

## CARIBBEAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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www.cgstonline.org

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### PROGRAMME Master of Arts in Theological Studies

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>Hermeneutics</b> Pre-Requisites: Programme Requirements Credits: Three (3) Credit Hours Modality/Delivery: Online Duration: Jan 7- Jan 28, 2021 Class Meetings: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays
<b>PROFESSOR</b>	Clinton Baldwin, Ph.D. E-mail: baldwinston@yahoo.com
<b>OFFICE</b>	By appointments- Tel.: (876) 822-9099

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This module presents the principles and methods of interpreting the Biblical text. It also surveys the history of interpretation so as to demonstrate how interpretation differed over the centuries and the result of these various methods of interpretation on modern understandings of the Bible. Additionally, the course explicates key elements in the development of the biblical text and show the impact of these factors on the interpretation of scripture.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Explain the historical development of the Biblical text
2. Discuss the history of interpretation of the Biblical text
3. Identify and use the different exegetical approaches to scripture
4. Describe the impact of oral tradition, literacy and writing on the development of the Biblical text
5. Analyze the inter-relatedness of the different ancient renditions of the Biblical text on the meanings of scripture
6. Evaluate the different modern hermeneutical approaches to scripture

7. Apply biblical conclusions to contemporary situations

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the significance and importance of hermeneutics to the understanding of scripture
2. Discuss different hermeneutical approaches to scripture that were used historically
3. Identify different interpretive approaches to scripture currently being used in churches on a regular basis
4. Identify the different genre of writing within the Biblical text and explain the key principles for interpreting these genres
5. Outline the significance of orality to the formation and interpretation of the Biblical text
6. Have an adequate grasp of the literature having to do with the interpretation and development of the Biblical text
7. Discuss the general principles of Old and New Testament Textual Criticism and their impact on the formation and interpretation of the Biblical text.
8. Articulate how Jewish cultural practices of the Old and New Testament worlds, informed the interpretation of the Biblical text.

## REQUIRED TEXT MATERIALS

**Holy Bible** (Preferably the New American Standard Version (NASV) or the Revised Standard Version (RSV) or the New International Version (NIV)).

Clinton Baldwin, *Methods of Biblical Interpretation: Perspectives on Prophecy*. Spanish Town: Dikaioma Publishers, 2012.

James L. Kugel, *How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture Then and Now*. Free Press: New York, 2007.

## RECOMMENDED

1. Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis (Revised ed.) A Handbook for Students and Pastors*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1993.
2. Grant Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2006.
3. James D. G. Dunn, *Unity and Diversity in the New Testament: An Inquiry into the Character of Earliest Christianity 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* SCM Press: London 1997.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular attendance at class in keeping with CSGT's policy on class attendance

2. Read a minimum of 200 pages. This will include handouts, readings from the text books and other assigned readings.
3. Two **sectionals and a final exam** will be given at the times indicated in the course outline below.
4. **Group Project:** This will involve a research presentation to be delivered in class. It will be carried out in groups according to specific guidelines provided by the professor.
5. Each student will submit a notebook according to the guidelines given below.

### **GUIDELINES FOR NOTEBOOK**

The notebook must include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Class notes
2. All handouts given in class
3. Notes from personal readings
4. Personal reflections and insights of things learned
5. A reflective evaluation of what the class means to you (1-2 Pages)

This notebook must have the following features:

1. A detailed table of contents
2. Each page must be numbered (numbering can be handwritten so as to facilitate ones hand-written notations taken in class)
3. Be legible (better if typed, but the typed format is optional)
4. Personal readings and insights
5. Properly bound (whether binder, spiral-bound or glued)  
(Note: Due date, Dec 12, 2019)

### **GUIDELINES FOR GROUP PROJECT**

1. Each group will research a particular topic and make a group presentation in class on the dates to be decided.
2. The presentation must reflect a specific hermeneutic, adequate research from a variety of sources and clear, logical delivery.
3. The students are free to use whatever heuristic tool(s) they choose such as power-point, drama, paper presentation, etc. as long as it/they demonstrate creativity and originality.
4. The time allowed for each presentation is 35 minutes
5. Each presentation will be critiqued and evaluated by the rest of the class.
6. Each group will be questioned by the rest of the class on its topic of presentation
7. The group leader and secretary will write a statement of verification that indicates the participation of each member in producing the presentation.
8. Students who fail to participate in their group project may not receive a grade or receive a reduced grade for the group's presentation.

**RESEARCH TOPICS  
FOR GROUP PROJECT**

One of following topics will be assigned to each group based on random selection:

1. The Impact of Oral Tradition on the Development of Scripture
2. The Importance of Proper Biblical Hermeneutics for the Contemporary Church
3. An Introduction to the Development of Scripture
4. Biblical Hermeneutics Within Scripture: How Later Bible Writers Interpret Earlier Bible Writers
5. A Survey of the History of Biblical Interpretation

**CLASS POLICIES** Late Assignments

All assignments must be done or submitted on the dates specified. Late assignments will attract a 10% reduction on the assignment grade, for every calendar date after the due date.

Electronic Devices

All phones must be turned off before coming to class. For emergency purposes, phones may be left on VIBRATE. Students will be allowed to answer such calls outside of class. Absolutely no calls will be allowed during quizzes/exams. **Text-messaging will not be allowed in class.** Subject to permission from the professor, lectures may be recorded.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty (*cheating, plagiarism, and any other misrepresentation of work*) is a violation of CGST's Code of Conduct. Breaches of the institution's policies pertaining to academic dishonesty will result in academic penalties and/or disciplinary action at the discretion of the lecturer.

**GUIDELINES REGARDING  
CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING  
ACTIVITIES.**

1. A philosophy of cooperation, not competition will govern classroom encounters in this class.
2. Each student is expected to demonstrate an attitude of professionalism, civility and courtesy that will help to foster a positive atmosphere in the classroom.
3. Every student is expected to be a member of a group; this is not optional.
4. Each group will be involved in activities throughout the module as indicated by the professor.
6. Regular updates regarding group activities will be given throughout the semester

**GRADING  
SYSTEM**

A (94-100%)	A- (86-93%)	B+ (81-85%)
B (76-80%)	B- (71-75%)	C+ (68-70%)

C (65-75%)

C- (61-64%)

F (Below 61%)

<b>EVALUATION</b>	1. Group Project	20% of final grade
	2. Readings	20% of final grade
	3. Sectional Exams	20% of final grade
	4. Final Exam	30% of final grade
	5. Notebook	10% of final grade

**ZENAS  
GERIG**                      The library’s services & facilities include orientation to using the library, training in information-strategies, including navigating online library resources bibliographic instruction and reference assistance. As necessary, students are facilitated to access other libraries at higher educational institutions. With the library currently serving as the only reprographic and document unit on the campus, the services available at the library’s DocuCentre include photocopying, printing, scanning, laminating, and spiral binding.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE</b>			
<b>UNIT/ DAY(S)</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
UNIT I	I. Hermeneutics: definition(s) and significance  II. Hermeneutical Approaches to the Bible i. The Proof-Text Method ii. The Exegetical Method iii. The Theological Method iv. The Homelitical Method	a. Ice-breakers b. Overview of syllabus c. Formation of groups d. Initial lecture: Unit 1	See assigned readings below
II	The History of Interpretation of the Biblical Text i. Inter-Testamental Era	Interactive	See, Corresponding readings below

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Qumran Interpretation (Midrash, Peshet, etc.)</li> <li>iii. The Reformation</li> <li>iv. The Enlightenment: The Historical Critical Method</li> <li>v. The Modern and Post Modern Period</li> </ul>	Lecture/Class discussion	
		1 <sup>ST</sup> Sectional Exam	Exam, first hour of class, 6-7 p.m. Regular class continues afterwards
III	<p>Oral Tradition, Literacy and the Writing of the Biblical Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Text as an Oral Phenomenon: Multiple Originals</li> <li>ii. OT Textual Criticism</li> <li>iii. NT Textual Criticism</li> <li>iv. Modern Translations of the Biblical Text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interactive Lecture/Class discussion</li> <li>2. Display and discussion of Greek manuscript artifacts</li> </ul>	
IV	<p>Survey of Key Aspects of OT Theology and History: Implications for Hermeneutics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The General Characteristic of Semitic Languages and their influence on OT Interpretation</li> <li>ii. The Life Settings of Ancient Hebrew Society</li> <li>iii. The Renditions of the OT Text: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The LXX, The Samaritan</li> <li>b. Pentateuch &amp; the Masoretic text</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1. Interactive Lecture/Class discussion	
V	<p>Survey of Key Aspects of NT Theology and History: Implications for Hermeneutics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Socio-Historical Contexts of the New Testament Society (Hebrew, Greek, Roman backgrounds)</li> <li>ii. General Characteristics of the Greek Language and its</li> </ul>	2. Lecture/Class discussion	

	influence(s) on NT Interpretation		
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sectional Exam	Exam, first hour of class, 6-7 p.m. Regular class continues afterwards
VI	<p>Genre Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Parables</li> <li>ii. Prophecy</li> <li>iii. Poetry</li> <li>iv. Apocalyptic</li> <li>v. Wisdom</li> <li>vi. Epistles</li> <li>vii. Gospels</li> </ul> <p>Unity and Diversity in the Biblical Text</p>	<p>1. Lecture/Class discussion</p> <p>2. Group activity</p>	(Read Osborn, Pt2)
VII	<p>The Use of The OT in The New Testament Era</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The use of the Lxx and the Masoretic text, etc., by the NT writers</li> </ul>		
	Group Presentations: Groups 1 & 2	Class members, question, critique and evaluate presentations	Topics for presentation obtained from the section above: "RESEARCH TOPICS FOR GROUP PROJECT"
	Group Presentation: Group 3	" "	" "
	Final Exam Jan 28, 2021	Closing Exercises a. Evaluation b. Note Book	

REDING REPORT SCHEDULE

Report #	Assignment	Source	Date Due	Stipulations
1	Methods of Bible Study	C. Baldwin, <i>Methods of Biblical Interpretation</i> , 1-30	22-1-2021	Submit Individual Written Report
2	On the History of Interpretation	Power Point Notes (Provided by Professor)		Group discussion and leader reports orally + personal notes for note book
3	The Rise of Modern Scholarship.	James Kugel, <i>How to Read the Bible</i> , pp. 1-45.	27-1-2021	Submit Individual Written Report
4	Nature of Bible Prophecy	C. Baldwin, <i>Methods of Biblical Interpretation</i> , 30-72		Group/class Discussion/notes for notebook
5	On Oral Tradition	Bart D. Ehrman, <i>Jesus Before the Gospels</i> , 17-48; 189-195		Read for personal notes to be included in your note book]
6	Figure of Speech in the Bible	Osborne, <i>The Hermeneutical Spiral</i> , 104-111		Class discussion/include notes from reading in note book
7	Genre Analysis	Osborne, <i>The Hermeneutical Spiral</i> , Pt 2		Class discussion/ include notes from reading in note book

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