

Bible Hermeneutics: How to Interpret the Bible

I. Course Description

The focus of this Bible course is the development of basic Biblical hermeneutics, analysis and interpretation. This is accomplished through the careful examination of two foundational books of the Bible, Genesis and the Gospel of John.

II. Instructional Materials

The New American Standard Bible, side reference edition, The Lockman Foundation, Anaheim, California 1996, Hermeneutics :How to Interpret the Bible, 6 hour audio tape series and syllabus, Dr. Walt Russell, Talbot School of Theology, BIOLA University, La Mirada, California, 1999

III. Course Goals and Objectives

Goals

1. Student will be able to respect the books of the Bible as both literature and the inspired Word of God.
2. Student will be able to recognize the importance of textual and historical context in interpreting Biblical passages.
3. Student will be able to understand the difference between the meaning and the significance of a Biblical passage.

Objectives

1. Student will identify and articulate in writing and in discussion the main theme or argument of a Biblical book.
2. Student will begin to identify and articulate in writing and in discussion the structure of specific Biblical books.

IV. Course Outline

1. Intensive reading, writing and discussion of the Biblical book of Genesis
2. Intensive reading, writing and discussion of the Biblical book, The Gospel of John
3. Interpretation of these books using the principles of hermeneutics presented in The Walt Russell Hermeneutics series

V. Teaching Methods

1. Reading and written assignments
2. Synchronized online discussion with a Torrey tutor and the other students in the discussion group

VI. Evaluation

A. Components

1. Graded précis (analytical summary)
2. Graded reflection essays
3. Graded integrated (Bible, English and Philosophy) term paper
4. Graded discussion participation in online discussions

VII. Grading Scale

90-100	=A
80-90	=B
70-80	=C
60-70	=D
50-60	=F

Addendum

See attached Online Grading Scale and Writing Rubrics