

Hermeneutics – 2ON702

*Reformed Theological Seminary
Spring 2008*

Scott R. Swain
sswain@rts.edu
407-366-5732, ext. 216

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores a wide range of subjects related to responsible interpretation of the Bible. Particular passages of Scripture are the focus of discussions and practical exercises (3 hours).

CLASS MEETINGS

This class meets on Wednesdays from 8:00 am-12:00 pm, with a break for chapel at 10:00 am, February 5-May 14, 2008. Class will not meet on March 26 or May 7, 2008.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Grant Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, Revised and Expanded Edition [ISBN 10: 0830828265; ISBN 13: 978-0830828265] = HS

Bruce Waltke, *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach* [ISBN 10: 0310218977; ISBN 13: 978-0310218975] = OTT

John Frame, “Covenant and the Unity of Scripture,” available at: http://www.frame-poythress.org/frame_articles/1999Covenant.htm

Richard Pratt, “Historical Contingencies and Biblical Predictions,” available at: http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/ric_pratt/TH.Pratt.Historical_Contingencies.pdf

Edmund Clowney, “The Final Temple,” available at: <http://www.beginningwithmoses.org/articles/finaltemple.htm>

N. T. Wright, “Creation and Covenant,” available at: http://www.ntwrightpage.com/Wright_Creation_Covenant.htm

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Quizzes on assigned reading (30 %)

Quizzes on the assigned reading will be given on a regular basis *at the beginning of class*. For each class period, students may bring one page of notes (front and back), which they personally have taken on the assigned reading for that day, to use during the quiz. The first question of every quiz will be: “True or False: I have read with reasonable care all of the assigned readings for this class period.”

2. Skills Development Exercises [SDEs] (40 %)

The skills required for faithful biblical interpretation are to a significant degree more “caught” than “taught.” Consequently, certain assignments will be devoted to the development of interpretive skills. These assignments will have both homework and classroom components. Class participation is a vital aspect of this assignment.

3. Paper (30 %)

Details forthcoming.

SCHEDULE

Feb 6	
Feb 13	Frame; OTT, chap. 3
Feb 20	HS, chap. 1; OTT, chaps. 7-8; <i>Genesis 1-2</i>
Feb 27	HS, chap. 7; OTT, chaps. 10, 12 <i>Genesis 3-17</i> ; SDE # 1
Mar 5	OTT, chap. 4; <i>Genesis 18-22</i> ; SDE # 2
Mar 12	OTT, chap. 14; <i>Exodus 1-15</i> ; SDE # 3
Mar 19	HS, chap. 6; OTT, chap. 15; <i>Exodus 16-24</i> ; SDE # 4
Mar 26	<i>No class</i>

Apr 2		OTT, chap. 17; <i>Deuteronomy 1-9</i> ; SDE # 5
Apr 9		Pratt; OTT, chaps. 29-30; HS, chap. 10; <i>Micah</i> ; SDE # 6
Apr 16		HS, chap. 8; OTT, chap. 32; <i>14 Psalms of your choice</i> ; SDE # 7
Apr 23		HS, chap. 14; Clowney; <i>Mark</i> ; SDE # 8
Apr 30		HS, chap. 13; Wright; <i>Galatians</i>
May 7	<i>No class</i>	
May 14		HS, chap. 11; <i>Revelation 1-7</i>

OFFICE HOURS

I am available to meet with students almost all the time. My official office hours are Wednesday afternoons from 3:00-5:00 pm. If this time does not fit your schedule, please email me and we will schedule a meeting for an alternative time.