

# 4ON504

## Advanced Biblical Exegesis (“MACRO-HERMENEUTICS PLUS”)

Summer 2009

### Syllabus

#### INSTRUCTOR

Dr Bruce Lowe received his first doctorate in Analytical Chemistry and taught, consulted and researched in a university setting over several years in both Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. He then completed his MDiv at RTS Orlando, becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister and working in university ministry, as a youth pastor and in church revitalization. He is in the final stages of a doctorate in New Testament Studies, where his thesis has focused on the cultural backdrop to Romans. Bruce has a special interest in hermeneutics, as indicated by his suggestion of a new paradigm for reading Romans (what he calls a “neo-historical criticism”). He is keen to not simply teach the *contents* of the Bible, but *approaches* which will equip students for a lifetime of fruitful learning & growth.

< Office hrs: M-F, 8-9am; Email me for an appointment; [blowe@rts.edu](mailto:blowe@rts.edu) >

#### COURSE NAME

It will begin with big-picture topics (A whole-picture reading of the Bible). The “plus” part, then deals with moving from this big picture down to the details (of the use of history, genre etc).

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is more important than understanding the Bible? Yet our understanding is often hampered by inadequate skills or a faulty overarching lenses for putting it all together. This course will seek to provide both the lens and the skills. The reading will add a theoretical edge to the lectures (i.e. Silva’s book), but also a practical edge (i.e. Greidanus’ book), rounding out the course nicely. The desire is that students will leave with the framework and skills for a lifetime of better understanding God’s word.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. That students will be able to put the entire Bible together into a cohesive framework.
2. That students will have skills to interpret individual passages, within their different genres.
3. That students will be able to integrate interpretive skills into skills for teaching the bible today.
4. That students will learn to sing the truth of Scripture.

## TEXTS & READING

- **Trinity Hymnal** (Rev. Ed.; Atlanta: Great Commission Publications, 1990) ISBN0-934688-60-5<sup>1</sup>
- M. Silva, ed. *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996) ISBN 0-310-20828-9
- S. Greidanus. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999) ISBN 0-8028-4449-9

## ASSESSMENT

- 20%** A 12 page summary of Silva's book.<sup>2</sup> **Due either the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class, OR August 7<sup>th</sup> (midnight)**
- 10%** A 3 page answer to the following question: "What does Sidney Greidanus mean by Preaching Christ from the OT?"<sup>3</sup> **Due July 31<sup>st</sup> (midnight)**
- 40%** 3 hour "Mid-term" Exam" covering the content of the course.<sup>4</sup> **Due on July 17<sup>th</sup> (midnight)**

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<sup>1</sup> At the beginning of each day (and maybe other times too) we will sing from relevant hymns of old. The aim is increased familiarity with hymns of old, but also the lesson that the truth should be sung as well as learned.

<sup>2</sup> This is a challenging assignment, which is why it is due at the end. The book is really 6 books in one and so it is really a 2 page summary for each. It is worth 20% and so I will be looking for strong indications that you have digested the material. **Do not leave this assignment until the last minute! In fact, to get the most out of the course, it would be best to do it before you start – then we can interact on this material and you could ask questions.**

<sup>3</sup> This is *not* a book review. This is almost like an open book exam, but with more time to work on it. This question will force you to read over Greidanus' book and answer it. Note though, I do want you to read the whole thing – you will be asked to write on the top of the assignment "I have read what X% of the book".

<sup>4</sup> All the lecture material is fair game in this exam. This is not really a mid-term, but part I of the final. By separating it out, it will make it easier for you to study for.

**30%** 3 hour Final Exam applying the content of the course to real passages.<sup>5</sup>  
**Due on August 7<sup>th</sup> (midnight)**

**WHEN IS THE COURSE BEING RUN?**

Monday **22<sup>nd</sup> June** to Friday **26<sup>th</sup> June**; **9am to 5pm**.

## General Outline

Day	Hour	Reading for	Subject
1	1		“A situation to every book”
	2		“A situation of redemption” ∪∪
	3		“The Unfinished story” →
	4		FCF & <i>The Story of Ruth</i>
	5		FCF & <i>Isaiah 40</i>
	6		FCF & <i>Genesis 5</i>
	7		“The Finished Story” →
2	8		“Christ” as Center
	9		What on Earth?
	10		<i>1Corinthians 6</i>
	11		<i>The Parable of the Sower</i>
	12		<i>The Great Whore</i>
	13		How the NT uses the OT (1)
	14		How the NT uses the OT (2)
3	15		Drink more Coca Cola!!!!
	16		Doing History & Criticism Well (1)
	17		Doing History & Criticism Well (2)
	18		Telling Stories (1)
	19		Telling Stories (2)
	20		<i>Class Exercise</i>
	21		Teach me a Parable (1)
4	22		Teach me a Parable (2)
	23		Letter Writing (1)
	24		Letter Writing (2)
	25		<i>Class Exercise</i>
	26		She’s so good with words (1)
	27		She’s so good with words (2)
	28		He’s such a poet! (1)
5	29		He’s such a poet! (2)
	30		<i>Class Exercise</i>
	31		Apocalyptic Genre (1)
	32		Apocalyptic Genre (2)
	33		<i>Class Exercise</i>
	34		From text to talk (final tips)
	35		From text to talk (final tips)
Post-Class	36		Canonical Approach (1)
	37		Canonical Approach (2)

<sup>5</sup> The point of this course is to learn to interpret better. The final will test how well you have integrated the information from the course.

	38		The Value of Greek
	39		The Value of Hebrew