



**HERMENEUTICS
Syllabus**

**Release Version: 2019
Credits: 3**

Vanguard College
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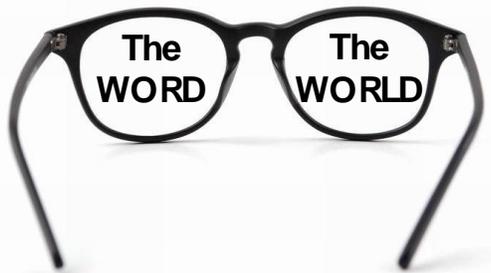
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-COURSE DESCRIPTION-

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.

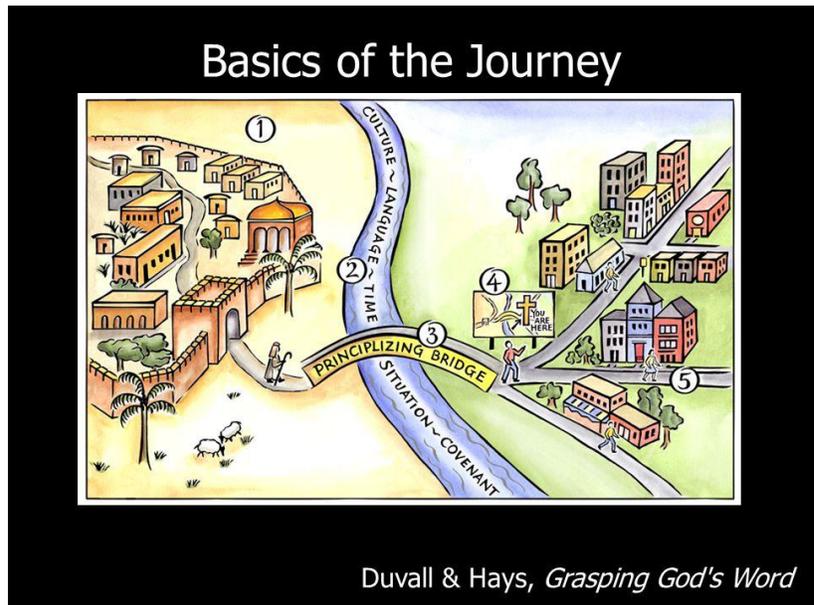
Various modes of analyzing and interpreting the literary and historical context will be addressed, thereby reading, viewing, and studying the Bible through two essential lenses simultaneously:



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

following five steps of

- 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 principlizing 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?



Duvall & Hays, *Grasping God's Word*

- 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-

Hermeneutics

LEARNING MODULE	SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES
LM ONE <i>Introduction and History</i>	<p>Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be able to track 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 defend six main rational reasons why the Bible can be deemed reliable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion of this learning objective, the student will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 <i>The Interpretive Journey Begins</i>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion of this learning objective, the student will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 <i>The Literary Journey</i>	<p>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</p>

	<p>narratives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion of this learning objective, the student will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand how to identify the literary context of biblical passages ○ Conduct basic word studies by learning how to use free online language tools ○ Identify the principlizing bridge, also know as theological principle, of a given passage of Scripture ○ Practice asking the six investigative questions asked by journalists to understand the Gospel and other biblical narratives
<p>LM FOUR <i>The Power of Stories</i></p>	<p>Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be able to identify the four parts to any story, answer the six investigative questions contained within them, conduct literary studies on both sentences and paragraphs, and will produce as a mid-term evaluation a practice paper on interpreting an assigned Old Testament passage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion of this learning objective, the student will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify the four basic parts to any story in the Bible ○ Answer once again 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
<p>LM FIVE <i>The Power of Songs</i></p>	<p>Upon completion of this learning module, the student will be shown how 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 contemporizing an Old Testament poetic passage of Scripture, as well as identify God’s intended applications of an assigned psalm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion of this learning objective, the student will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify the intended meaning of Bible passages through the careful reading of larger sections of the Bible ○ Understand the various elements of and figurative imagery with biblical poetry was employed by the original authors ○ Identify God’s intended applications of a biblical passage after first properly observing it
<p>LM SIX <i>Words To Live By</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon completion of this learning objective, the student will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> four Old Testament wisdom books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Demonstrate their learning throughout this course by producing a hermeneutical paper
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-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**.

BRIEF TASK DESCRIPTION	DUE DATES (ASSIGNED AS "DAYS FROM THE START OF YOUR COURSE)	VALUE
<p>Learning Module One</p> <p>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p>➔ Tracing Your HisTree</p> <p>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p>➔ The History of the Bible – A Timeline Chart</p>	<p>Not submitted for marking</p> <p>15 days after the start of your course</p>	<p>---</p> <p>10%</p>
<p>Learning Module Two</p> <p>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p>➔ Read Between the Letters</p> <p>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p>➔ The Interpreting Journey: Letter To Pastor Timothy</p> <p>➔ The Historical-Cultural Context Within The New Testament Epistles</p>	<p>Not submitted for marking</p> <p>30 days after the start of your course</p>	<p>---</p> <p>10%</p>
<p>Learning Module Three</p> <p>CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p>➔ Let’s Play Balderdash!</p> <p>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</p> <p>➔ The Literary Journey</p> <p>➔ Word Study</p>	<p>Not submitted for marking</p> <p>45 days after the start of your course</p>	<p>---</p> <p>10%</p>

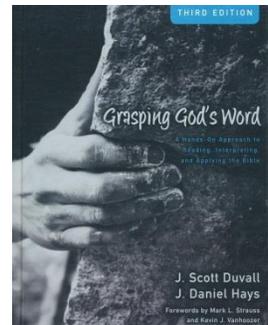
<p>➔ God's Principizing Bridge</p>		
<p>Learning Module Four CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION ➔ The Making Of A Great Story</p>	Not submitted for marking	---
<p>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION ➔ Bible Stories In Living Colour ➔ A Practice Hermeneutical Paper</p>	60 days after the start of your course	25%
<p>Learning Module Five CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION ➔ Name That Tune</p>	Not submitted for marking	---
<p>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION ➔ Name That Part Of Your Tune ➔ Applying Your Learning On Applications</p>	75 days after the start of your course	10%
<p>Learning Module Six CONNECTION ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION ➔ Wise Up!</p>	Not submitted for marking	---
<p>EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION ➔ Three-part Essay</p>	100 days after the start of your course	10%
<p>PRACTICAL APPLICATION ACTIVITY ➔ A Hermeneutical Paper</p>	120 days after the start of your course	25%

-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:

Duvall, J.S. & Hays, J.D. (2012). *Grasping God's Word: A hands-on approach to reading, interpreting, and applying the Bible (Third Edition)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



Duvall, J.S. & Hays, J.D. (2007). "Abbreviated Insert adapted from *Grasping God's Word: A hands-on approach to reading, interpreting, and applying the Bible (Third Edition)*." Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

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Osborne, G.R. & Woodward, S.B. (1983). *Handbook For Bible Study*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House Co.

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

Roberts, M.D. (2007). *Can We Trust The Gospel: Investigating the reliability of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Schultz, R.L. (2012). *Out Of Context: How to avoid misinterpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Sproul, R.C. (1977). *Knowing Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

Yancey, P. (1999). *The Bible Jesus Read*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Zacharias, R. (2007). *The Real Face Of Atheism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.