

Saint Louis Christian College  
BBI215N – Hermeneutics  
T. Scott Womble  
Three Credits

Spring Semester, 2012  
Prerequisites: Composition 2

Monday evening  
6:00 – 7:50 p.m.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant-leaders for urban, suburban, rural and global ministry.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students acquire basic skills for interpreting the Bible appropriate to its varied contexts. Confidence for future Bible study is obtained by completion of a step-by-step exegesis of a portion of Scripture.

### **COURSE RATIONAL**

This course is required of all those seeking a bachelor's degree and those seeking the A.A.S. degree. This course is foundational as preparation for all exegetical classes. This course will enlighten the student on the adverse effects of division in Christianity often caused by unsound principles of exegesis, and promote unity through sound exegesis.

This course fulfills the following Student Learning Objectives (see page 4 of the college catalog):

*Upon completion of their program of study at Saint Louis Christian College, the graduates will ...*

1. Be capable and reliable communicators of the Bible. Therefore the academic program at SLCC focuses on developing students' communication and vocational skills.
2. Possess a permanent thirst for wisdom. Therefore SLCC promotes academic excellence and seeks to develop in students a desire for personal enrichment and lifelong learning.
3. Possess unimpeachable character. Therefore the program at SLCC fosters in students habits of accountability and integrity.
4. Engage modern global, pluralistic, diverse cultures from the standpoint of a robust Biblical worldview. Therefore the SLCC curriculum aims to integrate thought and life across a broad range of knowledge.

This course also complements the mission of the Division of Biblical Education (see page 81 of the college catalog).

1. Given evidences for the inspiration of the Bible both in origin and nature, the student will confirm and defend its inspiration in an essay to the satisfaction of the division.
2. Shown how to use tools and sound methods for interpreting the Bible, the student will generate and defend an exegesis of a selected passage of the Bible to the satisfaction of the division.
4. Conveyed basic facts from the Bible, the student will score not less than 80 on the ABHE Bible content test. Should the student surpass this score in the first attempt, he/she will show an improved score in at least one subsequent test.
6. Shown biblical demonstration that the gospel transcends cultural differences, the student will explain the viability of the gospel being contextualized into any human culture in an essay to the satisfaction of the division.
7. Given topics, term paper guidelines, and bibliographic resources, the student will generate a term paper in biblical studies to the satisfaction of the division.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon conclusion of this course, the learner should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the knowledge and utilization of the tools applicable to the interpretation of scripture.
2. Demonstrate and utilize the time-honored methods and models for conducting thorough and accurate exegesis of scripture.
3. Conduct exegesis of scripture on an independent basis for a lifetime.
4. Engage in dialog with one's community and world at large to reach a more informed interpretation of scripture.
5. Demonstrate the understanding and utilization of the tools, methods and models of exegesis by exegeting a specific periscope of scripture.
6. Apply the exegesis of a text in an interpretive fashion in a lesson that could be used in a church setting.
7. Articulate the various literary forms that comprise the canon of scripture.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Reading:

Two textbooks and assigned readings in the student guide are to be read. A 2-3 page report on *the Blue Parakeet* (pp. 1-144) is worth 10% of your grade. In addition, on the final night of class the student will be asked what percentage of the reading he/she completed in *Grasping God's Word* and *Applying the Sermon*. This will also comprise 10% of the student's grade.

### Homework:

Four assignments ("Self Evaluation Instrument," "Background Study Form," "Text Comparison Assignment" and "Contextual Analysis Form") will be given which will enable the student to perform three of the exegetical steps before doing them again later for the exegesis paper. Each assignment is worth 10 points. Therefore, the homework will comprise 40% of the student's grade. All work should be typewritten and conform to MLA. Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 25% each week it is late (the next day constitutes a week).

### Exegesis Paper for 2 Corinthians 5:16-21:

The student will follow the steps of exegesis that are learned through class lectures and readings and write a 10 step paper that will be graded with a rubric (see attached). In addition, the paper will make use of ten or more resources and strictly follow the guidelines set forth in MLA. No footnotes are needed for this paper. Your bibliography should be called a "Works Consulted" page since you are allowed to cite any source you consult for the paper (even if you do not quote it).

The paper will be due one week after our final exam period. Late projects will receive a 25% deduction for each week it is late (the next day constitutes a week). No project will be accepted after it is three weeks late, and the student will receive a "zero" for this section.

The paper must not exceed 15 pages. All papers which exceed the prescribed limits will receive a letter grade deduction. **See page 4 of this syllabus for honesty statement** which must be attached to the end of your paper.

### Examinations:

There will not be any exams.

### Bible:

Students are expected to bring a Bible to class. The professor uses the NASB, but you may bring another translation if you wish (not a paraphrase). A parallel translation is recommended.

### Attendance:

According to college guidelines, absentees that exceed 25% shall result in administrative withdrawal with a grade of "F" (see the college catalog). You are not given points for attending class. However, **2 points** will be added to your final grade if you attend every class session.

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

Reading (2 items each worth 10%)	20%
Homework Assignments (4 items each worth 10%)	40%
Exegesis Paper	40%

### Late Work:

Completing an assignment after the fact often gives the student an advantage his/her peers did not have. Furthermore, in a course such as this it is critical to keep up and not get behind. Late work will be accepted but with a penalty of 25% for each week it is late (the next day constitutes a week).

### Emailing Your Work:

The professor is not your secretary and will not print your assignments unless you are given prior approval. If you encounter a printing problem and would like to email your work so that it is not late, you may do so. Understand, however, you are still responsible for printing the assignment and turning in a physical copy. Your emailed document will only serve as proof that the work is not late. The hard copy of your work **MUST** be submitted before the outset of the next class. If it is not, you will receive a zero.

### MLA Compliance:

All papers should reflect MLA 7<sup>th</sup> edition standards. Anytime the front page of your paper does not comply, the paper will be returned to you for correction and resubmission. The paper will not be counted late, but it must be turned in before the outset of the next class. If it is not, you will receive a zero.

### Final Grade:

You will **NOT** receive a passing grade from this course unless all homework assignments and the exegesis paper are turned in. Therefore, if a student decides to simply skip an assignment he/she does not feel like doing, the student will ultimately fail the course. A possible scenario is that a student may miss a deadline and take a zero for the grade. Yet, to pass the course the student must still complete the assignment.

### Honesty Statement:

An honesty statement must be attached to the exegesis paper as a separate page following your "Works Consulted" page. Failure to comply will result in grade deduction (e.g., an A paper will be deducted to A minus). The statement should read as follows:

"I certify that this is entirely my own work. In those instances in which I have used other people's material, such as written sources on the internet or published in books, articles, or other formats, I have accurately and fully credited the authors of those sources."

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

I highly recommend that you read the "Academic Dishonesty" section in the Course Catalog (Academic Information section). Violation of this policy may result in you failing this course.

<http://www.slcconline.edu/academics/catalog/pdf/SLCC-AcademicInformation.pdf>

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **Due Week One:**

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 1, 5 (*chapter 5 deals with step 1: The Exegete*)
2. Review pp. 2-12 in the Course Pack.
3. Read “Hermeneutical Paradigms” (p. 14 in the Course Pack).
4. Read McKnight, chapters 1-10 (pp. 1-144). Submit a 2-3 page report citing what challenged your thinking, what you learned and perhaps what you questioned.

### **Due Week Two:**

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 14-17 and pages 120-121 (*these deal with step 2: Genre*)
2. Complete “Self Evaluation Instrument” (p. 18 in the Course Pack).

### **Due Week Three:**

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 18-22 (*these deal with step 2: Genre*)
2. Read Duvall & Hays, chapter 6 (*this deals with step 3: Setting*)

### **Due Week Four:**

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapter 9 (*addresses issues which involve step 4: Establish the Text*)
2. Review “Background Study Form on Ephesus” (p. 19 in the Course Pack)
3. Complete “Background Study Form” for Exodus 21:1-27 (p. 21 in the Course Pack)

### **Due Week Five:**

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 2-4 (*these deal with step 5: Structure*)
2. Complete “Text Comparison Assignment” for Exodus 21:1-27 (p. 22 in the Course Pack)

### **Due Week Six:**

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapter 7 (*this deals with step 6: Context*)

### **Due Week Seven:**

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapter 8 (*this deals with step 7: Key Words & Phrases*)
2. Read “The Word on Word Study” (p. 26 in the Course Pack)
3. Review the following in the Course Pack: “Word Study Form” (p. 31) and “Guide for Using Greek and Hebrew Reference Works” (p. 37)
4. Review “Contextual Analysis Form on Matthew 5:43-48” (p. 23 in the Course Pack)
5. Complete “Contextual Analysis Form” for Romans 8:37 (p. 25 in the Course Pack)

### **Due Week Eight:**

1. Get some work done on your exegesis paper!

### **Due Week Nine:**

1. Read Duvall & Hays, chapters 10-13 (*these deal with step 9: Application*)

### **Due Week Ten:**

1. Read “The Heresy of Application” (p. 44 in the Course Pack)

**Due Week Eleven:**

1. Get some work done on your exegesis paper!
2. Reading report on Duvall & Hays is due. All I need on a piece of paper is your name and the percentage of the reading you completed.

**To be completed the week after the last class:**

1. Exegesis paper on 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- \* All work must be turned in by this date**

**COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

McKnight, Scot. *The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Overdorf, Daniel. *Applying the Sermon: How to Balance Biblical Integrity and Cultural Relevance*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.

**HERMENEUTICS TEXTS UTILIZED DURING THIS COURSE**

Ewert, David. *How to Understand the Bible*. Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 2000.

Fee, Gordon & Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible For All It's Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1982.

Kuhatschek, Jack. *Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990.

McQuilkin, Robertson. *Understanding and Applying the Bible*. Chicago, IL: Mood Press, 1992.

Osborne, Grant R. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1991.

Stein, Robert H. *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1994.

Veerman, Dave. *How to Apply the Bible: Discover the Truths of Scripture and Put Them into Practice*. Grand Rapids, IL: Baker Books, 1993.

Virkler, Henry A. *Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1981.

Webb, William J. *Slaves, Women & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

### **COURSE POLICIES**

1. Learning Disability Statement: If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see me privately to discuss assessment measures that would enhance your ability to learn.
2. Disclaimer Statement: Please understand that I reserve the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due dates or even an assignment as long as it does not add to the students' work load.
3. Class Decorum: The professor reserves the right to dismiss a student from a class session due to improper class decorum, which includes but not restricted to: lack of attentiveness, excessive and unnecessary talking about material not pertinent to the lecture, talking while another student or the professor has the floor, sleeping, persistent tardiness and a consistent lack of preparation for class lectures and accompanying discussions.
4. No food items or gum shall be allowed. A beverage with a twist on cap is permissible.
5. All papers are expected to reflect MLA 7<sup>th</sup> edition standards (e.g., Time New Roman font, size 12, double space, correct pagination, headings and margins). All papers that reflect one's own creativity will be returned. Only the exegesis paper will be accepted (but with penalty).
6. All incompletes must be approved by the Professor. They will only be granted for extraordinary circumstances.

### **COURSE INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

1. Office Hours: No appointment is required. However, if I am occupied at the time of your visit, we may set an appointment.  
Monday & Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
2. Email – swomble@slcconline.edu  
*I prefer that you email me before calling!*
3. Campus Phone – 314-837-6777 dial 9 then ext. 1420
4. Home Phone – 314-779-5782 ... feel free to text, but tell me who you are!