ADVANCED BIBLICAL EXEGESIS (MACRO—HERMENEUTICS)
ON504
MINI-SYLLABUS

Note: This syllabus is the “mini-syllabus” and is not to be confused w/ the large syllabus that contains all the class-lecture notes, biblio, various articles, etc. This large syllabus will be posted on IQWeb and is needed for all the class lectures. For the first day of class, the student should be prepared w/ either a hard-copy of the large syllabus or have it downloaded to his laptop.

Note: No prerequisites for this course.

Required Texts:

Trinity Psalter.
R. L. Pratt. *He Gave Us Stories*.
M. Silva, ed. *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation*.
S. Greidanus. *Preaching X from the OT*.

Professors

* Professors Dr. Bob Cara and Dr. Dick Belcher (technically, Dr. Robert J. Cara and Dr. Richard P. Belcher, Jr.).

Class participation

* For both Cara and Belcher, bring and sing Psalter.

* Attend class and participate (intelligently!) when called on. Loose points for not being in class and/or not participating.

Name of Course

* “Advanced Biblical Exegesis” does not really mean anything specific. In RTS-J it is a combination of R-H (OT related to NT) and intensive biblical languages, i.e., an “advance” on the Greek and Hebrew exegesis courses.

* At RTS-C, this course should be called “Macro-Hermeneutics Plus.” It will include primarily big-picture topics, including: philosophical hermeneutics, considerations of a reader’s background, R-H (OT related to NT), history of hermeneutics, application of Bible to today, etc.

* At RTS-C, the Greek and Hebrew exegesis courses, more or less, focus on micro-
hermeneutical issues.

Structure of the Course

* Cara, first 6 weeks.
  * Three units: (1) PM vs M w/in a CVT framework. (2) Macro-hermeneutics per se. (3) Review of Cara’s hermeneutical proverbs.

* Belcher, second 6 weeks.
  * Three units: (1) History of interpretation of the Bible: Philo through modern day. (2) NT use of OT, including NT writers’ hermeneutical context. (3) Preaching X from the OT: Typology and Greidanus.

* Cara, Belcher, and Kruger 13th week, Covenant Structure of Bible

Course Requirements and Grades

* Final Test
  * Test will be ≈ 85-90% verbatim of Lecture Review Questions. The remainder will be miscellaneous questions from the class lectures and readings.
  * For answers to Lecture Review Questions, you may/should enquire of fellow students in this class.
  * 40% of grade.

* Pratt’s *He Gave Us Stories*, pages 1-128, 306-402.
  * Submit a fake (i.e., no or few footnotes) 7-10 page paper that includes:
    * A statement that student read 100% of Pratt reading requirement.
    * Self-consciously evaluate one or more aspects of the student’s interaction w/in his covenant community (both heritage and present) that has (or will have) influenced the student’s biblical interpretation (BT/R-H/ST). This influence can be either positive, negative, or both.
    * The paper should show knowledge of your covenantal community, and categories in Pratt’s book and Cara’s lectures.
    * Although no research is required, this paper should have a sophisticated understanding of macro-hermeneutics and indicate that the student can “theologize” about himself relative to his theological community.
  * Paper due on last day of Cara’s lectures (≈ half-way through semester). Give to Cara.

32 f/s/s.
* 25% of grade.

* Silva, M., ed. *Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation.*

* Read anyone of the books in this book, excepting *God, Language and Scripture.*
* Submit a (fake) 7-10 page paper that includes:
  * A statement that student read 100% of book w/in the book.
  * Summarize book (1/3 of paper).
  * Critique one small or large section in the book (2/3 of paper). The critique should show knowledge of Cara/Belcher lectures and the ability of the student to theologize about hermeneutics.
* Paper due on last day of Belcher’s lectures. Give to Belcher. 32f/s/s.
* 25% of grade.

* Read Greidanus’ *Preaching X from the OT.*

* On final test will be the question, “Did you read 100% of the assigned Greidanus reading?”
* 10% of grade.