

BIBL 420, Advanced Hermeneutics, Syllabus (3 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Hermeneutics provides an introduction to the discipline of biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the role of the author, text, and reader, with special emphasis toward understanding varying biblical genres.

REQUIRED TEXTS & RESOURCES

Duvall, Scott and J. Daniel Hays. Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible. 3rd edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-310-49257-3

Webb, William J. Slaves, Women, and Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001. ISBN: 0-8308-1561-9

NOTE: The Point University Bookstore may offer this textbook (s) in other formats. Information can found at www.point.edu/bookstore.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Each course begins on a Wednesday with a Getting Started module before moving into the week 1-7 content. The introduce yourself forum is required during the Getting Started module in order to be counted present during this half-week of instruction. The introduce yourself forum is open from the start of the course to the first Sunday. All posts are due by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Participation is required to be marked present for this time period. Keep in mind that in future weeks, forum due dates may be different.

Unless stated otherwise, graded assignments are due on the last day of the course week (Sunday). <http://point.edu/course-schedules/>

	Learning Activities	Graded Assignments
Getting Started	Introduce Yourself Forum	Due Sunday
Week 1	Unit 1: Interpretive Tools	
	Threaded Discussion #1	Due Week 1, Day 5
	Scriptural Analysis Exercise #1	Due Week 1, Day 5
Week 2	Unit 2: The Role of Context	
	Threaded Discussion #2	Due Week 2, Day 5
	Scriptural Analysis Exercise #2	Due Week 2, Day 5
Week 3	Unit 3: Meaning and Application	
	Threaded Discussion #3	Due Week 3, Day 5
	Scriptural Analysis Exercise #3	Due Week 3, Day 5
	Historical Analysis Paper	Due Week 3, Day 7
Week 4	Unit 4: New Testament Genres	
	Threaded Discussion #4	Due Week 4, Day 5
	Scriptural Analysis Exercise #4	Due Week 4, Day 5

Week 5	Unit 5: Old Testament Genres	
	Threaded Discussion #5	Due Week 5, Day 5
	Scriptural Analysis Exercise #5	Due Week 5, Day 5
	Literary Analysis Paper	Due Week 5, Day 7
Week 6	Unit 6: Webb's Hermeneutical Model	
	Threaded Discussion #6	Due Week 6, Day 5
	Scriptural Analysis Exercise #6	Due Week 6, Day 5
Week 7	Unit 7: The Way Forward	
	Threaded Discussion #7	Due Week 6, Day 5
	Scriptural Analysis Exercise #7	Due Week 6, Day 5
	Canonical Analysis Paper	Due Week 6, Day 7

GRADING POLICIES

Course Evaluation Plan

An assessment instrument (checklist, rubric, quiz, etc.) will accompany each major graded assignment. See the instructions for specific assignment criteria and accompanying grading instruments.

Points Distribution

Graded assignments will be distributed as follows:

Graded Assignments	Points Possible
Introduce Yourself Forum	5
Threaded Discussions (7)	210
Scriptural Analysis Exercises (7)	280
Scriptural Analysis Papers (3)	510
Total Points:	1005

Final Grades

The following scale will be used when calculating final grades:

A	90-100%	D	60-69%
B	80-89%	F	0-59%
C	70-79%		

Final grades will be posted according to the Academic Calendar:

<http://point.edu/academic-calendar/>

COURSE LEARNING GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: The student will utilize the tools of modern hermeneutical theory to analyze biblical texts.		1.1, 1.2
	Objective 1.1: Students will identify the processes and decisions that have produced the spectrum of biblical translations.	

	Objective 1.2: Students will outline a step-by-step process for approaching and applying biblical texts.	
Goal 2: The student will develop skills in interpreting a biblical text in its historical and literary contexts.		1.1, 1.2
	Objective 2.1: Students will apply historical analysis to particular biblical texts.	
	Objective 2.2: Students will apply literary analysis to particular biblical texts.	
Goal 3: The student will create an explicit conceptual framework for understanding the role of the author, text, and reader in biblical interpretation.		1.2, 2.1, 2.4
	Objective 3.1: Students will grasp key differences between “the world” of the text and her contemporary world.	
	Objective 3.2: Students will identify specific qualities that are brought to the text from the reader’s context.	
Goal 4: The student will distinguish between the major genres of biblical literature.		1.1, 1.2, 2.4
	Objective 4.1: Students will describe the basic conventions of each biblical genre in order to facilitate interpretation.	
	Objective 4.2: Students will apply a hermeneutical model to the interpretation of particular biblical genres.	
Goal 5: The student will be shaped by the message of the biblical text as a believer, a member of a community of faith, and a present or future Christian leader.		1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4
	Objective 5.1: Students will begin to form a personalized hermeneutical approach.	
	Objective 5.2: Students will articulate productive approaches to controversial subjects in Scripture.	

DISABILITY SERVICES

Point University is committed to providing qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity to access a Point education through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations and support services. Accordingly, Point complies with Title IX (<https://point.edu/title-ix>) of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the subsequent reauthorization of that act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and subsequent amendments to that act. For more information about Disability Support Services, see the “Consumer Information” section of the website (<http://point.edu/disclosures>) and the “Student Services” section of this catalog, or contact the Director of Disability Services and College Section 504 Coordinator, at disability.services@point.edu.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

A student is expected to actively participate in each week of the class in which he or she is enrolled. Active participation each academic week includes submitting classwork in one or more of the following activities within the course during the week they are due: discussion forums, assignments such as (but not limited to) projects, papers, presentations, case studies, quizzes, or exams. Students may be absent up to 25% of the class. After absences exceed 25% of the session or term’s total – in either consecutive or cumulative days – the student will be withdrawn

from the class roster and assigned a grade on the basis of work completed at the time of withdrawal unless, because of exceptional circumstances, prior arrangements have been made with the professor and the Chief Academic Officer.

Students representing the university, such as student-athletes, remain responsible for submitting work online within the week it is due to be counted present. No student will be disadvantaged while representing the university. However, the responsibility is on the student to notify faculty no later than one week before missing class for any reason, to ensure time for content to be made available to them and for make-up work to be considered and arranged. It is expected that students will limit their absences outside of these required absences, as they will be dropped if they overcut the allowed number of absences.

The full attendance policy is found in the catalog (<https://point.edu/catalogs/>).

Etiquette & Netiquette

Students are expected to be respectful and well-mannered towards the instructor and their peers, whether in the physical classroom or the online course site. For guidance on meeting this expectation, particularly in the online environment, please see the materials provided during student orientation or reach out to advising.center@point.edu.

Policies

For academic policies governing attendance, late assignments, and student support, please refer to the Academic Catalog directly (<https://point.edu/catalogs/>).

COPYRIGHT AND FURTHER DISSEMINATION

All content within this course is intended for transformative, educational, and informational purposes under ([Fair Use](#)). These materials are not to be distributed or disseminated outside of this course for public use or profit-making ventures due to outside copyright laws. These materials are intended solely for education, personal training, and/or career building. All other uses are strictly prohibited.

Due to Copyright restrictions courses are unpublished thirty days after the completion of a course. If you wish to maintain access to your personal materials, save them before submitting to the course, or download them before the course is unpublished.