



McMaster Divinity
College

DPT - NT/OT 5YB5 NT/OT 3YB3



This course begins online Jan 11, 2018

Class meets in person:

DPT students: Fri Feb 23: 8:30am-5:00pm; Sat Feb 24 8:30am-1:00pm

3-Unit Students: Fri Feb 23: 9:00am-4:00pm; Sat Feb 24 9:00am-1:00pm

Course continues online until conclusion on April 11

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Office. 236

Course Description:

This course is a study of the most important principles and methodologies used in interpreting and applying the meaning of the biblical text. We will survey a wide variety of methods and approaches (both classical criticisms and newer postmodern and emerging reading strategies) to interpreting scripture and examine relevant theological and historical issues arising from biblical interpretation. Standard tools of biblical research will be learned and practiced. Chosen methods and approaches will be applied to a project in a student's area of specialization which will clearly outline the hermeneutical framework employed. Learning experiences will cover the various genres of biblical texts, understanding historical context of texts, defining the meaning of words, the role of the church's history of interpretation, and hermeneutical principles of interpretation.

This course is designed for students in the **Doctor of Practical Ministry** or Master's students in one of the following specializations: **Biblical Studies, Pastoral Studies,**

or Church and Culture. Students with or without prior training in the biblical languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) are eligible to take this course. Those with biblical languages will use them in their research.

Course Objectives



Knowing:

- To know key principles for biblical interpretation
- To know the variety of genres within biblical literature and how to approach interpreting different types of literature
- To know the variety of methods used to interpret the Bible
- To gain familiarity with the assumptions, methods and conclusions of modern critical scholarship

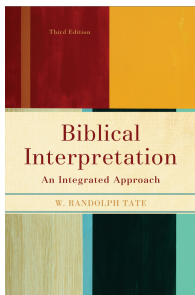
Being:

- To embrace the contemporary relevance of the whole Bible for the Church and society today
- To become a faithful and informed interpreter of scripture
- To grow closer to God through study of the Bible

Doing:

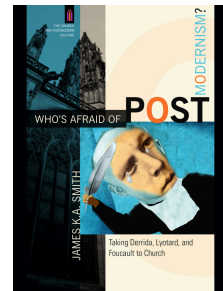
- To be able to employ various methods of biblical interpretation
- To identify common fallacies in popular biblical interpretation
- To complete in-depth study relevant to a student's chosen project

Required Texts:

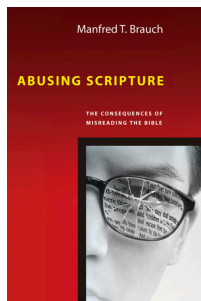


1. W. Randolph Tate, *Biblical Interpretation: An Integrated Approach* 3rd ed.; Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

2. James K. A. Smith, *Who's Afraid of Post Modernism?* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.



Additional text for DPT students:



3. Manfred Brauch. *Abusing Scripture: The Consequences of Misreading the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Textbook Purchase:

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstores, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, ON M9W 6H3: phone 416-620-2934; fax 416-622-2308; e-mail books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Course Assignments and Schedule**1. Readings. 10%**

Each week of the course has specific readings from the textbooks assigned. Each student must indicate on the Avenue to Learn site to what extent they have completed the assigned readings for that week.

N.B. DPT course requirements require 4,000 pages of reading (including assigned course texts).

2. Pre-class Component (Jan–Feb 22): Online**A. Online Discussion 20%**

Due to this being a hybrid course, much of the class discussion will occur online on the Avenue to Learn course website, or using Voicethread. Students must actively participate in the online discussion and post minimum **one** discussion topic at the beginning of a week (Sun-Tues). Student posts must be in regard to the assigned readings or posted video lectures that week. As well, to further the online discussion all students must respond to minimum **two posts** every week. Since initial posts will be online in the first part of the week, there will adequate time for all students to respond to posts in a timely manner. Instructions on how to participate in the online classroom will be sent to each student via email before the course begins on Jan 11.

3. In-Class Component (Feb 23–24): At McMaster Divinity College

The on campus Modules will consist of in-class lectures, Q&A, presentations, and group work. Attendance is mandatory.

4. Post-Class Component (Feb 25–Apr 3): Online

The remainder of the course will be fully online. There will be continued assigned readings, but the majority of the work will consist of working on written assignments.

- Week of February 25 – work on Book Review Assignment
- Week of March 4 – work on Review Assignment
 - Submit Book Review Assignment on Mar 10
- Week of March 11 – work on Inductive Study
- Week of March 20 – work on Inductive Study
 - Submit Inductive Study on Mar 24
- Week of March 25 – work on Statement and Bibliography
 - Submit Statement and Bibliography April 2

- Week of April 1 – work on Major Assignment
- Week of April 8 – work on Major Assignment
 - submit Final Assignment April 11

A. Review Assignment 15%. March 10, 2018

During the post-class Modules students will write a critical book review on James K. A. Smith, *Who's Afraid of Post Modernism?* (Baker Academic, 2006). The review must be no more than **7 pages** double-spaced. The papers should clearly summarize the contents of the book in your own words and include your own critical interaction, evaluation and reflections. See *Book Review Guidelines* on the course website.

B. Inductive Study 15%. Due March 24, 2018.

During the post-class Modules students will write an in-depth inductive study of a chosen biblical book. The paper must be no more than **7 pages** double-spaced. Please see the *Inductive Study Guidelines* on the course website for further directions.

For the inductive study, students will chose from one of the following books:

- Jonah
- Ruth
- Malachi
- Colossians
- 1 Peter

C. Statement and Annotated Bibliography. 10%. Due April 2, 2018.

In preparation for the major assignment, during the post-class Modules students will write a one-paragraph statement of their project along with an annotated bibliography of at least 12 bibliographic items of secondary sources. This bibliography will be built as students read and research for their major assignment (see below). For each bibliographic item, students will provide bibliographic data following the MDC Style Guide and write a few sentences explaining the author's thesis and assessing its relevance for their research project. These secondary sources do not include primary sources (the Bible, Josephus, Qumran). By way of **supplement** to these 12 sources, a student may use a **maximum of 2** Internet resources. Students are responsible for the quality of these internet resources.

C. Major Assignment 30%. Due April 11, 2018.

All major assignment papers must follow the MDC Style Guide. Papers should be double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font (footnotes should be 10pt). The major assignment will be based upon the research represented in your annotated bibliography and draw on (and explicitly cite) all 12 sources within the paper as evidenced in the footnotes etc. See *Paper Evaluation Rubric* on course website.

i. Major Assignment for Biblical Studies Specializations:

There are two (2) options for Biblical Studies: Choose only one (1) of the following:

a. Research paper: 12-15 pages. This is especially recommended if you are planning to go on to a research degree or write a thesis in OT (or if you have a particular topic in mind that you wish to write on). The topic of this research must be related to OT Theology and approved by the professor. In this paper the student will apply an exegetical methodology to a biblical text.

b. Exegetical Paper: 12-15 pages. In this option you will choose one passage from the OT or NT and write an exegesis paper. The chosen text should be between 10-20 verses. This paper will:

- Take into account the genre of the chosen text
- Take into account the historical context of the chosen text
- Provide a close reading of the text, noting key words, phrases, and literary features
- Identify different interpretive options and consider the validity of each and argue for the chosen interpretation.
- Elucidate the theological message of the chosen text
- Explain the applicability of the text for today for believers

Suggested passages for the exegesis paper:

- Isa 7:1–17
- John 14:1–6
- Job 42:1–6
- 1 Tim 2:11–15

ii. Major Assignment for Pastoral Studies Specializations:

There are three (3) options for Pastoral Studies Specializations. Choose only one (1) of the following:

a. Exegetical Paper: 12-15 pages. This assignment is the same as described above for biblical studies specializations.

b. Sermon (oral presentation). 20-25 minute video-taped sermon submitted on CD/DVD/USB drive or uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo. This sermon will be based on an exegesis of a biblical text of between 10-20 verses. Beginning with the biblical text this sermon will:

- Take into account the genre of the chosen text
- Take into account the historical context of the chosen text
- Provide a close reading of the text, noting key words, phrases, and literary features
- Identify different interpretive options and consider the validity of each and argue for the chosen interpretation.
- Elucidate the theological message of the chosen text
- Explain the applicability of the text for today for believers

The sermon will be delivered orally but include a written manuscript with an outline. The manuscript may be a combination of sentence, bullets/point form, paragraphs (it need not be a complete essay of the words you preach). This manuscript should be grammatically correct and include appropriate citation of sources employed.

c. Sermon (written). 12 pages double-spaced. This assignment is the same as the previous assignment (oral presentation of a sermon) but instead of an oral presentation it will be written, but with an aim to oral delivery. The sermon must be written as it would be spoken and must *not* be in point form etc. but be a full written manuscript. It is expected it will conform to MDC style guide and be grammatically correct and acknowledge its sources appropriately.

iii. Major Assignment for Church and Culture Specializations:

There are three (3) options for Church and Culture Specializations. Choose only **one** (1) of the following:

a. Research paper: 12-15 pages. This assignment is the same as described above for biblical studies specializations

b. Exegetical Paper: 12-15 pages. This assignment is the same as described above for biblical studies specializations.

c. Interpretation/Application paper. 12-15 pages.

This paper will focus on understanding and applying the biblical text in today's church and culture. See *Application Paper Guidelines* on the course website.

iv. Major Assignment for Doctor of Practical Ministry Students

a. Paper on Use of the Bible in Dissertation Project: 20 pages

The major assignment for DPT students aims to aid students in exploring the appropriate use of the Bible in their individual programme of research. In this paper students will choose one of the different ways in which the Bible can be used studied in this course and employ that method in the study of a biblical passage relevant for your final Research Dissertation Project. This paper will clearly outline the hermeneutical framework employed in their project. If students have not decided on what their final Research Dissertation Project will be, they must choose a topic for this assignment (though the topic may change before the end of your program of study).

The paper will begin by describing the proposed research that will be the focus of their final Research Dissertation Project. The paper will then outline an approach to using the Bible in their Research project. The paper will answer questions like: What is the contribution of the Bible to their project? What is the appropriate use of the Bible in such a project? How can the Bible be used to assess their practices? What is a 'biblical' perspective on their research?

Style for Submission of Written Work

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

All assignments must be in electronic format only (PDF format) —no hardcopies— and uploaded to the designated Avenue to Learn course dropbox. Include your last name in the file name of your attachment (e.g., evans.researchpaper.pdf). To avoid late marks papers must be received by 11:59pm of the calendar day on which they are due.

Policy Concerning Late Papers

Extensions for papers will not be given except in very exceptional circumstances. (serious illness, family crises, etc.). Busy-ness, computer problems etc. are not legitimate reasons to grant extensions and in the interests of fairness any request for extensions will take into account the entire class. Late assignments will be docked at the rate of 2% per day for the first 7 calendar days (including weekends) and 4% per day after that. Late assignments receive no critical feedback. All assignments must be received by April 11, 2018 in order to avoid a failing grade in the class.

Gender Inclusive language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

Disclaimer: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

Select Bibliography

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- Bartholomew, Craig, Collin Greene, and Karl Möller, eds. *Renewing Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.
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- Green, Joel B. *Practicing Theological Interpretation: Engaging Biblical Texts for Faith and Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2011.
- Kaiser, Walter C., and Moisés Silva. *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning*. Revised and Expanded. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

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- Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1993, 2004.
- Kuhatschek, Jack. *Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990. Longman III, Tremper. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Foundations of Contemporary Interpretation 3. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1987.
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- Lundin, Roger, Clarence Walhout, and Anthony C. Thiselton. *The Promise of Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999.
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- McKenzie, Steven L., and Stephen R. Haynes, eds. *To Each Its Own Meaning: An Introduction to Biblical Criticisms and their Application*. Revised and Expanded. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 1999.
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