Saint Paul School of Theology

**Course of Study 121**

**Bible I: Introduction**

**Summer 2022**

Instructor: Rev. Mark Statler

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**Course Description**

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.

**Course Objectives**

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.

4. Develop a method of exegesis consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible.

**Required Texts for COS [COURSE #]**

Anderson, Bernhard W. *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*. Fortress, 2006.

Gorman, Michael J. *Elements of Biblical Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

**Recommended Texts(optional)**

*The New Interpreter’s Study Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon

**Three Assignments**

**Assignment 1**

Write a 10- page exegesis paper using Gorman’s 7 Elements for Exegesis as a guide for your work on one of the following passages. Note, assignment 3 is to write a sermon using the passage you choose. Mt 21:33-46; Mk 2:1-10; Luke 10:25-37; Jn 8:1-11.

**Due date: Monday, July 25th, 2022**

**Assignment 2**

Write a 5-page reflection paper on the following: How has this course influenced the way you read and interpret scripture? Why does the scripture have authority to you? How would you describe inspiration and formation of scripture? What is the role of scripture in the life of the congregation and what is the pastor’s role in scriptural interpretation within the community of faith?

**Due date: Monday, July 25th, 2022**

**Assignment 3**

Write a sermon (5 pages) on the scripture passage you choose for your exegesis. This needs to be a sermon, not an exegesis, and it needs to be linked to discoveries (especially theological) you made through your exegesis as you apply those discoveries to your community.

**Due date: Monday, August 8th, 2022**

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**Moodle Forums**

**7/6-7/15**

**Final Grade**

Forum Participation – 20%

Assignment 1 – 40%

Assignment 2 – 20%

Assignment 3 – 20%

Two special notes:

1. Late papers receive a grade no higher than C (unless by special accommodation) and may receive no credit.
2. Missing one class session or 20% of a class work results in no credit for the course. [See the COS policy below]

CLASS STRUCTURE

**ZOOM ORIENTATION—Meet from 6-8 pm CST, Monday, June 27th** for an introduction

to the class. Attendance is required for all students

**ONLINE FORUMS – July 6-July 15, 2022**

FORUMS - 2 forums per week (a total of 4 forums)

❖ Online Engagement weeks of July 12-July 23

In these two weeks I will post 2 forums per week. Each of the 2 forums will invite reflection on course material for the week

❖ Students engage these forums by making initial posts (250 – 300) in response to the forum topics. You may wish to reference course texts, narrated PowerPoints, videos, or other material.

❖Students will then respond to initial posts by two other students in each of the two forums each week (50 – 100 words)

❖ Initial forum posts by students must be done by Wednesday by 11:59 pm of each week to allow students to write at least two responses to their classmates by Friday 11:59 pm.

❖ Forum postings on time will count and be graded as class participation and attendance.

**ONLINE CLASS MEETING—Monday, July 18th, 2022 from 8-12, 1-5 pm CST**

Classes will be held via Zoom for 10 hours (combination of orientation and class day) to meet GBHEM policies and educational best practices.

You will receive a zoom invite from Rev. Statler. A computer or tablet with a camera are preferred – and please plan to have your camera on during class to facilitate discussion.

**Course Policies**

In this course, we have multiple accountabilities. First, we are accountable to the Triune God and the Christian life and work to which we are called. Second, we are accountable to the Church and to the believers who make up the COS community. Third, we (instructor and students) are accountable to the Course of Study Policies and Guidelines, which help us to be faithful to our calls, the Church, and each other. I refer you to the COS policies but will highlight a few important expectations in this course.

*Class Attendance*

“A student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing twenty percent (20%) or more of the class room work shall not receive credit for those classes. Online work shall be included in the attendance policy.” [COS Policies and Guidelines, page 5]

*Academic Integrity Statement/Plagiarism*

All students are expected to document the sources they use in their written work properly. All words from the source should be quoted and cited even if only one unique word, a phrase, or model and typology headings. The use of a concept, idea, or fact must also be given recognition.

Any violation of COS’s policy on may result in a zero for the assignment, course, and disciplinary action against the student may be taken, including, but not limited to, dismissal.

Note from the instructor: To avoid plagiarism, which is taking someone else’s ideas or words/phrases/sentences and representing them as your own. In this course, **be sure** to use quotation marks to indicate when you’re quoting an author. Use footnotes to cite the places where anyone can find the quoted material or ideas. I recommend using Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers.* See the folder posted in Moodle to learn the style expected. A quick reference guide is found at:

[*https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/turabian-notes-and-bibliography-citation-quick-guide.html*](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/turabian-notes-and-bibliography-citation-quick-guide.html)

See/contact the instructor whenever you need writing support or advice.

*Sexual Harassment and Racial Harassment*

Note from the instructor: The two policies are too lengthy to quote here, but I refer you to the texts in the COS Policies and Guidelines, pages 19-23. Needless to say, the expected practice in our classroom will be to encourage, respect, and support each other in our work. The classroom is not a competitive or contentious place, but a collaborative and mutually responsible setting.

*Learning Accommodation*

As part of its commitment to equal opportunity, the Seminary is committed to providing qualified individuals with disabilities with reasonable accommodation. Students seeking accommodation should contact Margaretta Narcisse, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at [margaretta.narcisse@spst.edu](mailto:margaretta.narcisse@spst.edu).

This office maintains the forms necessary for medical documentation of disabilities required before any accommodation can be considered. Following receipt of medical documentation from the student, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs will determine reasonable accommodations for specified needs, including identifying persons to whom this information will be released.