



Syllabus



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BIL-440: Global Perspectives on Biblical Interpretation

Course Description

Christianity is a global faith with communities on multiple continents and in many cultures translating, interpreting, and applying the Bible. This course will introduce students to perspectives on the methods, aims, and themes of biblical interpretation from diverse Christian voices around the globe. Students will gain an appreciation for and incorporate other Christian voices into their own work with scripture. Prerequisite: BIL 203.

Credit Hours: 3

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Summarize the methods, aims, and themes of biblical interpretation from several cultural perspectives.
2. Analyze the impact of one's own cultural perspective on one's interpretation of scripture.
3. Appraise the role of cultural insights and biases on interpretations of specific passages of scripture.
4. Respect the role of culture in the work of Christian interpreters from around the globe.
5. Integrate another cultural perspective into one's own interpretive work with scripture.

Course Resources

Smith, M. J. (2017). *Insights from African American Interpretation: Reading in the 21st Century*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.

Levison, J. R. and P. Pope-Levinson (Eds.) (1999). *Return to Babel: Global Perspectives on the Bible*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

Other Resources Requested through OCLS

Hunt, C. A. (2017). "African American Biblical Interpretation." In M. J. Gorman (ed.), *Scripture and its interpretation: A global, ecumenical introduction to the Bible* (2nd ed.) (pp. 284–297). Grand Rapids: Baker.

Adamo, D. T. (2010). "The Bible in Twenty-First-Century Africa." In H. R. Page Jr. et al. (eds), *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora* (pp. 25-32). Minneapolis: Fortress.

Carroll R., M. D. (2017). "Latino/Latina Biblical Interpretation." In M. J. Gorman (ed.), *Scripture and its interpretation: A global, ecumenical introduction to the Bible* (2nd ed.) (pp. 311-323). Grand Rapids: Baker.

Bungishabako Katho (2017). "African Biblical Interpretation." In Michael J. Gorman (ed.), *Scripture and its interpretation: A global, ecumenical introduction to the Bible* (2nd ed.) (pp. 284–297). Grand Rapids: Baker.

Yeo, K. K. (2017). "Asian and Asian American Biblical Interpretation." In M. J. Gorman (ed.), *Scripture and its interpretation: A global, ecumenical introduction to the Bible* (2nd ed.) (pp. 324-335). Grand Rapids: Baker.

IWU Diversity Statement

IWU, in covenant with God's reconciling work and in accordance with the Biblical principles of our historic Wesleyan tradition, commits to build a community that reflects Kingdom diversity.

We will foster an intentional environment for living, teaching, and learning, which exhibits honor, respect, and dignity. Acknowledging visible or invisible differences, our community authentically values each member's earthly and eternal worth. We refute ignorance and isolation and embrace deliberate and courageous engagement that exhibits Christ's commandment to love all humankind. (2016)

Grading Scale

Grade	Quality Points Per Credit	Percentage
A	4.0	95%–100%
A-	3.7	92%–94.9%

B+	3.3	89%–91.9%
B	3.0	85%–88.9%
B-	2.7	82%–84.9%
C+	2.3	79%–81.9%
C	2.0	75%–78.9%
C-	1.7	72%–74.9%
D+	1.3	69%–71.9%
D	1.0	65%–68.9%
F	0.0	0%–64.9%

Note: In graduate level courses, a grade of C- or below will require the course to be repeated.

Grading Policies

Your grading policy for your course is dependent on your school and program. Your grading policies can be found in the [IWU Catalog](#).

Letter Grade Equivalencies

Grade	Quality Points Per Credit
A	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.

B	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for the degree program. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.
C	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.
D	Quality and quantity of work is below average. Has minimal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below acceptable levels.
F	Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Note: In graduate level courses, a grade of C- or below will require the course to be repeated.

Workshop Outlines

Workshop One Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
1.1 Discussion: Why Global Perspectives?	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; three responses due by the end of the workshop	3 hours	30
1.2 Discussion: Introducing African American Interpretation	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; three responses due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	30
1.3 Assignment: Personal Challenges for Global Perspectives on	Due by the end of the workshop	6 hours	60

Scripture		
Totals	13 hours*	120

Workshop Two Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
2.1 Discussion: African Biblical Interpretation: Introductory Matters	Post initial response by Day 4 and 3 responses by end of workshop.	5 hours	30
2.2 Discussion: African Biblical Interpretation: Analysis	Post initial response by Day 4 and 3 responses by end of workshop.	5 hours	30
2.3 Assignment: Reading Scripture from an African Perspective	Due by the end of the workshop	6 hours	80
Totals		16 hours*	140

Workshop Three Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
3.1 Discussion: Latino/a Biblical Interpretation: Introductory Matters	Post initial response by Day 4 and 3 responses by end of workshop.	5 hours	30
3.2 Latino/a Biblical Interpretation: Analysis	Post initial response by Day 4 and 3 responses by end of workshop.	5 hours	30
3.3 Assignment: Reading Scripture from a Latino/a Perspective	Due by the end of the workshop	6 hours	80
Totals		16 hours*	140

Workshop Four Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
4.1 Discussion: Asian Biblical Interpretation: Introductory Matters	Post initial response by Day 4 and 3 responses by end of workshop.	5 hours	30
4.2 Discussion: Asian	Post initial response by Day 5		

Biblical Interpretation: Analysis	4 and 3 responses by end of workshop.	~ hours	30
4.3 Assignment: Reading Scripture from an Asian Perspective	Due by the end of the workshop	6 hours	80
Totals		16 hours*	140

Workshop Five Outline

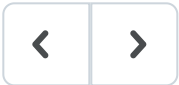
Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
5.1 Discussion: There's a Problem with the Text	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; three responses due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	30
5.2 Discussion: Evaluating Smith's Reading of Matthew 25	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; three responses due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	30
5.3 Discussion: Evaluating Smith's Reading of Judges 19	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; three responses due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	30
Totals		12 hours*	90

Workshop Six Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
6.1 Discussion: Final Thoughts and Questions	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; three responses due by the end of the workshop.	2 hours	30
6.2 Assignment: Review of Insights from African Amerian	Due by the end of the workshop	4 hours	80

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Activity Details

Completion Summary

Task: View this topic