

Syllabus – BIB120 - Hermeneutics

By
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BIB120 - Hermeneutics
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Rochester Bible Institute

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Hermeneutics

BIB 120—Fall 2018

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Tuesday evenings, September 11th – December 4th, 7:30 – 9:00

All Certificate classes meet once a week for 1½ hours over twelve weeks.

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Course Description:

BIB120 Hermeneutics covers introductory themes and processes of Biblical interpretation and will compare and critique varying approaches and their significance toward understanding the Bible, understanding theology, and knowing God personally. This course will provide the student with in-depth Bible study techniques, using tools designed to help the believer hear God through His Word.

Rochester Bible Institute Program Goals and General Objectives:

- A. **LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** To develop ministry and lay leaders in tune with the Holy Spirit who understand the principles of the Bible and apply those principles for more effective ministry.

General Objectives

1. Demonstrate understanding of Scripture and its contemporary application to ministry and personal relationships.
2. Demonstrate appreciation for the role of Scripture in Christian ministry, in personal and spiritual formation, and in living the Christian life.
3. Demonstrate ability to interpret and use Scripture appropriately and effectively in ministry.

- B. **PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:** To provide an environment that nurtures students' personal and spiritual development.

General Objectives

1. Demonstrate growth in one's personal relationship with God and the development of a spiritually disciplined life based on the Word of God.
2. Demonstrate developing sensitivity to God's active presence in one's own life, the lives of others, and the world, guided by the Word of God.
3. Demonstrate growth in personal formation, emotional maturity, and moral integrity, guided by the Word of God.

- C. **REAL-WORLD MINISTRY AND SERVICE:** To provide support for students as they integrate theory with practice and to cultivate their capacity for leadership within the church and community.

General Objectives

1. Demonstrate ability to interrelate theological, cultural, and experiential learning, and to apply academic learning in the practice of ministry.
2. Demonstrate deepening acceptance and love of others, compassion, and forgiveness.
3. Demonstrate a desire to identify spiritual gifts to be used in Christian service.
4. Demonstrate servant-leadership as the hands and feet of Jesus in the community.

Required Texts:

1. The Holy Bible [New International Version, Study Bible]
2. Zuck, Roy B. *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1991.
3. Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students & Researchers*, 8th or 11th ed. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Required Handouts:

1. Essay writing with Structure and Style (Handed out at **Class Registration**)

Recommended Texts:

1. None

Course Objective: Each week you will read chapters from *Basic Bible Interpretation* by Roy B. Zuck, a practical guide to discovering biblical truth. After having class discussions and studying this practical guide you will be better equipped to make Bible observations, interpretation and application so that you may grow in the grace and love of Jesus Christ with spiritual living.

During class you will participate in discussions about Bible interpretation. You will be equipped to know how to bridge the cultural, grammatical, and literary gap between the time the Bible was written and today. Instruction will include figures of speech, testing biblical types and antitypes, symbols, probing parables, and analyzing allegories to learn the truth of biblical interpretations.

Together, we will discuss how the Old Testament quotations are used in the New Testament. Then, we will be discussing how to apply God's Word to daily living to grow in the grace and love of Jesus Christ with spiritual living.

During the semester you will be applying what you have learned about Bible interpretation by writing three essays and completing six take-home quizzes. A final term paper at the end of the semester will be written to summarize how you will historically, grammatically, and rhetorically interpret Scripture and apply it in your daily living.

Course Schedule:

Date	Reading Assignment	Written Assignments	Quiz
September 11	Ch 1 – What and Why of Bible Interpretation	Study the Writing Guide Handout	None
September 18	Ch 2 - Bible Interpretation – Then and Now	None	Quiz #1
September 25	Ch 3 – Whose View is Valid	None	None
October 2	Ch 4 – Bridging the Cultural Gap	Essay #1	Quiz #2
October 9	Ch 5 – Bridging the Grammatical Gap	None	None
October 16	Ch 6 – Bridging the Literary Gap	None	Quiz #3
October 23	Ch 7 – Figures of Speech	Essay #2	None
October 30	Ch 8 – Testing the Types and Sensing the Symbols	None	Quiz #4
November 6	Ch 9 – Probing the Parables and Analyzing the Allegories	None	None
November 13	Ch 10 – Interpreting Prophecy	Essay #3	Quiz #5
Break Week – Thanksgiving Holiday – November 19-24			
November 27	Ch 11 - The Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament	Write outline and term paper draft	None
December 4	Ch 12 - Applying God's Word	Term Paper due Dec. 4 th , <i>Applying God's Word</i>	Quiz #6

BIB 120 Hermeneutics: Essay and Term Paper Assignments

Use the following terms and write an academic paper explaining the definition of each term with an introduction paragraph (describing the thesis and sub topics), three or more sub-topic paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph describing the most important sub-topic. Write the paper using scripture and commentary to support your answer. Be sure to include Chicago Style footnotes to tell where you found the information. Include a Cover page at the beginning of the essay and a Works Cited list at the end to document your references. You are required to complete your academic essays and paper on the following topics:

Essay #1	Essay #2	Essay #3	Final Paper
Essay Terms 1. Hermeneutics 2. Exegesis 3. Homiletics 4. Observation 5. Interpretation 6. Application 7. Geographical 8. Cultural 9. Allegorical 10. Augustine 11. Martin Luther 12. John Calvin 13. Human / Divine 14. Historical – Grammatical - Rhetorical 15. Cultural Gap	Essay Terms 1. Grammatical 2. Exegesis 3. Different meanings 4. Word usage 5. Context 6. Parts of Speech 7. Noun, verb, adverb, preposition 8. Phrase, clause, sentence 9. Literary gap 10. Rhetorical interpretation 11. Literary genre 12. Figures of Speech	Essay Terms 1. Types, antitypes 2. Shadows, fulfillments 3. Symbols 4. Parables 5. Exaggerations 6. Hyperboles 7. Allegories 8. Guidelines for interpreting prophecy 9. Old & New Testament quotations 10. Variations in quotation wording	Final Paper Terms 1. Rely on the Holy Spirit 2. God’s Word 3. Training in righteousness 4. Christ-honoring 5. Application problems 6. Guidelines for application 7. Principles inherent in text 8. Principles consistent with text 9. Application of relationships 10. Personal applications (final paragraph)
10 Points	10 Points	10 Points	30 Points
5 Paragraphs	5 Paragraphs	5 Paragraphs	7-8 Paragraphs
1-2 Bible Study tools	1-2 Bible Study tools	1-2 Bible Study tools	3-4 Bible Study tools

The paper must minimally consist of the following guidelines:

1. Cover Page (like the syllabus cover page) and Works Cited List
2. Use in-text NIV Bible quotations: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son” (John 3:16).
3. Cite Bible Study Tools or academic references in addition to your Bible and class notes with Chicago Style footnotes (e.g. Bible Dictionary, Concordance, Lexicon, Bible Encyclopedia/Handbook, or Commentaries). Footnote example:

Hermeneutics is defined as “the science (principles) and art (task) by which the meaning of the Biblical text is determined.”¹

Works Cited List

Zuck, Roy B. *Basic Biblical Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth*.
Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1991.

Class Attendance Policy:

Student’s presence and active participation in the class are critical for both the student and the class to benefit from the learning experience. If a student will be absent for any reason, he/she must request from the instructor the assignments which will be due during the date of absence and submit those assignments by the following class session. Failure to do so will result in a 50% reduction in the grade for that assignment. Students with more than 3 absences during any course, who do not meet the minimum hours required to complete the course, may be dropped from the course.

Assigned Readings:

Class participants are required to complete all assigned readings prior to each class. Although there is a lot of reading in the class, you are expected to carefully and diligently read all texts in preparation for class each week.

Policy on Written Assignments:

All written assignments must be completed (even if they are late) to pass this course. Late assignments are always accepted up until the final class session. All written assignments must be submitted by email to the instructor at larhovey@gmail.com **one hour** or more prior to the start of the class session when they are assigned. There is no exception for this without a written excuse.

¹ Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Biblical Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 1991), 20.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Any assignment that is late without a valid prior written excuse will be penalized 50% of the earned grade. The deadline for submitting all late assignments is the final class session.

Essay and Term Paper Requirements:

1. **Introductory paragraph:** The introductory paragraph should include a vivid, clear, and attention getting opening sentence. A thesis statement must be included, along with a description of three to five related sub topics, and an explanation of the background information, and characters.
2. **Subtopic body paragraphs:** Clear, concise, and comprehensive topic sentence explaining the main idea of the subtopic with 5-7 detail sentences supporting the subtopic.
3. **Clincher or concluding paragraph:** Restate or summarize the related subtopics; state what is the most important topic and why; dramatic attention getting clincher closing sentence stating the most important theme.
4. **Essay Subtopics:** 3 or more subtopic body paragraphs required.
5. **Term Paper Subtopics:** 6 or more subtopic body paragraphs are required.
6. **Number of References:** All essays must have **2 or more** academic references and the term paper must have **3 or more** references cited.
7. **Citation of non-common facts:** All non-common facts, ideas, or words must be cited with the Chicago Style citation practices as specified in, *A Manual for Writers*, Kate L. Turabian. All works cited in the essay must be listed at the end of the document in the "Works Cited List."
8. **Composition format:** All compositions must be typed in 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, and indented at paragraph breaks with Adobe Reader DC.
9. **Biblical references:** Always give biblical references in the text of your paper. For example, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1; NRSV) Include the translation only if you are quoting a scripture that is different than NIV. For example, John pointed men to the Messiah (John 1:7).
10. **Essay and Term Paper Cover Format:** All essays and term paper must start with the required cover format. A single page number starts on the first page of the paper on the right side of the upper header. Use the pattern on the cover of the syllabus as the pattern for your paper cover page.

Grading of Written Assignments:

1. Clear, concise, and comprehensive introductory and clincher paragraphs.
2. Three or more subtopic body paragraphs about specific subtopics that support the theme and present a logical progression of evidence to arrive at the concluding paragraph with a vivid and dramatic closing sentence.
3. Title of the essay must tie to key words in the closing sentence.
4. Writing style, format and organization, sentence structure, 3 or more Chicago style footnotes, and “Works Cited List”

Course Grading:

No.	Activities	Points
1	Five paragraph essays: Essay #1, Essay #2, Essay #3 (10 points each - 30 points)	30
2	Final Term Paper – Applying God’s Word (40 points)	40
3	Quiz grade — (6 Quizzes - 3 points each – 18 points)	18
4	Class Discussion — (12 classes x 1 point each)	12
	Total Points	100

Grading scale:

Letter	Grade Point	Grade Scale, %	Definition
A+	4.3	= 97-100	High quality
A	4.0	= 93-96	Unusually high quality, exceptional associate work
A-	3.7	= 90-92	Far above average, fine associate work
B+	3.3	= 87-89	Above average associate work
B	3.0	= 83-86	Very good, average for associate work
B-	2.7	= 80-82	Slightly below average for associate work
C+	2.3	= 77-79	Meets minimal requirements, but with noticeable inadequacies
C	2.0	= 73-76	Meets minimal requirements, but with significant gaps
C-	1.7	= 70-72	Meets minimal requirements, but with serious gaps
D+	1.3	= 67-69	Minimal work
D	1.0	= 63-66	Barely acceptable for associate work
D-	0.7	= 60-62	Inadequate work
F	1.0	= 0-59	Failure
I	Incomplete		

Academic Integrity:

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be required to be the student's own work. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive an "F" for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code may also be extended to include failure of the course and Institute disciplinary action.

Incomplete Grades:

Students who are unable to complete their work in the class due to a serious illness or other sufficient reason may submit a "Request for an Incomplete Grade" form. The instructor and the director of the school will review and grant the request if approved.

Class Withdrawal Policy:

Withdrawal from the class requires completion and approval of a "Change of Registration" form no later than the second to the last class session. The instructor and the director of the school will review and grant the request if approved.