ADVANCED BIBLICAL EXEGESIS (MACRO—HERMENEUTICS)
ON504
MINI-SYLLABUS
Spring 2011

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 “Self Service” 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.
* Eds. Estelle, Fesko, VanDrunen, The Law is not of Faith.

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 nail down the content of this course. In fact, this course has a variety of content depending on which RTS campus it is taught.

* 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.
Course Objectives

* The overarching purpose is for the student to interact with a variety macro-hermeneutical issues, including Reformed models, to enable the student to better interpret/apply the Bible.

* Course objectives as coordinated with MDiv Student Learning Outcomes are shown at the end of this document.

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 all of Greidanus’ *Preaching X from the OT* and selected articles from Estelle/Fesko/VanDrunen’s *The Law is not of Faith.*

  * On final test will be the question, “Did you read 100% of the assigned reading?”
  * 10% of grade.
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

### With Mini-Justification

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<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| **Articulation** (oral & written) | Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. | Moderate | 1. Submits one self-reflected hermeneutics paper.  
2. Submits one critical book review.  
3. Significant overview of the history of hermeneutics, both in the church and philosophy, is included. |
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Moderate | 1. Scriptures’ interpretation of Scripture is included.  
2. Scriptures’ understanding of “meaning” is evaluated. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Moderate | 1. Overview of Reformed view of General and Special Revelation.  
2. Reformed hermeneutics.  
3. History of Reformed denominations. |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Minimal | 1. Psalm singing in class  
2. Self-reflection paper. |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Strong | 1. The Bible is the ultimately authority of hermeneutical questions.  
2. Student’s background affects hermeneutics. |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Strong | 1. The ethos of RTS is presented and evaluated as to how that affects hermeneutics. |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Moderate | 1. Section of hermeneutics of “modern meaning.” |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | None | |
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; | Minimal | 1. Understand one’s own background is an aid to understanding others. |
and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.

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<tr>
<th>Church/World</th>
<th>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</th>
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