

**Saint Louis Christian College**  
**BBI 211—A HERMENEUTICS**  
**Dr. Eddy Sanders**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**Fall 2014**  
**Course Prerequisites:** GEN 120

**Tuesday & Thursday**  
**8:40-9:55**

**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 RATIONALE**

This course, Hermeneutics, is required of all those seeking a Bachelor's degree and those seeking the A.A.S. degree. It is foundational for future exegetical classes, preaching and teaching in the local church, and understanding the message of Scripture. Hermeneutics, or the study of interpretation, is essential in understanding and applying the Bible to one's life and those God has entrusted under the student's teaching, preaching, and conversations. In other words, this class is foundational for your degree, your "devotional" life, and your ministry.

The following Bible/Theology Division objective is applicable to this class: 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. [SLO 1]

**BIBLE EDUCATION DIVISION OBJECTIVES**

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.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

1. Demonstrate the knowledge and utilization of the tools applicable to the interpretation of Scripture.
2. Demonstrate and utilize the historical-grammatical method of interpretation.
3. Possess the knowledge and motivation for a lifetime of responsible interpretation.

4. Critique and assess systems of interpretations.
5. Exhibit knowledge of hermeneutical resources, principles, and skills through the development and presentation of a Bible study.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading:** Read and digest *Grasping God's Word* and *Misreading Scripture Through Western Eyes* in their entirety. *First*, there will be an in-class quiz over the contents of *Grasping God's Word*. Each quiz will consist of no more than 10 questions. *Second*, the student will answer three chapters worth of questions from *Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes*. Each chapter worth of questions will require a minimum of 250 words. The chapters are due on the day specified in the syllabus.
  - i. *Required Textbooks:*
    1. Richards, E. Randolph and Brandon J. O'Brien. *Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
    2. Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.
2. **Quizzes:** There will be 22 quizzes given at the beginning of each class session. They will consist of a maximum of 10 questions based on the assigned chapters. The quizzes are closed book, notes, or any other resource. The student may miss two (2) quizzes or drop the two lowest grades.
3. **Worksheets:** There will be 16 worksheets required throughout the semester. They will be collected at the beginning of class. A worksheet without a word-count or list, as specified by each worksheet, will not be graded. Worksheets will be returned in class or to the student's box. Use the following format on each assignment:
  - i. Name
  - ii. Worksheet #
  - iii. Box #
  - iv. Date
4. **Project:** A project implementing the "Interpretive Journey" on Isaiah 7. Each option requires eight critical sources and documented evidence it was completed or implemented. 40% reduction if evidence is not submitted:
  - i. A 3,000 word "Interpretive Journey" analysis of Isaiah 7. Each step of the Interpretive Journey should receive sufficient discussion. In addition to the 3,000 words, a 250 word outline must be included and taught in the student's local church with documented proof (i.e., email, bulletin, etc.) that the student presented the lesson. The documented proof should be turned in with the assignment. The lesson should follow the following structure:
    1. Introduction
    2. Body
      - a. Point 1
        - i. Explanation
        - ii. Illustration
        - iii. Application
      - b. Point 2
        - i. Explanation

- ii. Illustration
    - iii. Application
  - c. Point 3
    - i. Explanation
    - ii. Illustration
    - iii. Application
  - d. Point 4
    - i. Explanation
    - ii. Illustration
    - iii. Application
- 3. Conclusion
- ii. Write a 4,000 word letter to a friend or even your mom. Walk the recipient through the Interpretive Journey and Isaiah 7 explaining the hermeneutical process and the text. Quotation of critical sources is still expected. Receive a legitimate response from the individual stating the following:
  - 1. What they learned about Isaiah 7. (3 items)
  - 2. Questions they have about what you presented. (2 questions)
  - 3. How they understand hermeneutics after your paper. (2 sentences)
- iii. Produce a high-quality 12-14 minute video presentation of Isaiah 7 and the Interpretive Journey. Recording yourself teaching the material will not suffice. A 1,000 word outline of the Interpretive Journey and resources must accompany the video. (Think Nooma or other small-group type material.) Be creative!
- 5. **Class Engagement:** Sitting in class will not suffice. If students fail to participate in class discussion, he or she will fail to receive engagement points that are documented at the end of each class period by the professor.
- 6. **Attendance:** Attendance in class for the scheduled time is required. Attendance is worth percentage points added to or taken from the student's final class average according to the following formula:

Absences	Percentage
0	+2%
1	+1%
2	+0%
3	-1%
4	-2%
5	-4%
6	-6%
7	-8%
8+	Fail

A student with absences over 7 will be in violation of the College's 25% rule. According to the Saint Louis Christian College catalog, once a student has missed over 25% of a total course, the Academic Dean will immediately withdraw them.

If a student arrives 15 minutes late to class or leaves earlier than the last 15 minutes of class the student will be counted absent even if he or she is in attendance for the remainder of the class session; If arriving late to class (15 min +), the required assignment or test for that class period will not be accepted or given resulting in a zero for the assignment/test.

Participation—The “in-class” participation score is an evaluation by the professor of the student’s in-class involvement in activities, discussions, alertness, helpfulness, positive learning contributions and compliance to classroom rules.

## COURSE ASSESSMENT (EVALUATION)

1. **Style:** Use MLA format for all appropriate assignments. **Font:** Use Times New Roman, 12 Font, Single-spaced page formatting unless otherwise noted. **Name:** Name, Box #, Class prefix and suffix, and date. All assignments must be typed, no exceptions. *Failure to follow this formatting will result in a 10% penalty.*
2. The course uses the grading scale in the school catalog.

Assignment	Total Points
20 GGW Quizzes	200
Misreading Presentation	100
Worksheets	300
Project	300
Class Engagement	100

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Assignment Due	Reading Due	Class Topic
21 Aug	Thur	None	None	Syllabus & Overview
26 Aug	Tues	Worksheet 1	GGW 12/13; Misread. Intro	Spirit & Application
28 Aug	Thur	Worksheet 2	GGW 1-2; Misreading 1	The Interpretive Journey
2 Sep	Tues	Worksheet 3A	GGW 3; Misreading 2	Sentences
4 Sep	Thur	Worksheet 3B	GGW 4; Misreading 3	Paragraphs
9 Sep	Tues	Worksheet 3C	GGW 5; Misreading 4	Discourses
11 Sep	Thur	***No Class***	N/A	***Infinite Influence***
16 Sep	Tues	Worksheet 4	GGW 6; Misreading 5	Historical Context
18 Sep	Thur	Worksheet 5	GGW 7; Misreading 6	What We Bring to the Text?
23 Sep	Tues	Worksheet 6	GGW 8; Misreading 7	Literary Context
25 Sep	Thur	Worksheet 7	GGW 9; Misreading 8	Word Studies
30 Sep	Tues		GGW 10; Misreading 9	Who Controls Meaning?
2 Oct	Thur	***No Class***	N/A	***Fall Break***
7 Oct	Tues	Worksheet 8	GGW 11; Misreading 10	Levels of Meaning
9 Oct	Thur	None	Misreading 11	Review
14 Oct	Tues	Worksheet 9	GGW 12	Role of the Spirit & Topic
16 Oct	Thur		GGW 13	Application & Topic
21 Oct	Tues		GGW 21	OT: Prophets
23 Oct	Thur	Worksheet 10	GGW 15	NT: Gospels
28 Oct	Tues	Worksheet 11	GGW 16	NT: Acts
30 Oct	Thur	Worksheet 12	GGW 17	NT: Revelation
4 Nov	Tues	Worksheet 13	GGW 14	NT: Letters
6 Nov	Thur		GGW 19	OT: Law
11 Nov	Tues	Worksheet 14	GGW 20	OT: Poetry
13 Nov	Thur	***Flex Day/ICOM***	None	***Topic TBD***
18 Nov	Tues		GGW 18	OT: Narrative
20 Nov	Thur	Worksheet 15	GGW 22	OT: Wisdom
25 Nov	Tues	***No Class***	N/A	***Thanksgiving Break***
27 Nov	Thur	***No Class***	N/A	***Thanksgiving Break***
2 Dec	Tues	Project	None	Project Presentation
4 Dec	Thur	Worksheet 16	None	Project Presentation
9-11 Dec	Tues-Thur	Final Exams	Final Exams	Final Exams

## COURSE STUDENT LEARNING RESOURCES

### HERMENEUTICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. New York: Basic Books, 1981.

Beale, G. K. and D. A. Carson, ed. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.

Berding, Kenneth. *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Brown, Jeannine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.

Corley, Bruce, Steve W. Lemke, and Grant I. Lovejoy, eds. *Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Introduction to Interpreting Scripture*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

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, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Enns, Peter. *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005.

Fee, Gordon D. *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, 3rd ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas K. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Firth, David G., and Jamie A. Grant. *Words & the Word: Explorations in Biblical Interpretation & Literary Theory*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.

Kaiser, Walter C., Darrell L. Bock, and Peter Enns. *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Edited by Stanley N. Gundry, Kenneth Berding, and Jonathan Lunde. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Kaiser, Walter C. and Moises Silva, ed. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, Robert L. Hubbard Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Kostenberger, Andreas J. and Richard D. Patterson. *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2011.

Longman III, Tremper. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1987.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Petersen, David L., and Kent Harold Richards. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Richards, E. Randolph, and Brandon J. O'Brien. *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Ryken, Leland. *How to Read the Bible as Literature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Academie Books, 1984.

Ryken, Leland, and Tremper Longman III., eds. *A Complete Literary Guide to the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.

Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman III. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Sandy, D. Brent, and Ronald L. Giese, eds. *Cracking Old Testament Codes: A Guide to Interpreting Literary Genres of the Old Testament*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Stuart, Douglas. *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, 4th ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Virkler, Henry A. and Karelynn Gerber Ayayo. *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*, 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2007.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

1. **The Hundred:** High quality writing in all assignments is expected. You are strongly encouraged to seek help from The Hundred for editing, research, preparation for exams, etc.
2. **Learning Disabilities:** If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see the professor privately to discuss assessment measures that would enhance your ability to learn.
3. **Late Policy:** Due to the nature of life, late work is not permitted. You can't turn projects in late. Well, you can and get fired. If you are gone, your work is expected at the beginning of class. Part of life is planning ahead. You will have technology problems, family issues, and emergencies every semester. You need to stay ahead to get things in on time.
4. **Electronic Submissions:** Electronic submissions are accepted for this class for certain assignments. The professor will mention those in class.
5. **Course Modification:** 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.
6. **Plagiarism:** Any plagiarism or cheating will result in a "Zero" for the assignment and possible withdrawal from the course.
7. **Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices are not allowed in class. Each class you will need your textbooks, Bible, pen, and paper. This class is designed to develop a skill in your life. The professor is not willing to risk your distraction on Facebook.

8. **Cell Phones:** Cell phones are not allowed in class. Not even to read the Bible. If you are expecting an emergency call, you can be reached via the Academic Secretary at 314-837-6777x1520.
9. **Bible:** Bring your Bible to class. Failure to do so will result in a zero participation score for the day.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

1. Office Hours: See Dr. Sanders' Office Door
2. Contact: Office: 314-837-6777x1522; Cell: 770-402-5842; [esanders@slcconline.edu](mailto:esanders@slcconline.edu)
3. Office: Upstairs Keystone.