121 – Bible I: Introduction

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Course Goals - 121 Bible I: Introduction

This course introduces biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the inspiration, formation, and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture. The importance of the Bible as a witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity will be emphasized.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the place of scripture in the life of the congregation and the role of the pastor in interpretation.
2. Understand the inspiration and formation of the canon and its authority within the community of faith.
3. Understand and apply historical, literary, and theological approaches to various types of literature in scripture using Genesis, Hosea and Amos, Mark, and Philippians.
4. Develop a method of exegesis consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible.
**TEXT BOOK LIST**

*Unless otherwise noted, please use the most recent edition.*

**Required Texts for 121 Bible I: Introduction**

1. Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth*
3. Bernhard Anderson, *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*

**References**

1. *The Interpreters One-Volume Commentary*
2. *Harper Collins Bible Dictionary*
3. *NRSV – New Interpreter's Study Bible*

**Supplementary texts**


*Please note:*
Each course has **assigned texts**. Students are required to read them, use them in their assignments and are accountable in the classroom for any discussion or presentation of materials. **Reference books are also** required; assignments assure the use of the reference books; they are not classroom texts. Assigned texts and reference books help the student build their own library. **Supplemental texts** (when applicable) are valuable, but optional texts if a student wants to pursue an area of ministry.

Students may acquire the books in a variety of ways: Order from Cokesbury.com; order from another vendor; purchase a used book; or borrow from a colleague.

**Advance Assignments**

All papers must be typed. When you are writing papers, plan to write using the style found in Turabian. This includes a title page and 1 inch margins on all sides. Use type fonts Arial 11 or Times New Roman 12. Please use double-spacing and indentations for new paragraphs. All citations must be footnotes using the style found in Turabian. Footnotes should be single-spaced. Papers are usually 6-8 pages in length unless otherwise noted in the assignment sheet. Cover pages, end notes and bibliography pages are not included in the assigned page count.

1. Using the Hayes and Hollady text present your understanding of exegesis and its 9 main components as explained by Hayes and Holladay.
   *(3 - 5 pages)*

2. Read the texts: *How to Read the Bible for All it's Worth* and *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*. Using your study Bible, and the Harper Collins Bible Dictionary, write separate summary paragraphs for Genesis, Amos, Hosea, Mark, and Philippians. For each book, please include:
   a. information on authorship,
   b. dating of the book, life circumstances of the people to whom the writing is addressed,
c. major themes in the book, and
d. distinguishing characteristics of each book.
Cite the references you use in the paper. *(4-5 pages)*

3. Discuss with your clergy mentor how she/he does biblical exegesis. Write a summary of her/his process. Write 2-3 paragraphs on how this might be useful to your own exegetical process. *(2-3 pages)*

You may find the following website a helpful example of Turabian style.
From Montana State University

Saint Paul Course of Study School
Expectations and Preparation

The mission of the Course of Study School is to educate and share in the formation of Local Pastors as effective and faithful spiritual leaders of the ministry of the Church, the body of Jesus Christ in the world.

Our agreement with the Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville is that we will provide a year-round experiential and classroom learning process. This process assumes cooperation among the instructors, the students and clergy mentors in the annual conferences.

The Division of Ordained Ministry recommends a guideline of 15-20 pages of written work for each course. That translates into 30 to 40 pages of written work for each module. If a student takes four classes (two modules), that individual will write about 80 pages during the year. Those papers are based on the reading of approximately 4-5 textbooks per class.

In order to keep our promise of year-round learning, and to keep the assignments from accumulating and overwhelming a student, the book list is available for students so that they can begin reading as early as possible. We encourage students to put dates on their calendars and plan for reading days, as well as time for writing. You know the demands of certain religious seasons such as Advent, Lent, and Easter. Work around them.

The writing manual approved by the Saint Paul Course of Study School faculty is: Turabian’s, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th edition. It is recommended that each student have a good collegiate-size American English dictionary of the student’s choice in paperback or hardcover and copyrighted since 1998.

In the event of an emergency situation, a student may request an extension from the Director (not assigned faculty) to the due date for advance assignments. This request may be made via email, and if granted, may extend to a three week maximum. A student may only receive two extensions during their tenure as a Saint Paul Course of Study student – so use them wisely. If assignments are not completed, the policies of the COS are such that the student may be asked to postpone participation in a particular session of COS until that individual can complete all of the work.

Learning can be fun! Consider your reading as a dialogue with authors – some will be more interesting than others. All will have something to teach us. Share the learning process with friends or colleagues or interested members of your congregations.

Instructions for sending assignments to COS office at Saint Paul School of Theology

Course of Study Students are to upload their papers through Moodle. First year students or those who have not received Moodle training should EMAIL their papers to the Course of Study Program Coordinator at megan.temchin@spst.edu. They are then forwarded to the appropriate faculty person for that class.