

**TH 808 Advanced Hermeneutics Seminar  
Spring 2019**

Last revised: October 23, 2018

**CLASS DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATION**

February 27 through March 1 and March 20 and 21, 2019.  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

**PROFESSOR**

Name            Tremper Longman III  
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Email           [longman@westmont.edu](mailto:longman@westmont.edu) (preferred mode of contact)  
Office Hours:   (By appointment only)

**MISSIO'S MISSION**

To prepare missional leaders who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition, and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A subtle temptation exists among Christians, that reading the Bible ought to be very easy, particularly under the umbrella of the doctrine of the perspicuity of Scripture. However, the history of interpretation of the Bible testifies to the fact that that simple assumption is far from the case. In addition to long-standing debates regarding how the Church ought to approach the Bible, recent hermeneutical trends have greatly complicated the lay of the land. This course is designed *as a seminar* to heighten students' awareness of their own hermeneutical assumptions and practices, particularly in light of recent hermeneutical developments. Knowledge of Greek and Hebrew is assumed.

**PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR**

The Bible is the Word of God and thus the canon of the church. When we affirm the Bible as canon, we are stating our belief that it is the standard of our faith and practice. As Word of God, the Bible is true. According to the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy, "we affirm that Scripture, having been given by divine inspiration, is infallible, so that, far from misleading us, it is true and reliable in all the matters it addresses." The Bible is without error in everything it intends to teach, but it does not follow that our interpretations are inerrant. According to the WCF, Scripture is clear in matters of salvation, but "All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them."

The truthfulness of Scripture and the difficulty of interpretation calls us to be mindful of the proper interpretative methods to help us hear the voice of God in the Old and New Testaments. I look forward to wrestling with these issues together.

Tremper Longman III

## COURSE GOALS

The aim of the course is to hone the hermeneutical sensitivities of each student, allowing each student to locate herself or himself in the history of interpretation of the Bible, as well as articulate a winsome and coherent hermeneutic for advanced theological academic writing, and missional engagement with the story of the Bible, applied to the postmodern world.

## PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES—TO ENABLE YOU TO . . .
Use advanced methods and disciplines of critical thinking, research, exposition, and application.	1. Achieve a better understanding of the student's own hermeneutical assumptions, and grow in humility in listening to the hermeneutical practices and assumptions of others.
Demonstrate advanced knowledge of biblical theology and redemptive historical hermeneutics.  Demonstrate advanced preparedness for pastoral ministry, teaching, doctoral study, or other pursuits.  Complete a scholarly thesis that explores a theological or biblical issue in their chosen area of focus.	2. Talk intelligently and winsomely about broad contours of the history of biblical interpretation. 3. Apply several different hermeneutical theories to carefully chosen biblical passages, to give you first-hand practice at different hermeneutical approaches. 4. Articulate the missional impulse in the hermeneutical history of the Church's approach to interpretation, including its high and low points.

## COURSE INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

INSTRUCTION TYPE	RELATED OBJECTIVES	HOURS TO COMPLETE
1. Classroom sessions	All	40 hours
2. Guided seminar paper research	All	10 hours
Total instructional hours	3 credit course	50 hours

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

ASSIGNMENT OR ASSESSMENT	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME IN HOURS
1. Weekly Preparation and Participation	All	10%	--
2. Reading (Note: all reading is to be completed before the first day of class.)	All	20%	40
3. Final Paper	All	70%	60

Total estimated time for the above assignments.			100 hours
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## REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS

[Steven L. McKenzie and Stephen Haynes. \*To Each Its Own Meaning, Revised and Expanded: An Introduction to Biblical Criticisms and Their Application.\* WJK, 1999.](#)

[Steven L. McKenzie and John Kaltner. \*New Meanings for Ancient Texts: Recent Approaches to Biblical Criticism and Their Applications.\* WJK, 2013.](#)

[Stanley Porter and Jason Robinson. \*Hermeneutics: Introduction to Interpretive Theory.\* Eerdmans, 2011.](#)

## RECOMMENDED TEXTS & MATERIALS

Distributed in class, as questions arise on a weekly basis.

## COURSE PROCEDURES & COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Format: All assignments must be submitted in Chicago Style (SBL or Turabian) format unless otherwise noted (one inch margins all around, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 11 or 12 point type, and standard footnote and bibliography form [see the librarian for an acceptable style manual]). Note that page requirements do not count the title or bibliography pages.

**Written assignments must be submitted by email directly to Professor Longman at [longman@westmont.edu](mailto:longman@westmont.edu).**

### Course Readings

All readings are to be done by the first class meeting on February 27, 2019. The professor will keep a record of preparedness and participation.

### Final Research Project

A major research project is required in the course. The paper should be approximately 30-35 pages in length, and demonstrate the student's ability to undertake and cogently present significant theological and hermeneutical research. The subject matter for the paper should reflect the student's interests, as informed and nuanced by their training in the ThM program – and should explore some area of hermeneutics proper, the history of interpretation, or intertextual exegesis of a particular passage placed in historical and biblical-theological context. All papers must contain a significant section outlining the hermeneutical method employed in the paper, setting the method in the broad sweep of contemporary hermeneutical practice. For more exegetical papers, the student must demonstrate knowledge of Greek and/or Hebrew. **The due date for the paper is April 12, 2019 (no later than midnight).**

### Class Attendance

Since this is an intensive, no absences are permitted without express permission from the Professor. For every three hours of class missed, a student's final grade will be reduced by 5 percentage points.

**COURSE SCHEDULE WITH TOPIC, ASSIGNMENTS, SUBMISSION METHOD, & DUE DATES**

Reading:

Steven L. McKenzie and Stephen Haynes. *To Each Its Own Meaning*;  
 Steven L. McKenzie and John Kaltner. *New Meanings for Ancient Texts: Recent Approaches to Biblical Criticism and Their Applications*; and  
 Stanley Porter and Jason Robinson. *Hermeneutics: Introduction to Interpretive Theory*.  
**(Reading of all texts to be completed before the course begins on 2/27)**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Course Introduction;  
 History and Hermeneutics  
 The Production of Meaning in a Literary Text  
 The Goal of Interpretation

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Inspiration and Hermeneutics;  
 or, what the Bible being inspired by God does and does not mean for biblical hermeneutics . . .

**Friday, March 1, 2019**

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Hermeneutics and Criticism;  
 or, the helpful usage of biblical criticism for those of us committed to the truth of the Bible  
 Ideological Criticism

**March 2 – March 19**

(No face-to-face classes; independent research time)

**Use this time to finish your advanced research paper,  
 thus coming to class on March 20 prepared to discuss YOUR insights  
 from your biblical-theological engagements and research**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Exegetical, Biblical Theological, and Christotelic Hermeneutics  
 (Is there a Difference?)

**Thursday, March 21, 2019**

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Course Conclusion – The Hermeneutical Task . . . and Adventure  
 (and Tying Up Loose Ends)

**Your final (30-35 page) advanced research project is due no later than midnight, April 12, 2019.  
 Submit by email directly to Professor Longman at [longman@westmont.edu](mailto:longman@westmont.edu).**

**Note:** All assignments are due by the final due date for the course listed above. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work. Students must seek a course extension by the final due date by submitting an “Academic Variance Request” form to the academic office. The form is available on the seminary website through the “E-campus.” See the academic catalog for policies on course extensions.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES**

Academic Policies: Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the seminary catalog. The catalog is found on Missio’s website. [www.missio.edu](http://www.missio.edu).

Course Syllabus: Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should speak with the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See “Completion of Course Work” below for policies on course extensions.

E-campus Course Site: Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Student usage of the course site is tracked by the software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email [helpdesk@biblical.edu](mailto:helpdesk@biblical.edu) and include their student ID# in their correspondence.

Academic and General Integrity: As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the catalog. See the seminary catalog for more information on plagiarism and Missio’s policies related to cheating and plagiarism.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY AND GRADES**

Students are expected to arrive on time and attend all class sessions. If you know you are going to miss a class or arrive late, contact the course instructor in advance via email. Nevertheless, your grade may be lowered for absences or lateness at the discretion of the instructor.

## **COMPLETION OF COURSE WORK – VARIANCE FORMS**

All course work is to be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic affairs committee. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the last class of the term. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the last day of classes. Variance forms for this purpose are available in the academic office or on Missio’s website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted.

## **STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Student course evaluations are an important part of Missio’s commitment to continuous improvement. Students are required to complete the course evaluation within one week of the final due date of the course. See the seminary catalog for more information.

## **STUDENT PC SECURITY STATEMENT**

Missio Seminary recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they're being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain the grade point average designated for his or her program (see Missio's Catalog for details).

<b>Missio Seminary Grading System</b>			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	0.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing