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<https://DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/PRE501>

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

HERMENEUTICS THEOLOGICAL & PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

PRE 501– Behavioral Objectives

TO COMPLETE PRE 501 SUCCESSFULLY YOU WILL NEED TO...

1. Submit a RESEARCH REPORT covering a significant issue in Scripture interpretation. Part of the assessment of said RESEARCH REPORT will be the degree to which the topic is indeed *significant* and does indeed explore *fully* a theological, pragmatic, or cultural profile associated with a hermeneutical issue. Here are some examples of *significant* topics:

⌘ Theological issues—

- ✓ “Regarding the Morality of War: What is the nature of the Lord God as reflected in the Hebrew Scriptures versus the New Testament?”
- ✓ “Calvinism: Implications for Hermeneutics?”
- ✓ “Arminianism: Implications for Hermeneutics?”
- ✓ “What is the theological rationale for hermeneutical approaches to studying Scripture?”

⌘ Pragmatic issues—

- ✓ “Which translations of the Scriptures should be used in hermeneutical study of the Bible?”
- ✓ “How does exegesis of Scripture affect hermeneutical analyses of Scripture?”
- ✓ “What are some impractical issues related to a hermeneutical approach to studying Scripture?”

⌘ Culture issues—

- ✓ “Ἐπιστευον¹—Why is “episteumon” interpreted as “believe” as in Acts 16:31, yet “faith” as in Luke 7:50?”
- ✓ “How Western Thought Impacts the Interpretation of Scripture—An Examination of Three Significant Examples”
- ✓ “What obstacles do seminary trained teachers have when using a hermeneutical approach in the local church’s Bible study class?”
- ✓ Hermeneutically speaking, what does the Scripture say which contradicts American values regarding the morality of homosexuality?²

¹<https://biblehub.com/greek/4100.htm>

²For some basic background, see Porter, D. T., *Homosexuality: How Does the Biblical Believer Respond?* © 2021 at <https://diggingdeeper.life/content/ResponseToBenAboutHomosexuality.pdf>

A. The RESEARCH REPORT is limited to 15 pages, with a minimum of 10 pages, excluding title page and bibliography. Appropriate illustrations are welcomed.

B. RESEARCH REPORTS must be consistent with the principles described and prescribed in the class and its readings, in addition to relevant “technical” specifications (e.g., “double-spaced” in 12 point for text, 10 point for footnotes, etc.³) I accept Arial, Garamond, Palatino, and Times Roman fonts. If you have another favorite font, simply ask for permission to use same.



C. RESEARCH REPORTS must also conform to specifications addressed in “ADVICE & MISCELLANEOUSLY CRITICAL TIPS FOR WRITING THE WORD.”⁴ It as your guide for writing in general, and for college/seminary in particular. It is also a required reading for PRE 501. See “Class Texts” listing below.

D. RESEARCH REPORTS, final version, are due March 11, 10pm (one week after the last class on March 4). Non-graded drafts with professorial feedback will be provided if submitted by March 1.

2. Complete a final examination (March 4) covering such topics as the following—
 - a) Integrating exegesis and hermeneutics in the interpretation of Scripture.
 - b) Identifying key hermeneutical errors in the interpretation of Scripture.
 - c) When presented an example of hermeneutical error, be able to identify said error and the cause for same.
 - d) Transliterate a New Testament Greek word into phonemic English (e.g., πιστος = pistos). See “[Learning NT Greek Pronunciation](#)” on the PRE501 website.
3. Complete all textbook (see below) readings as [per affidavit](#).

³Technical specifications for RESEARCH REPORTS are located at: DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/PRE501/EssaySpecs.pdf

⁴DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/SPT511/Fundamentals_of_Communicating_the_Word.pdf © 2024.

CLASS TEXTS

Although other reading assignments may be required as needed, these textbooks & readings will serve as the core of PRE 501 and the basis for a substantive portion of the final exam –

- ℵ Gorman, Michael J.⁵ [*Elements of Biblical Exegesis: A Basic Guide for Students and Ministers*](#). Baker Academic Press, 2020.
- ℵ Kaiser, Walter C. Jr.⁶ and Silva, Moises. [*An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning*](#). Zondervan Academic Publishers, 2007
- ℵ Porter, D. Thomas. *Communicating the Word*, online, © 2023. At: DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/SPT511/Fundamentals_of_Communicating_the_Word.pdf

Some Additional Sources You May Find Useful

- ℵ Our Website for Accessing Additional Readings: DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/PRE501
- ℵ *What Must I Do to Be Saved: An Exploration of a Scriptural Paradox*, © 2014. At: DiggingDeeper.Life/content/WhatMustIDoToBeSavedOnline.pdf

ASSESSMENT PARAMETERS

- A. Complete all required reading, affirmed via affidavit: DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/Reading_Affidavit_031020.pdf
 - B. Grading for this course is assessed accordingly:
 - 1) 10% Attendance
 - 2) 45% RESEARCH REPORT
 - 3) 45% Final Examination
 - 4) 15% Extra Credit (*up to 15%*): “An Analysis of the Sin Hermeneutic Issue”
See DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/PRE501/SIN_NotesonLinguisticTheologicalProblems.pdf
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⁵Michael J. Gorman is the Raymond E. Brown Professor of Biblical Studies and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, where he has taught since 1991. He is a New Testament scholar who specializes especially in the letters, theology, and spirituality of the apostle Paul. He earned his B.A. degree *summa cum laude* in French from Gordon College in Massachusetts. He received the M.Div. and the Ph.D. *cum laude* in New Testament from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, where he was also a teaching fellow in New Testament and an instructor in New Testament Greek.

⁶Walter C. Kaiser Jr. (Ph.D., Brandeis University) is distinguished professor emeritus of Old Testament and president emeritus of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts.

1. Why should there be a graduate course in “hermeneutics?”

2. Why are people in the pews (and in the pulpit) not all that familiar with hermeneutics?

3. Just what does it mean to conduct hermeneutics well? Just what is “well?”

4. How do you know you have “failed” hermeneutically?

5. Besides credit hours toward your degree at Faith Theological Seminary and Christian College, what do **you** expect to gain by successfully completing PRE 501?
