Aland 28 (NA28)* – both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta (LXX)*, *A Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)* by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* by Koehler and Baumgartner.

Required Textbooks

House, H. Wayne and Forrest S. Weiland, eds. *The Theory and Practice of Biblical Hermeneutics: Essays in Honor of Elliott E. Johnson*. Silverton, OR: Lampion House Publishing, 2022. (367 pp). ISBN 10: 173450675X ISBN13: 978-1734506754. Amazon \$26.95

Johnson, Elliot E. *Expository Hermeneutics: Advancing the Discussion*. Wipf and Stock, 2023. ISBN 13:978-1666776935

ASSIGNMENTS

Pre-Class Assignment 1 – Read through ten articles by Dr. Gromacki and Dr. House posted in Modules in Canvas and type a paragraph summary of each (200 points)

Pre-Class Assignment 2 – Read Johnson’s book *Expository Hermeneutics: Advancing the Discussion* and type a critical book review in a Word document (6-8 pages double spaced in Turabian style) and post under Assignment 2 in Canvas (200 points)

Pre-Class Assignment 3 – Read the book by House and Weiland, *The Theory and Practice of Biblical Hermeneutics* and type a critical book review (6-8 pages double spaced following Turabian style) and post under Assignment 3 in Canvas (200 points)

Post Class Assignment 4 – Write an exegetical research applying hermeneutical and exegetical principles learned in this class. The exegetical paper should be 20-30 pages (double spaced) following Turabian format on a Scripture text approved by the professor. Each exegetical paper must include: scripture text, context, exegetical outline, detailed commentary, biblical and theological synthesis, and five applications. (400 points)

Ph.D. GRADING SCALE

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 960-1000 points | A |
| 940-959 points | A- |
| 920-939 points | B+ |
| 880-919 points | B |
| 860-879 points | B- |
| 0-859 points | F |

POLICIES

All assignments are to be submitted in the Assignments in Canvas.

All research papers must be submitted in Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any information without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI-generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment, and the student will be reported to the Ph.D. director.

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all Calvary students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

TOPICS FOR CLASS LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday - Introduction to Hermeneutics

Gromacki – Introduction to the Ph.D. in Bible and Theology Program

Gromacki – The Inductive Method of Bible Study

Gromacki - The Bible as Propositional Revelation

Gromacki - The Bible as Progressive Revelation

House, “The Truth about Truth”

House, “Philosophy of Meaning, Interpretation, and Application”

House, “Hermeneutical and Theological Interpretation”

House – Introduction to Hirsch

House, “Clash between Literal and Allegorical Interpretation in the Patristic Period through
“Luther and Biblical Interpretation”

House, “Irenaeus on the Interpretation of the Old Testament”

Wednesday - Interpreting Biblical Genres

Old Testament Genre – Historical Narrative

Old Testament Genre – Legal Literature

Old Testament Genre – Psalms

Old Testament Genre – Wisdom Literature

Old Testament Genre – Prophetic

New Testament Genre – Gospel

New Testament Genre – Parables of Jesus

New Testament Genre – Epistle

New Testament Genre – Apocalyptic (Revelation)

Thursday - Dispensational Premillennialism and other Theological Systems

Gromacki – The Distinctives of Dispensationalism

Gromacki – The Times of the Gentiles

Gromacki – God’s Plan for Israel in the Seventy Weeks Prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27

Gromacki – The Futurist View of the Book of Revelation

House, “Josephus and the Fall of Jerusalem: An Evaluation of the Preterist View on Jerusalem in Prophecy”

House, “The Understanding of the Church Fathers Regarding the Olivet Discourse and the Fall of Jerusalem”

House, “Premillennialism in the Ante-Nicene Church: Why the Divide in the Early Church on Chiliasm?”

House and Mappes, “Biblical and Theological Discussion of Traditional Dispensational Premillennialism”

House, “The Hermeneutics of Historic Premillennialism”

House, “A Comparison of Covenant Theology and Dispensationalism”

Friday - Interpreting Difficult Bible Texts

House, “Do Matthew 24 and 1 Thessalonians 4 Refer to Different Comings of Christ?”

House, “Does Galatians 3 Mean that Women Can Preach and Rule in the Church?”

House, “Was Abraham Looking for a Real City?”

House, “What is the ‘Perfect’ in 1 Corinthians 13:10?”

House, “Does Hebrews 6 Teach That Believers Can Lose Their Salvation?”

House, “Does John 15 Teach the Loss of Salvation?”

House, “What is the Πνευματικῶν in 1 Corinthians 12-14?”

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Berding, Kenneth and Jonathan Lunde, eds., *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008).

Bullinger, *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1968.

Chou, Abner. *The Hermeneutics of the Biblical Writers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel. 2018.

Cone, Christopher. *Integrating Exegesis and Exposition: Biblical Communication for Transformational Learning*. Fort Worth, TX: Exegetica. 2015.

Cone, Christopher. *Priority in Biblical Hermeneutics and Theological Method*. Raymore, MO: Exegetica Publishing, 2018.

Cone, Christopher. *Prolegomena on Biblical Hermeneutics and Method, 2nd Ed.* Fort Worth, TX: Tyndale Seminary Press, 2012.

Couch, Mal, ed. *An Introduction to Classical Evangelical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000.

Davis, John J. *Biblical Numerology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1968.

Gerstner, John. *Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth: A Critique of Dispensationalism*. Nicene Council. 2009.

Grondin, Jean. *Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. 1997.

Gundry, Stanley N. and Gary T. Meadors. *Four Views on Moving Beyond the Bible to Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.

Hirsch, E.D., Jr. *The Aims of Interpretation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1976.

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. IVP, 2010.

Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984.

Stuhlmacher, Peter. *Historical Criticism and Theological Interpretation of Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1977.

Tan, Paul Lee. *The Interpretation of Prophecy* by Bible Communications, Inc., 1974.

Terry, Milton. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Treatise on the Interpretation of the Old and New Testaments*. New York, NY: Hunt and Eaton. 1890.

Thomas, Robert L. *Evangelical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.

Van Til, Cornelius. *A Survey of Christian Epistemology*. Philipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed. 1969.

Webb, William. *Slaves, Women and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP. 2001.

Zuck, Roy B. *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth* (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor), 1991.

