HERMENEUTICS
Syllabus

Release Version: 2019
Credits: 3

Vanguard College
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WELCOME. I’m glad you decided to take this course. Actually, it’s more than a course. It’s a journey of knowledge and faith, cleverly disguised as a course. You now have the privilege to study and rehearse the principles, practices and guidelines of hermeneutics, the interpretation of Scripture.

This course begins with a brief study of the history of the Bible, as well as reasons for trusting in its reliability.

Various modes of analyzing and interpreting the literary and historical context will be addressed, thereby reading, viewing, and studying the Bible through two essential lenses simultaneously:

You will learn what the following five steps of the Interpretive Journey are and how to employ them as you attempt to interpret the Bible:

Step #1: Grasp the text in their town. What did the text mean to the biblical audience?
Step #2: Measure the width of the river to cross. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?
Step #3: Cross the principilizing bridge. What is the theological principle(s) in this text?
Step #4: Consult the biblical map. How does our theological principle fit within the rest of the Bible?
Step #5: Grasp the text in our town. How should individual Christians today live out the theological principle(s)? (Duvall, 2012, p.237).
Each of these modes and steps to biblical interpretation will be put into practice as you learn to interpret differing genres (types) of biblical literature.

This course is designed not just to fill your head with theological knowledge, but also to lead you into a deeper relationship with the life-transformative truths of God.

By the end of this course, it is my sincere prayer that you will more fully understand and appreciate the miraculous power contained in the written Word of God, and that you will be better prepared to deal with the tough issues and questions facing Christ-followers in a world and age bent on silencing or dismissing the Holy Bible.

**Course Developer:**
**Dr. Robert L. Bedard**

**Education:** B.Th. in Pastoral Theology, Eastern Pentecostal Bible College (now Master's College & Seminary), Peterborough, ON; M.A. in Leadership & Training, Royal Roads University, Victoria, BC; D.Th in Practical Theology, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa.

### SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING MODULE</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LM ONE</strong></td>
<td>Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be able to <strong>track</strong> the historical, chronological transmission of the Holy Bible from its divine authorship down to the reception of many contemporary translations. As well, s/he will be able to <strong>defend</strong> six main rational reasons why the Bible can be deemed reliable.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Introduction and History** | · Upon completion of this learning objective, the student will be able to:  
  · Define what hermeneutics is from both an historic and biblical perspective  
  · Recognize the importance of bridging both ancient and contemporary worlds when attempting to interpret the Bible  
  · Explain why the Bible is more reliable than most ancient manuscripts deemed trustworthy by modern scholars |
| **LM TWO**      | Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be able to **recognize** the structure of ancient Roman letters, **explain** the five steps along the Interpretive Journey, and **demonstrate** his/her learning with a New Testament letter. |
| **The Interpretive Journey Begins** | · Upon completion of this learning objective, the student will be able to:  
  · Identify what ancient Roman letters were comprised of and how they differ and/or resemble modern letters  
  · Describe the five sequential steps to interpreting the Bible as captured in the Interpretive Journey  
  · Track the essential components found within the New Testament letters |
| **LM THREE**    | Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be able to uncover the **literary context** of a passage of Scripture, conduct **word studies**, distinguish God’s intended **theological principle**, and ask and answer the **six investigative questions** to best interpret the Gospels and other |
### LM FOUR  
**The Power of Stories**

Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be able to:
- Identify the four basic parts to any story in the Bible
- Answer the six investigative questions asked by journalists everywhere
- Study biblical sentences and paragraphs in an attempt to better grasp the literary context of the passage of Scripture being studied
- Practice writing a hermeneutical paper on an assigned Bible text

### LM FIVE  
**The Power of Songs**

Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be able to:
- Observe, for purposes of discovering God’s intended meaning of a Bible passage through the careful reading of discourses within the Bible text
- Practice the activity of contempozizing an Old Testament poetic passage of Scripture, as well as identify God’s intended applications of an assigned psalm.

### LM SIX  
**Words To Live By**

Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be able to:
- Contrast and compare the traditional and alternative approaches to interpreting the Old Testament laws, describe the three interpretive challenges with predictive prophecies and proposed solutions to specifically interpreting Old Testament predictive prophecies, and articulate these in essay writing, along with the connections, strengths and weaknesses between the four Old Testament wisdom books, addressing what they share and how they differ, along with what their strengths and weaknesses are within various life situations and settings. Finally, the student will be able to demonstrate their learning of theory and practices in reading, interpreting and producing a hermeneutical paper on an assigned Bible passage.

- Understand the traditional approach and alternative approach to interpreting the Old Testament laws
- Explain the three interpretive challenges within prophecies that are predictive in nature
- Differentiate the strengths and weaknesses between each of the narratives.
 Demonstrating their learning throughout this course by producing a hermeneutical paper

-SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES-

Hermeneutics

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

At Vanguard Online, we believe strongly in the value of interaction between the student and the instructor. Each course takes about four months to complete and students are expected to submit their work on a consistent basis so that they can learn from the feedback provided by instructors on marked assignments.

Assignment due dates are shown in the table below. Please plan ahead so that you set aside the time to complete the work well before the due dates.

Students will lose 10% of the assignment marks for work submitted up to two weeks after the due date as shown in the table below.

Assignments received two weeks after the due date will be awarded a zero mark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brief Task Description</th>
<th>Due Dates (Assigned as &quot;Days from the Start of Your Course&quot;)</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Module One</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>Tracing Your HisTree</td>
<td>Not submitted for marking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>The History of the Bible – A Timeline Chart</td>
<td>15 days after the start of your course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Module Two</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>Read Between the Letters</td>
<td>Not submitted for marking</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>The Interpreting Journey: Letter To Pastor Timothy</td>
<td>30 days after the start of your course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Module Three</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>Let’s Play Balderdash!</td>
<td>Not submitted for marking</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>The Literary Journey</td>
<td>45 days after the start of your course</td>
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# Hermeneutics Course Syllabus

**God’s Principilizing Bridge**

## Learning Module Four

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>Submission Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Making Of A Great Story</td>
<td>Bible Stories In Living Colour</td>
<td>Not submitted for marking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Practice Hermeneutical Paper</td>
<td></td>
<td>60 days after the start of your course</td>
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## Learning Module Five

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<tr>
<th>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>Submission Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name That Tune</td>
<td>Name That Part Of Your Tune</td>
<td>Not submitted for marking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applying Your Learning On Applications</td>
<td>75 days after the start of your course</td>
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## Learning Module Six

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<th>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>Submission Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wise Up!</td>
<td>Three-part Essay</td>
<td>Not submitted for marking</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Hermeneutical Paper</td>
<td>100 days after the start of your course</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRACTICAL APPLICATION ACTIVITY</th>
<th></th>
<th>120 days after the start of your course</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>25%</td>
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### STUDENT RESOURCES

You should have the following:

- A computer with MS Word installed
- Internet access
- A widely recognized version of the Bible (i.e. NIV, NASB)
- Course textbook:


-BIBLIOGRAPHY-


Chicago, IL: Moody Press.


Our Bible: How It Came To Us. (1997). Toronto, ON: Canadian Bible Society.


