

**INTRODUCTION TO HERMENEUTICS, TH-221-M**  
Christian Studies [3 credits]  
Independent Study  
Christian Life College-Madison

**I. INSTRUCTOR**

The lead instructor for the course will be Greg Pechacek ([gpechacek@citychurchonline.org](mailto:gpechacek@citychurchonline.org)). The recorded lecturer is Robert H. Stein (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) who served as senior professor of New Testament Interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His audio lectures and written notes can be obtained from the lead instructor or downloaded at no cost from Biblical Training at: <https://www.biblicaltraining.org/biblical-hermeneutics/robert-stein>.

**II. SCHEDULE**

This is an independent study course and as such it will have no formal schedule attached to it. However, students are encouraged to develop their own study schedule to help insure the greatest possible benefit from the course.

**III. DESCRIPTION**

The term hermeneutics can be intimidating to most people. It not only sounds very academic, but it is also foreign to most of our vocabularies. On the other hand, the act of interpretation (hermeneutics) is as common as communication itself. Whenever someone speaks, a listener interprets what that speaker means. In the same way, everyone who reads the Bible interprets what it means. This course will help students understand the various parameters of biblical interpretation and how specific methods are applied to Bible study. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the original, intended meaning of Scripture in its canonical context as the basis upon which to prepare expositions and make appropriate contemporary applications.

**IV. OBJECTIVES**

- A. Appreciate the relevance of the interpretation of the Biblical text for the individual and the church.
- B. Grow in their love of God through in depth understanding of His word.
- C. Desire to be more obedient to the teaching of God's word.
- D. Comprehend, analyze, synthesize and evaluate the presuppositions, scope and content of the discipline of Biblical hermeneutics, including its development, key issues and various perspectives.
- E. Apply an exegetical and hermeneutical process in the interpretation of the Biblical text.
- F. Contextualize the interpretation and application of the Bible to the contemporary environment.
- G. Articulate an interpretation and application of a particular Biblical text.
- H. Become familiar with a variety of Biblical criticisms and hermeneutical approaches within Biblical scholarship and within the church.

## V. TEXTBOOKS

### A. Required:

1. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible* by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien (IVP, 2012)
2. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-on Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays (Zondervan, 2005)
3. *Exegetical Fallacies* by D.A. Carson (Baker, 1996)

### B. Recommended:

1. *Listening to the Spirit in the Text* by Gordon Fee (Eerdmans, 2000)
2. *Gospel in Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics* by Gordon Fee (Baker, 1991)
3. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) by Robert H. Stein (Baker, 2011)
4. *How to Read the Bible for All it is Worth* by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart (Zondervan, 2003)
5. *Biblical Interpretation: Past and Present* by Gerald Bray (IVP, 1996)

## VI. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Chapter Assignments from the main textbook, *Grasping God's Word* by Duvall and Hays – Each student will be required to complete the chapter assignments in the order listed below. Each assignment should not only adequately answer the stated purpose, but should also reflect an understanding of the related chapter. All assignments must be double spaced and completed in 12 point, Times New Roman font.

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Assignment 1.1  | 13. Assignment 8.4  |
| 2. Assignment 1.2  | 14. Assignment 9.1  |
| 3. Assignment 1.3  | 15. Assignment 13.3 |
| 4. Assignment 2.1  | 16. Assignment 14.2 |
| 5. Assignment 2.2  | 17. Assignment 15.1 |
| 6. Assignment 2.5  | 18. Assignment 15.2 |
| 7. Assignment 3.2  | 19. Assignment 16.1 |
| 8. Assignment 3.5  | 20. Assignment 18.1 |
| 9. Assignment 4.2  | 21. Assignment 19.5 |
| 10. Assignment 4.3 | 22. Assignment 20.3 |
| 11. Assignment 6.1 | 23. Assignment 21.1 |
| 12. Assignment 7.1 | 24. Assignment 22.2 |

- B. Midterm and Final Exam – Students will write two examinations based on the lecture material (notes and audio) from Stein and the main textbook by Duvall and Hays. The first examination will cover parts 1-3 of the textbook and lectures 1-15 of Stein. The final exam will cover the remainder of the main text and lectures. Students who desire to do well on the examinations should be able to identify key hermeneutical terms and explain key interpretive concepts.

Although students will have their exams supervised by someone of their choosing, these exam proctors must be approved by the Lead Instructor. Students will need to fill out a Proctor Agreement form (attached) and submit it to the lead instructor at least two weeks prior to their anticipated exam date.

- C. Book Reports – Students will write one book report on each of the two supplementary textbooks. Each report should include no more than a single written page covering each chapter of each book (It is not necessary to report on the introduction or conclusion of either book). Each single page

should include the main topic of the chapter, a concise and significant example of the main topic (taken from the author) and the student's reaction and interaction with the chapter. Remember to think and write theologically in your response. The use of biblical text and references along with quotes from the author clearly indicates one is thinking critically (and not merely intuitively) and interacting well with the author. All reports must be double spaced and completed in 12 point, Times New Roman font.

**VII. GRADING**

	<b>Percentage</b>
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Book Reports	25%
Chapter Assignments	25%

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Scores</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>GPA</i>
A	93-100	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92		3.67
B+	88-89	Very Good	3.33
B	83-87	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Above Average	2.67
C+	78-79		2.33
C	73-77	Average	2.00
C-	70-72		1.67
D+	68-69	Below Average	1.33
D	63-67	Passing	1.00
D-	60-62		.67
F	0-59	Failure	.00
I		Incomplete	

**VIII. EXTENSIONS:** There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. Incompletes occur when class work is not completed during the semester. Incompletes automatically become "F" thirty days after the semester ends.

**IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at CLCM and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of research materials.

**X. CREDIT AND AUDIT**

- A. The current cost of 3 credits is \$325. Fees are due on a schedule of ½ before the first exam, and the final ½ before the final exam. Other arrangements may be made if done with prior approval. Students who pay in full on or before the first day of June will receive a \$25 discount. Successful completion of this course will result in 3 credits towards an Associate of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Christian Life College, Mt. Prospect, Illinois.
- B. This independent study course may be audited for free. To fully benefit from the course, auditors will want to read all the required texts and complete all the assignments. However, auditors can gain a great deal of hermeneutical understanding by simply listening to the lectures and reading Gordon Fee's book, *How to Read the Bible for all it is Worth*.

# Christian Life College-Madison Proctor Agreement

Please return to:

Greg Pechacek, Lead Instructor  
4909 E. Buckeye Rd  
Madison, WI 53716  
Fax: 608-441-1991  
Office: 608-221-1528  
gpechacek@citychurchonline.org

1. The student should select a proctor and makes arrangements *by the third week of the course* to have his/her examination supervised according to the following guidelines:
  - a. **Proctor:** Examinations must be supervised by a faculty member of CLCM or another accredited college or university, high school teacher or counselor, business leader or another unrelated third party such as a pastor or Christian leader. The student's employer, co-worker, employee, relative or friend may *not* serve as a proctor.
  - b. **Location:** The examination must be administered in an educational or professional location, such as a classroom or office. Restaurants and coffee shops are not suitable for proctoring or writing exams.
2. The student and proctor must complete the "Application for Examination" section of this form and return it to the lead instructor at least *two weeks prior to the testing date*.

## APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION

(Please print)

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Name and Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Test Date (s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Proposed Proctor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proctor's Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proctor's Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proctor's Office Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where will the exam be taken?** \_\_\_\_\_

### **FOR THE PROCTOR**

In order to ensure the academic integrity of examinations taken for Christian Life College-Madison, certain procedures must be followed. Listed below are the procedures under which the examination must be administered. *Any deviation from these procedures may invalidate the examination.*

1. The student must not have access to any books, notes or other materials unless specifically authorized by the lead instructor.
2. The student is to be allowed only the time specified for completing the examination. If no time limit is specified, the student may take as long as required to complete the exam.
3. The proctor must be willing to personally receive the exam, administer the exam by observing the student throughout the examination period, and return the exam to the lead instructor for grading.
4. *No one* may make a copy of any part of the examination.
5. *If the examination is not taken within two weeks* after the scheduled testing date, it is to be returned, unopened to the lead instructor at Christian Life College-Madison.

Christian Life College-Madison appreciates your important educational service to this student. If, however, you cannot personally proctor the examination according to the above procedures, please decline the student's request. If you accept this responsibility, please indicate this by signing below.

***I accept the responsibility for proctoring exams under the procedures outlined above.***

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_