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.

OBJECTIVES

In this course we will seek to gain (1) a greater understanding of and appreciation for the subject matter of Holy Scripture – what the Bible is all about – the trinitarian drama of covenant and kingdom; (2) a greater familiarity and facility with the various literary forms and functions of Holy Scripture – how the Bible communicates its message; (3) a greater capacity for hearing and applying Holy Scripture in faith, hope, and love.

CLASS MEETINGS

This class meets on Fridays from 9:00-11:55 am.

TEXTS

1. Required textbooks

   T. Desmond Alexander and Brian S. Rosner, eds., *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*

   Andreas J. Köstenberger, Richard D. Patterson, and Scott R. Swain, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation* (available from the professor)

   Vaughan Roberts, *God’s Big Picture*

2. Other required reading (available on reserve in the library)

   G. K. Beale, “Did Jesus and His Followers Preach the Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts?” pp. 387-404 in *Right Doctrine from Wrong Texts*

Geerhardus Vos, “Eschatology in its Pre-Redemptive Stage,” pp. 73-76 in *The Eschatology of the Old Testament*

Geerhardus Vos, “The Kingdom of God,” pp. 304-316 in *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation*

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 an important aspect of this assignment.

3. **Paper (30 %)**

   Details forthcoming.

OFFICE HOURS

My office hours are Tuesday mornings from 10:00 am until noon. If this time does not fit your schedule, please email me and we will schedule a meeting at an alternative time.