Course Description and Outcomes
This course introduces biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the inspiration, formation, and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture. The importance of the Bible as a witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity will be emphasized.

Students will be able to:
1. Articulate the place of scripture in the life of the congregation and the role of the pastor in interpretation.
2. Understand the inspiration and formation of the canon and its authority within the community of faith.
3. Understand and apply historical, literary, and theological approaches to various types of literature in scripture using Genesis, Hosea and Amos, Mark, and Philippians.
4. Develop a method of exegesis consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible.

Required Textbooks


Reference (not required) Books


A Note about the Hybrid Format
This course is offered in a hybrid format. That means that 15 of the 20 contact hours will occur in class and the remaining 5 hours will occur online (before the class meets). If you have any problems with the technology aspect of this course, please call Amy Walker at 404.727.4587. She’s here to help!

There are two major phases in the class:
- The **PRE-CLASS PHASE** is meant to set the foundation for our time together in person. In advance of class, students will view the online video lectures, complete short writing responses, and read selections from required textbooks.
- The **IN-CLASS PHASE** will be devoted to digging into the course material through lecture and discussion.

Pre-Class Assignments
*Pre-class assignments #2-7 should be posted in the “Assignments” section of the class’ Canvas site no later than June 1, 2018. There is no written work for Pre-Class Assignment #1.*

1. Read all the required textbooks.
2. Briefly (one paragraph each) describe the 10 types of exegesis discussed in Hayes and Holladay. *(no more than 3 double-spaced pages)*
3. Outline the drama of the Bible that Anderson describes. *(no more than 2 double-spaced pages)*
4. Anderson says that “the test of any religion is how it deals with the problem of suffering and evil.” How do Jeremiah’s prophecy, Isaiah’s suffering servant, and the book of Job each deal with that problem? *(no more than 5 double-spaced pages)*
5. Summarize Fee and Stuart’s discussion of the Nature of Scripture (pp. 25-27). *(no more than 2 double-spaced pages total)*
6. How do they talk about the historical and literary contexts of 1st Corinthians (pp. 58-70)? *(no more than 3 double-spaced pages)*
7. Answer the Video Reflection Questions found in the seven online videos. Please submit all of your video reflection questions in **one Word document** and post to “Pre-Class Assignment 7 – Video Reflection Questions.” *(Each video will tell you how long your response should be. This varies with each video.)*

How Your Final Course Grade Is Determined
30% Completion and submission of Pre-Class Assignments #2-6
20% Completion and submission of Pre-Class Assignment #7
20% Class attendance, participation, timely completion of all assigned readings
30% Final Exam – The Final Exam will include questions from the required biblical books, secondary texts, lectures, and handouts
Grade Deduction Policy
Pre-class work must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on June 1, 2018. Pre-class work received after the deadline will be subject to the late penalty schedule below:

- Pre-class work received between June 2-8 will receive a one-letter grade deduction.
- Pre-class work received between June 9-15 will receive a two-letter grade deduction.
- Students who have not submitted pre-class work by June 15 will be dropped from the class.

COS Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
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Guidelines for Written Assignments

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, and on 8.5x11” paper.
- The font should be Times New Roman, 12 point.
- Margins should be 1” on all sides.
- All papers must include a page number and the student’s last name in the header or footer.
- Note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section or page.
- All papers must be properly cited. Please use MLA formatting. This is the best website for learning more about MLA format: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/)

Inclusive Language Covenant

The faculty of Emory Course of Study School has adopted a covenant statement encouraging inclusiveness in the use of language, as follows:

The Inclusive Language Covenant is designed to create a linguistic environment in which all students, staff, and faculty can grow in understanding and appreciating the rich diversity of God’s people. The COS faculty commits itself through continued discussion, reflection, and exploration to using language in such a way that we respond to the fullness of God’s presence among us as much by our choice of words as by our care for one another. Recognizing that our experience with inclusive language is an integral part of theological formation, we invite students and others to share as partners with us in this learning process.

We understand “covenant” more in terms of its biblical and theological meaning than in a legal or contractual context. Covenant signifies the common commitment of a community of faith in response to God’s revelation and in participation with one another. The values implied in the covenant have morally persuaded us to try to generate patterns of speech and behavior that bond the members of the community in mutual respect. We expect all members of the community to address issues of diversity constructively. The entire Inclusive Language Covenant can be found on the COS website, and you are encouraged to read the whole covenant.