All precourse assignments should be emailed to the Course of Study Office by May 1, 2014. If you are attending the two/four week summer school session then the precourse work for this course is due May 1st with all other precourse assignments. If you are only attending the weekend session please see the Saturday School precourse work for your appropriate due date.

Course Description
This course introduces the role of the United Methodist pastor in biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the 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 early Christianity is illustrated from a survey of representative biblical materials (focusing on Genesis, Hosea, Amos, Mark, and Philippians).

Course Objectives
- Exploration of the role of the pastor as interpreter of the Bible in the life of the congregation
- An understanding of the formation of the canon and its function within the community of faith, past and present
- A critical introduction to historical, literary, and theological approaches to scripture while keeping in mind the experimental dimension of biblical interpretation
- Development of an exegetical methodology consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible
- A survey of representative materials from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament as identified in the course description
- Development of the ability to understand what was meant historically and to interpret what it means today

Required Textbooks
- A Bible. The New Revised Standard Bible is recommended, and is the one the instructor will use in class. You may use a different version if you prefer.

EITHER
of the Bible, showing that the New Testament continues the story begun in the Old Testament.

OR


**Required Reading**

- Either the Anderson book or Barclay book
- The hand-outs distributed in class

**Required Written Assignments and Course Grading**

- A Precourse Paper 30% of Course Grade
- A Mid-Course Paper 20% of Course Grade
- Meaning Class Participation 10% of Course Grade
- The Final Test 40% of Course Grade

**Precourse Assignment Paper**

Write a five-to-six page paper evaluating either the Anderson book or the Barclay book. You should indicate where and in what ways the book gave you new insights or helped you to understand the Bible better. You may also want to indicate where you were disappointed in the book, where you disagreed with it, or where you did not understand what the author meant.

The paper should be thoroughly footnoted (*you may want to read/review the statement on plagiarism found on the Emory COS website or resources found on Blackboard regarding citations*). Please make sure (1) that your paper is written in complete sentences containing correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling and (2) that it is turned in on time. Late papers will be graded down according to Emory’s standards and COS policy.

**The Test**

A test will be given on the Saturday afternoon of the second weekend of the course. Test questions may come from the Bible, the textbook, the handouts, and the class lectures. As you take the test, you may consult the Bible, the textbook, the handouts, and the notes you took in class.

**Guidelines for Written Assignments**

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½” by 11” paper, unless the instructor has asked for a different format specifically within the precourse work. Font should be Times New Roman or something similar and no larger than size 12. Margins are to be 1” on all four sides of each page.
- All papers must include a page number and the last name of the student in either the header or footer of every page.
- You should note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section of materials.
• All papers should provide citations for all quoted material. You may use MLA, Turabain, APA or Chicago Style.
• Punctuation should be consistent; clarity of meaning is the primary purpose of punctuation. Edit and retype material as needed and check spelling in a standard dictionary.
• All papers should attempt to eliminate discriminatory language—for example: racism, ageism, sexism, classism, and prejudicial usage concerning handicapping conditions.

**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 partnership 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.
Directions to Email Precourse Assignments

Please read all the directions below before emailing your assignments to the COS Office, any emails received that do not follow the directions below will not be accepted. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt and if your email is not submitted correctly an email indicating you will need to resend your assignments.

1. Email only michelle.levan@emory.edu, do not email instructors precourse assignments.
2. Email must be received no later than 11:59pm on the deadline of May 1st.
   1. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   2. Any precourse work received after May 1st at 11:59pm will be subject to a late penalty.
      • Precourse work received between May 2 – June 1 is 1 letter grade deduction.
      • Precourse work received between June 2 – June 20 is 2 letter grade deductions.
      • You will be drop from any course for which precourse work has not been received after June 20th. No precourse work will be accepted at check-in.
3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email: Example - Precourse Work 113
   1. You will need to send a separate email for each course you are registered to attend.
4. Precourse work must be sent as an attached document and not in the body of the email.
   1. Any version of Microsoft Word will be accepted; PDF and Mac-Pages documents will not be accepted.
   2. All assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with all course assignments.
5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email. See Example
6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined
   The plagiarism Policy and Defined paragraphs below must be included in the body of your email (both are below), not within your precourse work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email, verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature (which is a requirement). If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted. Your email, with the plagiarism policy and definition will be printed and used as the cover sheet for your precourse assignments, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition.
   Plagiarism Policy - I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given.
   Plagiarism Defined: “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person, leading your readers to think that those words are yours. In all fields, you plagiarize when you use a source’s words or ideas without citing that source. In most fields, you plagiarize even when you do credit the source but use its exact words without using quotation marks or block indentation” (201-202). Booth, Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. The Craft of Research, Second Edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!