

**DS9030 Advanced Hermeneutics (3 credits)**

Monday Feb. 22 – Mon. April 25

11:00am-12:15pm, 1:00pm-3:45pm

Rm 206

Instructors: Nathan D. Shannon / Telford Work

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Office Hours: By appointment

**I. Course Description**

This is a study of theological and historiographical method of hermeneutics. The seminar will examine philosophical assumptions and implications of major systems of theological hermeneutics in Christian history.

**II. Course Objective**

- A. The seminar will critically discuss selected texts with a view toward understanding issues in historiographical and hermeneutical theory employed by major theologians in history.
- B. Each participant will present a scholarly essay addressing some aspect of hermeneutics by a theologian of a historical period according to his/her interest (critical task paper).
- C. Each participant should develop his/her scholarly research and writing skills during the course of the seminar.

**III. Textbooks****- Required Readings*****Main Text***

T: Thiselton, Anthony. *Hermeneutics: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.

***Additional Required Readings (on reserve in the library; this list is subject to revision)***

A: Augustine. Roberts, A., J. Donaldson, Philip Schaff, and Henry Wace, eds. *Post-Nicene Fathers: First Series*, vol. 6. Hendrickson Pub, 1994.

AQ: Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Question 1, articles 1, 8, 9, 10

BK: Barth, Karl. "Preface." From *The Epistle to the Romans*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Translated by Edwyn C. Hoskyns. London: Oxford University Press, 1968.

BR: Barthes, Roland. "The Death of the Author." In *Image Music Text*. Translated by Stephen Heath. London: Fontana Press, 1977.

CH: Chicago Statement on Inerrancy

CY: Chrysostom, John. Roberts, A., J. Donaldson, Philip Schaff, and Henry Wace, eds. *Post-Nicene Fathers: First Series*, vol. 10. Hendrickson Pub, 1994.

FS: Fish, Stanley. "Is There a Text in this Class?" In

FR: Frame, J. "The Spirit and the Scriptures." In Carson, D. A., and John D. Woodbridge, eds. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.

- GF: Gaffin, Richard B. "The Redemptive-Historical View" and "The Redemptive Historical Response." In *Biblical Hermeneutics: Five Views*. Edited by Stanley E. Porter and Beth M. Stovell. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.
- GM1: Gamble, Richard. "Brevitas et Facilitas: Toward an Understanding of Calvin's Hermeneutic." *Westminster Theological Journal* 47, no.1 (1985): 1–17.
- GM2: Gamble, Richard. "Exposition and Method in Calvin." *Westminster Theological Journal* 49, no.1 (1987): 153–65.
- H: Horton, Michael S. *The Christian Faith: a Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2011.
- L: Luther, Martin. "Preface to Paul's Letter to the Romans."
- OS: Ormiston, Gayle L. and Schrift Alan D., ed., *The Hermeneutic Tradition: From Ast To Ricoeur*. New York: SUNY, 1990.
- PR: Poirier, John C. "Why I'm Still Afraid: A Response to James K. A. Smith's *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?*" *Westminster Theological Journal* 69, no.1 (2007): 175–84.
- PY: Poythress, Vern. "Dispensing with Merely Human Meaning: Gains and Losses from Focusing on the Human Author, Illustrated by Zephaniah 1:2–3." *Westminster Theological Journal* 57, no.3 (2014): 481–99.
- R: Ricoeur, Paul. *Figuring the Sacred: Religion, Narrative, and Imagination*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.
- S: Stevenson, Kenneth W. *The Lord's Prayer: A Text in Tradition*. Fortress ed. Minneapolis: MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2004.
- TCO: Tertullian, Cyprian, and Origen. *On the Lord's Prayer*. Translated by Alistair Stewart-Sykes. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimirs Seminary, 2004.
- W: Warfield, Benjamin B. "The Biblical Doctrine of Inspiration." In *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1948. Pp. 131–66.

### - Book Review Choices

- Enns, Peter. *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Poythress, Vern. *Inerrancy and Worldview: Answering Modern Challenges to the Bible*. Wheaton: Crossway: 2012.

### - Recommended Books (more provided upon request)

- Beale, G. K. *The Erosion of Inerrancy in Evangelicalism: Responding to New Challenges to Biblical Authority*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2008.
- Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*  
 \_\_\_\_\_. *The Canon of Scripture* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- Carson, D. A., and John D. Woodbridge, eds. *Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.

- Garner, David B., Editor. *Did God Really Say? Affirming the Truthfulness and Trustworthiness of Scripture*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2012.
- DeYoung, Kevin. *Taking God at His Word: Why the Bible is Knowable, Necessary, and Enough, and what that Means for You and Me*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2014.
- Kruger, Michael. *The Question of Canon: Challenging the Status Quo in the New Testament Debate*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Canon Revisited: Establishing the Origins and Authority of the New Testament Books*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012.
- \_\_\_\_\_, and Andreas J. Köstenberger. *The Heresy of Orthodoxy: How Contemporary Culture's Fascination with Diversity has Reshaped our Understanding of Early Christianity*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.
- Lillback, Peter and Richard B. Gaffin, editors. *Thy Word is Still Truth: Essential Writings on the Doctrine of Scripture from the Reformation to Today*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2013.
- Muller, Richard A. *The Study of Theology: From Biblical Interpretation to Contemporary Formulation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Murray, John. "The Attestation of Scripture." In *The Infallible Word*. Edited by Ned B. Stonehouse and Paul Woolley. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1946.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Calvin on Scripture and Divine Sovereignty*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1960.
- Poythress, Vern. "Philosophical Roots of Phenomenological and Structuralist Literary Criticism." *Westminster Theological Journal* 41, no.1 (1978): 165–71. [Available HERE](#)
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Inerrancy and the Gospels: a God-Centered Approach to the Challenges of Harmonization*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Problems for Limited Inerrancy." *JETS* 18, no. 2 (1975): 93–102.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *In the Beginning was the Word: Language—A God-Centered Approach*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2009/
- \_\_\_\_\_. *God-Centered Biblical Interpretation*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 1999.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and Wayne Grudem. *The TNIV and the Gender-Neutral Bible Controversy*. Grand Rapids: Broadman and Holman, 2005.
- Warfield, Benjamin B. *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1948
- Young, E. J. *Thy Word is Truth: Some Thoughts on the Biblical Doctrine of Inspiration*. Banner of Truth, 1963.

#### IV. Course Requirements & Grading

An overall grade will be assigned by the professors in consideration of the quality of each participant's work for the semester.

Pre-Seminar Assignments and Five 1-page reflection papers	20%
Weekly Participation and Seminar Leading	20%
A Book Review	10%
Research Paper	50%

#### V. Weekly Schedule & Assignments

1. *Attendance* is required in accordance with school policy.
2. *Pre-Seminar Assignments*: Students are expected to have read and to be prepared to discuss the assigned reading for each session according to the schedule below.
  - A. *Primary Sources*: Excerpts from primary sources are reserved in the library. If you are unable to access the campus library, a file of scanned copies will be emailed to you. Notify the instructor.
  - B. *Critical summary papers*: Submit five one-page (single-spaced) critical summary papers on any five primary source readings. CS papers are due on the date of the topic before the start of class. Late papers are not accepted.
  - C. *Book review*: Submit one book review on one of two books. Book reviews are due **Friday, June 10, 4pm**. Late reviews are not accepted.
3. *Weekly Participation and Seminar Leading*: Participants will take turns leading seminar sessions based on the assigned texts for reading. All participants (not only the leader) should prepare a critical outline<sup>1</sup> of literary/historical/theological issues in the assigned portion of the required text plus 3-4 questions for discussion. Seminar leaders will have 25-30 minutes to present to the class. The remaining time is for class discussion. The purpose of the presentation is both to inform and to provide a basis for discussion. Leaders should provide the class with an outline of the reading or of their presentation. PPT is not permitted.
4. *Term Paper*: An original essay should interact with both primary and secondary sources in examining some significant aspects of hermeneutics employed by a particular theologian in history, critically evaluating its positive and negative assumptions and implications from an evangelical perspective. Follow Chicago/Turabian (8<sup>th</sup> ed.) format style. Length is about 7000 words (20 pages), double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman. A hard copy should be turned in to each professor's mailbox and to turnitin.com. **Due date: Friday, June 10, 4pm**. Late papers are not accepted.
5. Other assignments may be made at the discretion of the professors.

### ***Weekly Schedule***

For details, refer to 'Schedule and Reading Assignments'

Week 1 (2/22)

Week 2 (2/29)

Week 3 (3/7)

Week 4 (3/14)

Week 5 (3/21)

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<sup>1</sup> A critical outline, for our purposes, is an accurate and faithful outline of the content of the reading (a guide to the primary source) plus critical comments and questions.

Week 6 (3/28)

Week 7 (4/4)

Week 8 (4/11)

Week 9 (4/18)

Week 10 (4/25)

## VI. Institutional Policies

### ● Attendance

In order for the student to get credit, he/she has to attend more than 3/4 of the classes.

- TTGU offers total 15 weeks of classes (out of 16 weeks) per semester. If a student misses 4 or more classes out of 15 classes, the student will receive an F.

- Absences for the following reasons may be regarded exceptional with handing in the Report of Absence to the teaching professor (the form needs a seal from the Academic/Admissions Office before it goes to the professor). However, if the total number of absences including the following cases is 1/3 of the classes or more, the student will receive an F.

1. Death of Grandparents, parents, spouse or parents-in-law, siblings, or children – up to 1 week
2. Call up for military service – up to 3 days
3. When a student participates in TTGU's special event with the approval of the Dean of Academic Programs – for the number of days the Dean of Academic Programs approves
4. Natural disaster
5. Traffic Accident / Hospitalization

### ● Minimum Passing Grade

- D- (60 or over) is the minimum passing grade for M.Div./M.T.S students
- C- (74 or over) for M.A./M.Ed./M.W.C.M./Th.M. students
- B (87 or over) for Ph.D. students
- P for P/NP courses

### ● Final Due Date Policy

ALL WORK (papers, reports, readings, exams, etc.) should be complete and be submitted until the official end of the semester – which is **Sat. Jun. 11**. Any work submitted after the due date must come through the Academic Office where you will fill in a form to explain why the assignment is late. This form and the handed in assignment will be delivered to the professor by the Academic Office.

The institutional standard point reduction for Spring 2016 is 20% for that work (20 points out of 100) if the work is submitted by **Wednesday, Jun. 15**, and 30% if submitted by **Friday Jun. 17**. **ABSOLUTELY NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER Jun 17** (strictly enforced other than in cases when 'Incomplete' grades could be given: i) Death of grandparents, parents, spouse or parents-in-law, siblings, children, ii) Traffic accidents, serious illness which needs hospitalization, iii) English PhD program classes, and iv) Practicum classes of the Christian Counseling Department - all with the approval of the Dean of Academic programs, applicable only in the case when 3/4 or more of class attendance has been recognized. I (Incomplete) grades cannot be given to modular classes or for fall semester courses of graduating candidates).

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

The faculty and administration of Torch Trinity take academic integrity very seriously and will not tolerate cheating (on exams and quizzes) or plagiarism. All cases of cheating or plagiarism must be reported to the Dean of Chapel and Student Life and informed to the Dean of Academic Programs, and if necessary, further investigated. The Student Life & Scholarship Committee determines guilt or innocence according to a rigorous procedure. The following are the administrative actions prescribed by the faculty for those caught cheating or plagiarizing:

#### 1. Administrative Actions for Cheating

**A. For the first offense of cheating** during the student's enrollment at Torch Trinity, the following procedures are applied:

- 1) An automatic "F" letter grade for the class.
- 2) The student offender will meet with the Dean of Chapel and Student Life and sign an Acknowledgement of Integrity Infraction form.
- 3) The student offender will not be considered for merit scholarships and TSMS scholarships from the following semester.

**B. For the second offense of cheating** during the student's enrollment at Torch Trinity, the student will be permanently dismissed from the school.

#### 2. Administrative Actions for Plagiarism

**A. For the first offense of plagiarism** during the student's enrollment at Torch Trinity, the following procedures are applied:

- 1) An automatic "F" letter grade for the paper. Rewriting is not permitted.
- 2) Student should re-read the article (Chang, Steven S. H. "The Problem of Plagiarism: A guide for Students and Educators of Theology" TTJ 8, no. 1 (Nov. 2005): 201-218 [downloadable from TTGU website], and write a paper on "Plagiarism and Christian Ministry" of about 750 words or 3 pages double-spaced.

**B. For the second offense of plagiarism** during the student's enrollment at Torch Trinity, the following procedures are applied:

- 1) A permanent “F” letter grade for the entire course. Retaking the course will not replace the “F” grade. The failed course and the retaken course grades will both be calculated in the student’s cumulative grade point average.
- 2) The student offender will not be considered for merit scholarships and TSMS scholarships from the following semester.
- 3) For the PhD program, for the second offense of plagiarism during the student's enrollment at Torch Trinity, the offending student is permanently dismissed from the school.

**C. For the third offense of plagiarism** during the student's enrollment at Torch Trinity, the offending student is permanently dismissed from the school.

\* For each offence mentioned above, a copy of the Acknowledgement of Integrity Infraction form signed by the offender will be placed in the student's permanent file and the record should be kept at the Office of Chapel and Student Life.

\* The student guilty of first-time cheating or second-time plagiarism may not be eligible for recognition of merit at graduation.

\* The student offender will be automatically removed from any official position, such as student council leadership, chapel worship team, etc. for at least one semester.

Note: The faculty and administration have decided to require that all student papers be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) as of Fall 2007.

“I acknowledge that I have read and accept the TTGU Academic Integrity Covenant and will abide by the provisions and penalties therein.”