AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY  
C.P. HAGGARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
Course Instruction Plan

Prepared by: John E. Hartley, Ph.D.  Fall, 2002  
Course: GBBL 511 Seminar in Biblical Interpretation  4 Units

Description: A study of general principles of Biblical interpretation with special emphasis on the types of literary forms and their significance for the hermeneutical task.

Potential Outcomes: students will have opportunity to
1. Practice the principles of English Bible study.
2. Practice the skill of making observations on a variety of texts.
3. Do some structural outlines.
4. Use of several biblical dictionaries.
5. Become acquainted with a way of analyzing Hebrew poetry.
6. Write two theological essays.
7. Write two ethical essays.
8. Become acquainted with the messages of Amos and Hosea.
9. Discover the basic principles of form criticism.
10. Become acquainted with the principles for doing a biblical word study.

Requirements: 1. The texts are W. W. Klein, C. L. Blomberg, and R. L. Hubbard, Jr., Introduction to Biblical Interpretation and D. Thompson, Bible Study that Works. Supplemental texts are G. Tucker, Form Criticism of the Old Testament and M. Silva, Biblical Words and their Meaning.
2. There needs to be a balance between reading about hermeneutics and the application of principles of interpretation to the biblical text. Each week selected passages will be assigned for study, putting into practice a particular step of the inductive method. Each student is expected to spend 4.5-5.5 hours each week on the biblical passage. No more than 5.5 hours will receive credit in a given week. Each assignment submitted will be evaluated from 1-5 points. The qualitative value will be multiplied by the number of hours spent on the assignment (e.g. 4 hours x 3 = 12 points). Additional points will be given for reading in secondary books on hermeneutics. Each 15 pages read or (1/2 hour) will receive one point. No more than 5 points a week will be credited to reading. A student should set a reading goal of at least 60 pages per week. To receive this credit the student must report the material read in correct bibliographic form.

Grading: Final grade 350+ = A, 340-300 = B, 285-250 = C. The spaces between the respective grades in the numbering system allows for the assigning of pluses and minuses to grades depending on how a particular class did. Any student may propose a contract for a different procedure of grading. A student may turn in no more than two late lessons without penalty. There will be an inductive final that will receive up to 25 points. Each student must submit 12 complete lessons that cover all parts of the three steps of the inductive method for two assigned chapters of the Bible. Any of the substeps under each step except the step of observation not being done results in a penalty of 7 points per step omitted. An optional thirteenth lesson may be submitted for the final grade. A lesson never turned in results in a loss of 50 points per lesson. Also students may not submit for credit an essay done under understanding unless all steps of the concentration have been completed. Students need to use correct citation of sources used. An assignment submitted with incorrect citations will be penalized at -5 points. Each lesson needs to be clearly identified on the first page (see the models at the end of the syllabus). A student is to keep a copy of every lesson submitted as a record in case there is any miscalculation of the points earned throughout the semester. Thus it is critical that the cover sheet to each lesson be accurate.
Unless a student files an incomplete, the grading system closes at the final exam. No material submitted after that date may be used in determining the final grade for the course. The grade can only be changed after that date as the result of a discovery that the professor has made a miscalculation in determining the grade.

Since the design of this class is to learn by doing in a series of defined steps, no incomplete will be granted to any person who has failed to submit three, or in clearly extenuating circumstances four, lessons by the final exam. No material will be acceptable toward the final grade after the final exam. If an incomplete is granted in this course the "incomplete form" must be filled out by the final exam. Any student who has not successfully completed twelve assignments and taken the final examination receives a failing grade.

Plagiarism:

1. Cheating - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
   • Students completing any examination should assume that external assistance (e.g., books, notes, calculators, and conversations with others) is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the instructor.
   • Students may not allow others to conduct research or prepare work for them without advance authorization from the instructor.
   • Substantial portions of the same academic work may not be submitted for credit in more than one course without authorization.

2. Fabrication - Intentional falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

3. Facilitating academic dishonesty - Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty.

4. Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, or work of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Anyone who plagiarizes (i.e., presents as one's own work something which has been taken from someone else) will receive an automatic zero on that piece of work and a warning. A second like offense will result in an "F" for the final course grade. While collaboration is good, the passing off somebody else’s work as your own (because you copied it out of a book, paraphrased it out of a book, bought a paper from a research paper service, downloaded it from the internet, wrote down ideas that someone else was dictating to you, recycled an essay written by someone else, or had someone else rewrite your paper for you) is plagiarism.

Tuition: The student is responsible to check the schedule as to the last day to drop this class and as the last day to withdraw. The student must be aware of the financial responsibilities with making any changes in schedule.

Disabilities: Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (LEC) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements. (The LEC does not provide assessment for students who have a suspected learning disability. Students are required to obtain this information from an outside source such as a licensed psychologist or qualified educational therapist.) Students may not delay in initiating disability verification at the entry into enrollment in the course.

Late Exams: No possibilities save for serious illness. Final Exam: Thursday, Dec. 12, 2002 during class time.

Attendance: Attendance in class is most important. Each of the classes in the first half of the semester present specific steps for the next assignment. In missing any of these classes the student will lose some orientation to the process and will not be able to submit a weekly lesson that attains the highest standard. The student who misses a class is fully responsible for all material presented in that class.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. Method - Basic

II. Method - Philosophical
3. _______. The World of Biblical Literature. 1992

III. Literary Criticism

IV. Form Criticism

V. Redaction Criticism

VI. Rhetorical Criticism

VII. Structuralism

VIII. Hebrew Poetry

IX. Textual Criticism

X. Biblical Theology

XI. Typology

XII. Backgrounds

XIII. Introductions to the Old Testament

XIV. Prophets

XV. Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

XV. Theological Dictionaries
Pattern for the Front Page of Each Assignment Submitted

an example, reading recorded by pages read

Assignment I

James Smith

Sept 12, 2002

Reading:


TOTAL 42

Hours spent on inductive assignment 5.5

Steps completed in this lesson: observations of Amos steps 1-5

Or if you record reading by hours

Assignment I

James Smith

Sept 12, 2002

Reading:


TOTAL (hours) 2.2

Hours spent on inductive assignment 5.5

Steps completed in this lesson: observations of Amos steps 1-5