

TIDEWATER BIBLE COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

HERMENEUTICS

BIB 101, 1st Quarter, 2009-2010 Academic Year (4 credits)
September 14, 2009 – November 13, 2010
Mondays 6:30 – 9:50 PM

Dr. Donald McNeeley

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ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Donald McNeeley (DBS, Triune Biblical University) comes to Tidewater Bible College with over 27 years in biblical archaeology, education, spiritual formation, business management, and project management experiences. In September 2004, he began the Church and Biblical Research Group with an emphasis on reaching, keeping, and teaching men and women for Christ through studies in biblical archaeology, spiritual formation, and worship. He has used his understandings from these three areas to create innovative retreats for the church and has written articles on these areas. He has authored a Bible Handbook, a multitude of articles and presentations on the integration of scripture with archaeological remains, and several book reviews, in addition to a periodic biblical archaeology conference entitled *Faith and Archaeology*. A recent article *Worship from the Catacombs* analyzed the artistic evidences within the catacombs in Rome that attest to the understanding the early Christian had concerning worship. His current research interest is the development of concepts that assist in understanding how ancient spiritual formation affected the ancient worship environment from which artifacts were created that biblical archaeologists discover in the sand.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to elementary disciplines associated with Bible study. Students will come away with a set of tools that will allow engagement by the student with the biblical texts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, participants will:

1. Be introduced to the disciplines of Bible study.
2. Have a better understanding of the Bible and appreciate reading and study of scripture.
3. Be able to properly utilize the basic tools of Bible interpretation such as concordances, dictionaries, commentaries, and other items.
4. Have an appreciation that the scripture is divine literature and that there is a unity in the diversity of the scripture.
5. Have been introduced to the principles of Inductive Bible Study

Textbook

Bible

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart

2003 *How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth*, 3rd edition. Zondervan Corporation, Grand Rapids, MI..

This book has to be purchased. Various sources are available.

COURSE EVALUATION

1. **10% - Your Hermeneutics Journal** - Each of you will receive this during the first class. This journal will be completed during this course and will record your journey through the academic endeavor of hermeneutics. Each week the workbook will be reviewed and graded during the class laboratory period (discussed below) for completeness and during that time any additional directions if necessary will be provided. This journal should record thoughts concerning the readings, topics discussed in class, and the tools being used. Let God speak to your heart concerning these topics and then speak your heart to God. The journal is also a place where you can draw, compose poems, write songs, or do whatever else the Holy Spirit may prompt you concerning our time together.

Requirements within the Hermeneutics Journal Portion of the Workbook

- i. As noted above the journal is a place for reflecting on the topics discussed in the class and in your readings and how use of these tools are changing how you study the Bible. The journal section is a place for you to express to yourself these concepts, impacts, events, etc. on a daily basic.
 - ii. There should be at least two entries per week (each representing 1% of your grade) during the duration of the course and each of the entries must be dated.
 - iii. Please write legibly.
 - iv. Approx. Time = 1-2 Hours per week outside of class
2. **5% - First Class Written assignment** – During the first class laboratory period, you will write a paper in class on the *Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy* paper and the

Explaining Hermeneutics Paper. The purpose of this effort is to set down on paper your thoughts concerning Biblical Inerrancy and Hermeneutics. The paper is to be hand written and completed in class. Once completed, the paper will be handed into the professor and a grade with comments will be provided to you by the next class.

3. **10% - Your Hermeneutics Notebook** - During the class you will be taking notes related to the various classroom topics. These notes will be taken from the discussions within the class and the various videos that we may view. In general, the printed note taking area should provide ample room for your notes and comments.

Requirements within the Hermeneutics Notebook

- i. Approx. Time = 30 hours in classroom effort during the duration of the course
 - ii. These are your notes and as such will not be evaluated for grading purpose, but will be assessed to insure that you are taking notes indicating class participation.
 - iii. Approx. Time = 2-3 Hours per week during class.
4. **10% - Your Class Preparation Signature** - Prior to coming to class, you will be reviewing articles, extracts, and other readings assigned. You are expected to come fully prepared to engage with the instructor and fellow students as we together investigate hermeneutics. Each week you will indicate that you have read the material and that you are prepared to interact with the class.

Requirements for Class Preparation

- i. In the section, sign your name to indicate that the assigned material was read. If the material was not completed, discuss what was read.
 - ii. Approx. Time = 1-2 hours per week outside of class.
5. **20% - In Class Hermeneutic Laboratory** – During each class we will take time to use the tools that we have been discussing. These exercises will re-enforce the discussions held during the class and lead to a better understanding of the material.

Requirements for the Hermeneutic Laboratory

- i. In these laboratories a selection of scripture reflective of the hermeneutical tools discussed will be analyzed and then discussed by the class.
 - ii. Your efforts will be evaluated during the laboratory and feedback provided.
 - iii. Approx. Time = 1-2 hours per week in class
6. **45% - Scripture Study Paper** – As a culminating demonstration that you have integrated the skill set needed to properly study the Bible, you will select a section of scripture and write a paper using appropriate hermeneutic tools and concepts. The passage of scripture may be from either the Old or New Testament, but it must be approved by the instructor prior to the seventh (7th) class. As a minimum, the paper should include a general outline of the passage, a discussion of the grammatical historical context of the scripture, and your analysis of the scripture, followed by a life style influence discussion.

- i. Due Class Ten – 13 November 2006
- ii. Approx. Time = 10 Hours
- iii. The paper should be between 750 to 1,000 words, approximately 3-4 pages content plus a Cover Sheet, Bibliography, and Foot Notes. Double Spaced, 1" margins, 12 pix. Font.
- iv. At least four resources should be integrated into the paper and properly cited
- v. Approx. Time = 1-2 hours per week outside of class.

7. Class Participation

- a) Your final grade is additionally associated with your attendance in class. As the School Catalog indicates if the student misses two or more classes, their grade will automatically be reduced by one letter grade and could impact you overall academic standing and any Veteran's benefits being received.

Note: All work is expected to be presented with proper grammar, sentence structure, spelling, and punctuation (Modern Language Association (MLA) style guide). Occasional mistakes will be overlooked, but CARELESSNESS will definitely affect the grade (but not more than one grade level.) All assignments are to be completed and submitted on or before the assigned time. If late, the grade received for them will be no higher than a "B" in accordance with the school catalog.

GRADING SCALE

In order to earn credit for a course, participants must earn at least a "70%". Percentage grades are converted into final grades according to the following scale:

A = 94-100	Excellent
B = 86-93	Above Average
C = 78-85	Average
D = 70-77	Passing
F = Below 70	Failing
W = Withdrawal	G.P.A. Not Affected

COURSE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Through lectures, presentations, class discussions, and videos, the instructor will seek to inspire a prayerful, reverent, discriminating, and eager spirit in pursuit of a greater understanding of Jesus, His Life and Ministry. Our **TENTATIVE** schedule is as follows:

Date	Class Content	Assignments Due
Class 1 09/14/09	1. Class introduction and review of syllabus. 2. Discussion on what is hermeneutics, why do we care to study scripture, and other general subject matter. 3. Laboratory exercise; in class paper.	♦ Take notes ♦ Read <i>Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy</i> ♦ Read <i>Explaining Hermeneutics</i> Paper ♦ Participation in the classroom laboratory
Class 2 09/21/09	1. Discussion the need to interpret the Bible with sub-topics: the reader as interpreter, nature of scripture, exegesis, historical content, literary content, tools, and the here and now. 2. Discussion on the Bible with sub-topics: translating, text, language, and choosing a translation. 3. Laboratory exercise	♦ Read Chapters 1 & 2 in Fee & Stuart indicating completion by signing in the appropriate location in your journal and workbook. ♦ Complete journal assignment. ♦ Be prepared to take notes. ♦ Participation in the classroom laboratory.
Class 3 09/28/09	1. Thinking contextually using the Epistles with sub-topics: their nature, historical context, literary context, exegesis, and problem passages. 2. Thinking hermeneutically using the Epistles with sub-topics: common ideas, rules, applying to our lives, comparable situations, cultural relativity, and theology. 3. Laboratory exercise.	♦ Read Chapters 3 & 4 in Fee & Stuart indicating completion by signing in the appropriate location in your journal and workbook. ♦ Complete journal assignment. ♦ Be prepared to take notes. ♦ Participation in the classroom laboratory.
Class 4 10/05/09	1. Old Testament narratives with sub-topics: levels, description, principles for interpreting, and	♦ Read Chapters 5 & 6 in Fee & Stuart indicating completion by signing in the appropriate location in your journal and

	<p>cautions.</p> <p>2. New Testament narrative with sub-topics: exegesis, history, purpose, and principles.</p> <p>3. Laboratory exercise</p>	<p>workbook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Complete journal assignment. ◆ Be prepared to take notes. ◆ Participation in the classroom laboratory.
Class 5 10/12/09	<p>1. Gospels as a single story with sub-topics: nature, historical context, literary context, pericopes, teachings, interpretations, and eschatology.</p> <p>2. The parables with sub-topics: history of their interpretation, function, points of reference, understanding the audience, types of parables, and what do they mean to us.</p> <p>3. Laboratory exercise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Read Chapters 7 & 8 in Fee & Stuart indicating completion by signing in the appropriate location in your journal and workbook. ◆ Complete journal assignment. ◆ Be prepared to take notes. ◆ Participation in the classroom laboratory.
Class 6 10/19/09	<p>1. The Law as covenant with sub-topics: purpose for Christians, covenant purpose, role for Israel, role for Christians, other ancient law codes, and certain prohibitions.</p> <p>2. Prophets enforcing the Law with sub-topics: meaning of prophecy, as spokesperson, problem with history, function, exegesis, context, understanding oracles, forms of utterances, poets, secondary meanings, orthodoxy and orthopraxy.</p> <p>3. Laboratory exercise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Read Chapters 9 & 10 in Fee & Stuart indicating completion by signing in the appropriate location in your journal and workbook. ◆ Complete journal assignment. ◆ Be prepared to take notes. ◆ Participation in the classroom laboratory.
Class 7 10/26/09	<p>1. Psalms as prayers with sub-topics: exegesis, poetry, literature, usage in Israel, types of psalms, and benefits.</p> <p>2. Wisdom books and their purpose, with sub-topics: from teachers, in the home, as poetry, limitations, wisdom books, uses and abuses, and need to translate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Read Chapters 11 & 12 in Fee & Stuart indicating completion by signing in the appropriate location in your journal and workbook. ◆ Complete journal assignment. ◆ Be prepared to take notes. ◆ Participation in the classroom laboratory.

	3. Laboratory exercise	
Class 8 11/02/09	1. Revelation with sub-topics: nature, context, content, exegesis, and relevance for today. 2. Utility of commentaries 3. Laboratory exercise	♦ Read Chapter 13 & Appendix in Fee & Stuart indicating completion by signing in the appropriate location in your journal and workbook. ♦ Complete journal assignment. ♦ Be prepared to take notes. ♦ Participation in the classroom laboratory.
Class 9 11/09/09	1. Bible Study Methods with sub-topics: deductive, opinion, inductive, word study, topical, etc. 2. What is an Inductive Bible Study with sub-topics: Observation, Interpretation, Principles, and Application 3. Laboratory exercise 4. Hand in Scripture Study Paper	♦ Read information in workbook on Bible Study Methods, indicating completion by signing in the appropriate location in your journal and workbook. ♦ Read Book of Ruth ♦ Complete journal assignment. ♦ Be prepared to take notes. ♦ Participation in the classroom laboratory.

**** **NOTE:** The above schedule is **TENTATIVE**. There is much material to cover, Readings and topics might change as needed.

TIDEWATER BIBLE COLLEGE GROWTH PROFILE

Tidewater Bible College courses are designed to encourage firm discipleship essentials (100 Level), Christian Service Awareness (200 Level), Ministry Lifestyle Exploration (300 Level), and Ministry Leadership Formation (400 Level). It is our goal that upon graduation every Tidewater Bible participant would be “more profitable” to serve the Kingdom of God (Philemon 1:10-12). Each class is designed to help participants achieve various aspects of the participant profile. The following will be addressed in this particular course:

1. A Hunger to Know and Enjoy God’s Presence. (2 Corinthians 3:17; Matthew 6:33)
2. A Passion to Know and Do God’s Word. (2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 20:27)

3. A Lifestyle of Bold Discipleship (2 Timothy 2:2; Luke 9:23)
4. A Prophetic Sense of Spiritual Destiny (Acts 13:22, Matt 16:1-4)
5. A Commitment to Personal Wholeness (Mat. 22:37-40; Prov. 3:5-12, 4:18-27)
6. A Life of Spirit-Directed Compassion (James 1:22; Luke 10:33-37)
7. A Resolution to Complete the Harvest (Matthew 9:35-38, 24:14, Romans 15:20-21)
8. A loyalty to One's Church and Ministry (1 Corinthians 12.4-7; Hebrews 10.24-25)

CHRIST- HONORING CONDUCT

Participants are expected to be Christ-honoring examples while learning together at Tidewater Bible College. The campus area should be maintained by staff, faculty, and participants as a smoke-free, drug-free, dishonesty-free, profanity-free environment. Participants are expected to avoid language and behavior which appears to discriminate, harass, or harm on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation or age. Rather, participants should overwhelmingly offer concern, respect, blessing, protection, and encouragement to one another and to all people. A vibrant community of faith and learning—where Christ's love and holiness are flourishing—is the responsibility of all staff, faculty, and participants.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Note: The following resources are listed for the student's future study and are not intended for use in this course.

Black, David Alan, and David S. Dockery, eds. *New Testament Criticism and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1991. 619 pages.

Blomberg, Craig L. *Interpreting the Parables*. Downers Grove : InterVarsity, 1990. 334 pages.

Braga, James. *Étudios la Bible*. Deerfield, Fl : Vida, 1990. 171 pages.

Carson, D. A., and John D. Woodbrige, eds. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1983.

_____. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1986.

Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis : A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Philadelphia : Westminster, 1983. 154 pages.

Fuller, Daniel P. "Interpretation, History of." In *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, 2:863-74. Grand Rapids : Eerdmans, 1982.

Green, Joel B. *How to Read Prophecy*. Downers Grove : InterVarsity, 1984. 154 pages.

Haynes, Stephen R., and Steven L. McKenzie, eds. *To Each Its Own Meaning : An Introduction to Biblical Criticisms and Their Application*. Louisville, Kentucky : Westminster/John Knox, 1993. 282 pages.

Henrichsen, Walter A. *A Layman's Guide to Interpreting the Bible*. Colorado Springs : Navpress, 1976. 231 pages.

Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Uses of the Old Testament in the New*. Chicago : Moody, 1985. 270 pages.

_____. *Toward an Exegetical Theology : Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids : Baker, 1981. 268 pages.

Kaiser, Walter C., and Moisés Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics : The Search for Meaning*. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1994. 298 pages.

Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, rev. and expanded ed. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Maier, Gerhard. *Biblical Hermeneutics*. Translated by Robert W. Yarbrough. Wheaton : Crossway, 1994. 526 pages.

McQuilkin, J. Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible*, rev. ed. Chicago : Moody, 1992.

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral : A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove : InterVarsity, 1991. 499 pages.

Osborne, Grant, and Stephen B. Woodward. *Handbook for Bible Study*. Grand Rapids : Baker, 1979. 188 pages.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis : A Primer for Students and Pastors*. 2d ed., rev. and enlarged. Philadelphia : Westminster, 1984. 142 pages.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There a Meaning in This Text? The Bible, The Reader, and the Morality of Literary Knowledge*. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1998. 496 pages.