

Mr. Redmond's
Theology II: Biblical Interpretation (10th Bible)
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Course Description: This theology course will explore the categories of man and redemption with a particular emphasis on how to interpret Scripture. We will study what to look for in a particular passage or book in order to get the true meaning of the text. We will start by knowing what to look for and then we will put those principles to practice as we prayerfully read and interpret God's Word. We will use original sources from the Holy Bible by looking at the Gospels, selected epistles, and Old Testament texts.

Goals: The goal of this class will be for rhetoric students to begin dealing with what Scripture says in regard to man and redemption, and how to interpret it. They will gain the proper skills for knowing what questions to ask in a particular passage and how to read good literature. They will learn the difference between reading into the text and reading from the text. Finally the class will learn to have Scripture dictate truth to them rather than dictating truth to Scripture from our own preferences/prejudices.

Methodology: This class will contain class lectures that are vital to the student's knowledge of historical interpretation. Then they will learn the tools for interpretation. In addition, the class will cover various books of the Bible by way of discussion. Finally, the students will write formal papers on parts of Scripture in order to determine the proper meaning of the passage and implications for it in the present. Relevant illustrations will be used in order to engage the students' minds and hearts as we learn a proper hermeneutic.

Reading List:

Sproul, *Knowing Scripture*

Mark

Romans

Hosea

Ecclesiastes

Galatians

Revelation

James

Primary Text: The Holy Bible (*English Standard Version*)

Homework: The student will be expected to read key parts of the Bible most nights, however homework will be minimal in this class (10 minutes per night). Most of the students' work will be spent in class. There may be a few times throughout the quarter that they need to either study for a test or work on a final draft.

Major Projects: There will be several major projects that include presentations, research, and papers. The nature of this course will lend itself to writing papers. Exegetical papers offer the frame work for how to look at a passage. These papers will explore the significance of key words, context, and metaphors used in various passages within Scripture. As a rule of thumb, there will at least be 2 papers (2-4 pages) per nine weeks that the student will have to write. The student will also be asked to write a few short papers (1-2 pages) each nine weeks and take quizzes. Finally, there will be an opportunity to work toward public speaking as they prepare for thesis presentations. In this public presentation they will give a five minute presentation that provides a way to read a passage and interpret it that takes into account some refutation.

Grading: The students in this class will be assessed through different methodologies: Tests/Papers/Major Projects, Quizzes, and Participation. Grades will be based on a point system. A student has two days to make up any late work. Any late work on major assignments (tests/projects) will be penalized 11% per day that it is late.

Parents: Parents are strongly encouraged to spend time with the student in order to help the student learn how to become a young theologian. The emphasis in this class will be how Christ's sacrifice for us has made all the difference. The Gospel will always be the centrifugal force behind all that we do in this class.

Academic Integrity: The student will be expected to do his or her own work on homework, small assignments, quizzes, tests, papers, and projects. Completed assignments should reflect the student's own work and understanding, not someone else's. As to getting help on an assignment, there are times when students need their peers' assistance on homework. This should be no problem as long as it is help and not the peers' answers. I want each student to strive towards their own understanding. What's more, I want the students to learn from one another so that each student should contribute his/her part, but not isolated from the class altogether. There is a difference between getting answers and getting help, and in this class we want to maintain that difference.

Week	I. Primary Readings	II. Key Idea\ Theme
1 1/4	History of Interpretation	What is Interpretation?/The First Interpreters
2	History of Interpretation/ Knowing Scripture	The First Christian Interpreters
3	Knowing Scripture	Church Tradition is Established/Why Study the Bible?
4	Knowing Scripture	The Protestant Reformation's Take on a Proper Hermeneutic/Modern Interpretations
5	Knowing Scripture	How to Study the Bible
6	Knowing Scripture	Tools for Interpreting Scripture
7	Knowing Scripture	Principles for Interpreting Scripture
8	Mark	How to Read a Gospel
9	Mark	Gaining a literal sense of the text
10 2/4	Mark	How to read the text literally
11	Mark	Reading a primary text, supplemented by other gospel sources
12	Hosea	A Scandalous Call
13	Hosea	God's Anger/Anthropomorphic Metaphors
14	Hosea	God's Anger and His Unending Love
15	Hosea	God's Nature: Does He Change?
16	Galatians	Traditions and Christianity
17	Galatians	For Freedom
18	Finals	

Semester II/Spring Semester

19	3/4	Galatians/James	Grace and Law
20		Galatians/James	Grace and Law/The Work of the Spirit
21		Ecclesiastes	Dust in the Wind
22		Ecclesiastes	Vanity-Connections to Modern Day Approaches
23		Ecclesiastes	Vanity-Connections to Modern Day Approaches
24		Ecclesiastes	The Force of Law/Is there Good News?
25		Romans 7-8	No One has Excuse
26		Romans 7-8	Man's Dilemma
27		Romans 7-8	God's Solution: Jesus Christ
28	4/4	Romans 7-8	The UnFree Will
29		Romans 7-8	God is For Us/The Church/
30		Revelation	The World in the First Century/The Churches Apocalyptic Literature
31		Revelation	God's is in Control
32		Revelation	Willing to be Martyred
33		Revelation	The Beasts
34		Revelation	The Lamb/The New Heaven and Earth
35		A Reprise: Interpreting the Canon	Coherence in Scripture
36		Finals	