

Hermeneutics – 2ON702

*Reformed Theological Seminary
Spring 2009*

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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 4-May 13, 2009.

REQUIRED TEXTS

John J. O’Keefe and R. R. Reno, *Sanctified Vision: An Introduction to Early Christian Interpretation of the Bible* [ISBN 13: 978-0801880889]

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

Vaughan Roberts, *God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* [ISBN 13: 978-0851112985]

Scott R. Swain, “The Trinity, the Kingdom, and the Word of God” (available from professor)

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

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| Feb 4 | |
| Feb 11 | Swain; Roberts, Introduction |
| Feb 18 | Roberts, chaps. 1-2 |
| Feb 25 | Roberts, chaps. 3-4; Osborne, chaps. 1, 5 |
| Mar 4 | Roberts, chaps. 5-6; Osborne, chap. 7 SDE # 1 due |
| Mar 11 | Roberts, chaps. 7-8; Osborne, chap. 6 |
| Mar 18 | Osborne, chap. 8 SDE # 2 due |
| Mar 25 | <i>No class</i> |
| Apr 1 | Osborne, chaps. 9-10 SDE # 3 due |
| Apr 8 | Osborne, chap. 12 |
| Apr 15 | Osborne, chap. 13 SDE # 4 due |
| Apr 22 | Osborne, chap. 11 |
| Apr 29 | Osborne, chap. 14 SDE # 5 due |

May 6

May 13

O'Keefe and Reno, all

May 15

Research papers due (RTS term paper
deadline)

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.