BS 503 Introduction to Biblical Studies: Inductive Bible Study

William J. Patrick

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Course: BS503 O1 (SP 2009)  
Title: Intro to Biblical Studies: Inductive Bible Study  
Hours: 2.00  
Published: Yes, on 03/24/2009  
Prerequisites: None

Department: Biblical Studies  
Faculty: Dr. Bill Patrick

Email: bill.patrick@asburyseminary.edu  
Office: FC  
SPO:

Meetings: During 02/10/2009 to 03/31/2009 on Tuesday from 6:00p to 9:00p in EXLEXL.

Maximum Registration: 32

Catalog Description: This course offers a concise introduction to inductive bible study for students in the master of arts programs. Students will be introduced to a systematic, comprehensive approach to bible study. The course will treat the entire bible study process from initial observation and interpretation of texts in the literary, historical, and canonical contexts to the contemporary appropriation of these texts. The course will focus upon the application of bible study method to three biblical books that represent both testaments and a range of literary forms and theological perspectives within the canon. Attention will be given to the significance of the interpretation and appropriation of the biblical text for ministerial vocations.

Objectives:

The student will acquire a basic understanding of biblical hermeneutics and will demonstrate the ability to observe, interpret, and engage in contemporary appropriation of the biblical text and to discuss in specific and concrete ways the significance of this interpretation and application of the biblical text for his/her ministerial vocation. Specifically, the student will be able

· To identify the macrostructure of a biblical book (including the structural development of the book in terms of its units and sub-units, and major structural dynamics within the book) and show the significance of these insights for the interpretation of individual passages within the book and of the book-as-a-whole;

· To engage in a "close reading" of individual passages so as to make relevant observations useful for interpretation;

· To become conversant with and employ in practice various kinds of exegetical determinants, e.g., literary context, word usage, historical background, literary genre, the history of interpretation, for the interpretation of the biblical text;

· To make use of considerations from the interpretation of the passage for specific and creative contemporary appropriation;

· To discuss the major issues in hermeneutics (i.e., will be able to identify these issues, articulate the main contemporary positions surrounding these issues, and present in a reasonable and informed fashion his/her own perspective regarding these issues), and will demonstrate the ability to make use of these hermeneutical insights in the actual interpretation and appropriation of the biblical text.

· To articulate the issues involved in the integration of the study of the biblical text for the life of the community of faith and demonstrate rudimentary ability to integrate the study of the Bible with the area of his/her vocational interest.


Required Texts:


Course Requirements:

A. Attendance and Participation Since this course is pedagogically cumulative and participatory in style, preparation, presence, and participation in class are critical to the meeting of the learning objectives. The course is more of a "skill" course than a "content" course. Therefore, students have a responsibility to themselves and to our learning community to be in attendance and to participate actively, attentively and respectfully. Unavoidable, emergency, or excused-in-advance absences can be made up with appropriate work at the instructor’s discretion. B. Late Assignments Assignments are due immediately at the end of each class meeting. Late assignments will not be eligible for a grade higher than "F." There will be no exceptions to this policy except for the most extreme emergencies. Students must bring previously completed hard-copy work to class and turn in the assignment at the end of the class for which it was assigned. It is unacceptable to print work from one’s computer during or at the end of class to then subsequently turn in. Of course, missing class to finish assignments is not an alternative. A. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Plagiarism is unacceptable, and the following actions, consistent with ATS policy, will be taken: 1. In the case of plagiarism that is apparently inadvertent (the student is not careful to cite sources), the assignment will be returned to be revised before graded. Students will receive a maximum of 70% for the assignment because it will be late. 2. In flagrant cases (copying directly without attribution from printed or electronic sources), the assignment will be given a 0% grade and the Assistant Provost will be alerted to the situation. Plagiarism can be grounds for dismissal from the seminary.

Evaluation:

1. Exegetical Exercises, Participation and Reading (80%) For each meeting excluding the first, students will engage in a set of directed interpretive activities. These will be due and handed in at the end of each class meeting for which they were assigned. Specific details will be provided each class meeting by the professor. The assignments will usually involve some or all of the following: a) reviewing basic grammatical concepts as illustrated in the selected text; b) becoming intimately familiar with the content and structure of the selected passages as demonstrated by an interpretive outline; c) practicing additional interpretive reflection on the establishment of meaning; d) developing a more sustained, integrated and comprehensive theological position built upon preliminary interpretive work. 2. Reflection Paper (10%) Students will prepare five-page + (double-spaced) response/reflection paper on Toward a Hermeneutic for Theological Education. Guidelines for the paper will be handed out separately. 3. A Synthetic Theological Essays (10%) For a final assignment students will write an essay on a question which requires reflection on exegetical, theological, and vocational appropriation issues from Philippians. The essay should be about 6+ pages, double-spaced (750 - 1,000 words).

Class Schedule:

TBA