

Saint Louis Christian College
BBI211N – Hermeneutics
T. Scott Womble
Three Credits

Fall 2014

Thursday evening
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant-leaders for urban, suburban, rural and global ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students acquire basic skills for interpreting the Bible appropriate to its varied contexts. Confidence for future Bible study is obtained by completion of a step-by-step exegesis of a portion of Scripture.

COURSE RATIONAL

This course is required of all those seeking a bachelor's degree and those seeking the A.A.S. degree. This course is foundational as preparation for all exegetical classes. This course will enlighten the student on the adverse effects of division in Christianity often caused by unsound principles of exegesis, and promote unity through sound exegesis.

This course fulfills the following Student Learning Objectives (see page 12 of the college catalog):

Upon completion of their program of study at Saint Louis Christian College, the graduates will ...

1. Be capable and reliable communicators of the Bible. Therefore the academic program at SLCC focuses on developing students' communication and vocational skills.
2. Possess a permanent thirst for wisdom. Therefore SLCC promotes academic excellence and seeks to develop in students a desire for personal enrichment and lifelong learning.
3. Possess unimpeachable character. Therefore the program at SLCC fosters in students habits of accountability and integrity.
4. Engage modern global, pluralistic, diverse cultures from the standpoint of a robust Biblical worldview. Therefore the SLCC curriculum aims to integrate thought and life across a broad range of knowledge.

This course also complements the mission of the Division of Biblical Education (see page 85 of the college catalog).

1. Given instruction in the Bible and in biblical theology, the student will exhibit knowledge of the messages of the various Old and New Testament books and the saving message of the Bible as a whole.
2. Shown how to use tools and sound methods for interpreting the Bible, the student will demonstrate the ability to properly interpret, apply, and communicate Scripture.

3. Presented the biblical mandates for worldwide evangelism, the student will communicate the imperative that every person needs Jesus Christ as Savior.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon conclusion of this course, the learner should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the knowledge and utilization of the tools applicable to the interpretation of scripture.
2. Demonstrate and utilize the time-honored methods and models for conducting thorough and accurate exegesis of scripture.
3. Conduct exegesis of scripture on an independent basis for a lifetime.
4. Engage in dialog with one's community and world at large to reach a more informed interpretation of scripture.
5. Demonstrate the understanding and utilization of the tools, methods and models of exegesis by exegeting a specific periscope of scripture.
6. Apply the exegesis of a text in an interpretive fashion in a lesson that could be used in a church setting.
7. Articulate the various literary forms that comprise the canon of scripture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading:

Three textbooks and assigned readings in the student guide are to be read. A full 2 page report on *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes* is worth 15% of your grade. In addition, on the final night of class the student will be asked what percentage of the reading he/she completed in *Grasping God's Word* and *Applying the Sermon*. This will also comprise 15% of the student's grade.

Homework:

Three assignments ("Self Evaluation Instrument," "Text Comparison Assignment" and "Contextual Analysis Form") will be given which will enable the student to perform three of the exegetical steps before doing them again later for the exegesis paper. Each assignment is worth 10 points. Therefore, the homework will comprise 30% of the student's grade. All work should be typewritten and conform to MLA.

Exegesis Paper for **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**:

The student will follow the steps of exegesis that are learned through class lectures and readings and write a 10 step paper that will be graded with a rubric (see attached). In addition, the paper will make use of ten or more resources and strictly follow the guidelines set forth in MLA. No footnotes are needed for this paper. Your bibliography should be called a "Works Consulted" page since you are allowed to cite any source you consult for the paper (even if you do not quote it).

The paper must not exceed 15 pages. All papers which exceed the prescribed limits will receive a letter grade deduction. **See page 6 of this syllabus for honesty statement** which must be attached to the end of your paper.

Examinations:

There will not be any exams.

Bible:

Students are expected to bring a Bible to class. The professor uses the NASB, but you may bring another translation if you wish (not a paraphrase). A parallel translation is recommended.

Attendance:

According to college guidelines, absentees that exceed 25% shall result in administrative withdrawal with a grade of "F" (see the college catalog). You are not given points for attending class. However, **1 point** will be added to your final grade if you attend every class session.

Tardiness:

Students arriving more than 15 minutes late for class will be counted absent for the entire hour.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Reading (2 items each worth 15%)	30%
Homework Assignments (3 items each worth 10%)	30%
Exegesis Paper	40%

The following reflects the school's grading scale.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>GPA</u>							
A+	97-100	4.0	A	93-96	4.0	A-	90-92	3.7	
B+	87-89	3.3	B	83-86	3.0	B-	80-82	2.7	
C+	77-79	2.3	C	73-76	2.0	C-	70-72	1.7	
D+	67-69	1.3	D	63-66	1.0	D-	60-62	0.7	
F	0-59	0.0							

Box #:

All work without a box number on it will NOT be returned (unless you are a certificate student and do not have a box).

Late Work:

Completing an assignment after the fact often gives the student an advantage his/her peers did not have. Furthermore, in a course such as this it is critical to keep up. Late work will be accepted for 1 week but with a penalty of 50% (the next day constitutes a week).

Emailing Your Work:

The professor is not your secretary and will not print your assignments. If you encounter a printing problem and would like to email your work so that it is not late, you may do so. Understand, however, you are still responsible for printing the assignment and turning in a physical copy. Your emailed document will only serve as proof that the work is not late. The hard copy of your work **MUST** be submitted before the outset of the next class. If it is not, you will receive a zero.

MLA Compliance:

All papers should reflect MLA 7th edition standards. Anytime the front page of your paper does not comply, the paper will be returned to you for correction and resubmission. The paper will not be counted late, but it must be turned in before the outset of the next class. If it is not, you will receive a zero.

Final Grade:

You will NOT receive a passing grade from this course unless all homework assignments and the exegesis paper are turned in. Therefore, if a student decides to simply skip an assignment he/she does not feel like doing, the student will ultimately fail the course. A possible scenario is that a student may miss a deadline and take a zero for the grade. Yet, to pass the course the student must still complete the assignment.

Honesty Statement:

An honesty statement must be attached to the exegesis paper as a separate page following your "Works Consulted" page. Failure to comply will result in grade deduction (e.g., an A paper will be deducted to A minus). The statement should read as follows:

"I certify that this is entirely my own work. In those instances in which I have used other people's material, such as written sources on the internet or published in books, articles, or other formats, I have accurately and fully credited the authors of those sources."

Signed _____

Dated _____

I highly recommend that you read the "Academic Dishonesty" section in the Course Catalog (Academic Information section). Violation of this policy may result in you failing this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Due Week One:

1. Review pp. 2-12 in the Course Pack.
2. Read "Hermeneutical Paradigms" (p. 13 in the Course Pack).
3. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 2 & 7
(chapter 7 deals with step 1: *The Exegete*)
4. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 14-17 and pages 150-152
(these deal with step 2: *Genre*)
5. Read Richards & O'Brien chapters 1-5.

Due Week Two:

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 18-22
(these deal with step 2: *Genre*)
2. Read Duvall & Hays, chapter 6
(this deals with step 3: *Setting*)
3. Read Duvall & Hays, chapter 1
(this addresses issues which involve step 4: *Establish the Text*)
4. Review "Background Study Form on Ephesus (Sample)" (p. 18 in the Course Pack).
5. **DUE**: Complete "Self Evaluation Instrument" (p. 17 in the Course Pack).
6. Read Richards & O'Brien chapters 6-9. **DUE**: Submit a full 2 page report citing what challenged your thinking, what you learned and perhaps what you questioned.

Due Week Three:

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 3-5
(*these deal with step 5: Structure*)
2. Read Duvall & Hays, chapter 8
(*this deals with step 6: Context*)
3. **DUE**: Complete “Text Comparison Assignment” for Exodus 21:1-27 (p. 21 in the Course Pack)

Due Week Four:

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapter 9
(*this deals with step 7: Key Words & Phrases*)
2. Read “The Word on Word Study” (p. 26 in the Course Pack)
3. Review the following from the Course Pack: “Word Study Form” (p. 33) and “Guide for Using Greek and Hebrew Reference Works” (p. 37).
4. Review “Contextual Analysis Form on Matthew 5:43-48” (p. 22 in the Course Pack)
5. **DUE**: Complete “Contextual Analysis Form” for Romans 8:37 (p. 24 in the Course Pack)

Due Week Five:

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 10-13
(*these deal with step 9: Application*)
2. Read “The Heresy of Application” (p. 44 in the Course Pack)
3. **DUE**: Reading report on Duvall & Hays & Overdorf is due. All I need on a piece of paper is your name and the percentage of the reading you completed.

DUE by the following Thursday:

1. Exegesis paper for **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**

*** All work must be turned in by this date**

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God’s Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Overdorf, Daniel. *Applying the Sermon: How to Balance Biblical Integrity and Cultural Relevance*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.

Richards, E. Randolph & Brandon J. O’Brien. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Learning Disability Statement: If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see me privately to discuss assessment measures that would enhance your ability to learn.
2. Disclaimer Statement: Please understand that the professor reserves the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due dates or even an assignment as long as it does not add to the students’ work load.
3. Class Decorum: The professor reserves the right to dismiss a student from a class session due to improper class decorum, which includes but not restricted to: lack of attentiveness, excessive and unnecessary talking about material not pertinent to the lecture, talking while

- another student or the professor has the floor, sleeping, persistent tardiness and a consistent lack of preparation for class lectures and accompanying discussions.
4. No food items shall be allowed. A beverage with a twist on cap is permissible.
 5. All papers are expected to reflect MLA 7th edition standards (e.g., Time New Roman font, size 12, double space, correct pagination, headings and margins). All papers that reflect one's own creativity will be returned. Only the exegesis paper will be accepted (but with penalties).
 6. All incompletes must be approved by the professor. They will only be granted for extraordinary circumstances.

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Office Hours: No appointment is required. However, if I am occupied at the time of your visit, we may set an appointment.
Monday & Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
2. Email – swomble@slcconline.edu
My email goes directly to my iPhone.
3. Campus Phone – 314-837-6777 dial 9 then ext. 1420

In the event that I communicate with individuals or the class as a whole, I will use SoldiersNet (including your school email address). Check there for the latest versions of the syllabus, assignment updates, and pretty much anything relating to this class.