



The University of Manchester



School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities

COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Unit title	Biblical Hermeneutics
Unit code	401
Credit rating	30
Level	7
Contact hours	40
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	n/a
School responsible	Spurgeon's College with School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Member of staff responsible	Dr Zoltán Schwáb / Dr Stephen I. Wright
ECT	15
Notional hours of learning	300

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

The unit introduces the theme of biblical hermeneutics in the context of the history of biblical interpretation since New Testament times. Key movements, theories and strategies will be examined and assessed, including recent developments such as reception history (including the artistic reception of the Bible) and 'ordinary hermeneutics'. The potential of these various approaches will be explored in relation to specific biblical genres and texts. The practical outworking of the subject in the life of the Church will be kept in view.

AIMS

This unit aims to develop an awareness of a range of issues associated with biblical interpretation in the life of the Church and enable students to reflect critically on their own presuppositions in relation to detailed analysis of some contemporary proposals.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome	By the end of this unit students should be able to:
Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">demonstrate understanding of key linguistic, literary, historical, philosophical and theological questions involved in the interpretation of biblical texts
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">offer critical appreciation of one or more approaches to biblical interpretation from the past or presentcritically articulate the interconnection of biblical studies and Christian doctrine
Practical and transferable skills; personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">integrate different theories of, and approaches to hermeneutics within a theological framework which effectively serves the use of the Bible in the life of the Church

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> illustrate the effect of different approaches and theories in the interpretation of specific texts present a short paper to a group
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ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class presentation (may be on topic for essay) 	30 minutes	n/a
Summative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two essays 	4000 words each	50% each

FURTHER INFORMATION

Semester	
Available on which programme(s)?	MTh, pathways BTS (compulsory), ACS, ATh and P

Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The nature and story of biblical hermeneutics Words and the Word: human language and divine revelation The use and interpretation of the OT in the NT 'Divine meaning': premodern hermeneutics 'Bridging the gulf of history': hermeneutics in modernity 'Transforming the reader': hermeneutics in postmodernity Ideological hermeneutics (1): liberationist approaches Ideological hermeneutics (2): feminist approaches The creative influence of Scripture: the reception of the Bible in culture The Bible and theology: contemporary theological hermeneutics 'Ordinary hermeneutics': biblical interpretation in the Church
Teaching method	Seminars
Additional eLearning content	Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's <i>Online</i> to support student learning
Feedback	Written feedback within 15 working days from submission
Date of approval	
Information updated on	02 December 2015

INDICATIVE READING

- Andiñach, Pablo R., Alejandro F. Botta, *The Bible and the Hermeneutics of Liberation* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2009)
[<http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=9&sid=d0b42ee4-45e9-4c9e-b386-2ec460be589a%40pdc-v-sessmgr06&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWwhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=311750&db=e093mww>]
- Barton, John, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998) [<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/cambridge-companion-to-biblical-interpretation/EE8DD56D05FC61A489750A32C7378ABE>]
- Blowers, Paul M., Peter W. Martens (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Biblical Interpretation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019)
[<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198718390.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780198718390?rskey=CHPuPR&result=1>]
- Evans, Craig A., *The Interpretation of Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000) [<https://www.perlego.com/book/803374/the-interpretation-of-scripture-in-early-judaism-and-christianity-studies-in-language-and-tradition-pdf?queryID=2afbcbccf02714d4d33cd5ab34bedc89&searchIndexType=books>]
- Evans, Robert, *Reception History, Tradition and Biblical Interpretation, Gadamer and Jauss in Current Practice* (London: Bloomsbury, 2014)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/804179/reception-history-tradition-and-biblical-interpretation-gadamer-and-jauss-in-current-practice-pdf?queryID=a9aa87bbfe7614a29b78890c6f470136&searchIndexType=books>]
- Fowl, Stephen E., *Theological Interpretation of Scripture* (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade, 2009)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/879087/theological-interpretation-of-scripture-pdf?queryID=a38762564e66bd3b7740d0b8d62cb140&searchIndexType=books>]
- Keener, Craig S., *Spirit Hermeneutics, Reading Scripture in Light of Pentecost* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2016)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/2015499/spirit-hermeneutics-reading-scripture-in-light-of-pentecost-pdf?queryID=41a8485d1bea2dbfc11ba0df32a7ec29&searchIndexType=books>]
- Malpas, Jeff, Hans-Helmuth Gander (eds.), *The Routledge*

Companion to Hermeneutics (Abingdon: Taylor and Francis, 2014)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/1558410/the-routledge-companion-to-hermeneutics-pdf?queryID=078f1f3025c54fef8b02e6de56899115&searchIndexType=books>]

Porter, Stanely E., Beth M. Stovell (eds.), *Biblical Hermeneutics, Five Views* (Downer Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/971034/biblical-hermeneutics-five-views-pdf?queryID=143f4a844944c8b4a6b4cf3b9a308f50&searchIndexType=books>]

Rogers, Andrew P., *Congregational Hermeneutics, How Do We Read?* (Abingdon: Taylor and Francis, 2015)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/1567543/congregational-hermeneutics-how-do-we-read-pdf?queryID=e13c5ae75e97b6a1290e476d5b6719ce&searchIndexType=books>]

Sarisky, Darren, ed., *Theology, History and Biblical Interpretation: Modern Readings* (London: Bloomsbury, 2015)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/395287/theology-history-and-biblical-interpretation-modern-readings-pdf?queryID=7e073dc965f1089abb949cc8ced2309e&searchIndexType=books>]

Scholz, Susanne (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Approaches to the Hebrew Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020)
[<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190462673.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190462673?rskey=nSDihO&result=1>]

Schökel, Luis Alonso, *A Manual of Hermeneutics* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/804583/a-manual-of-hermeneutics-pdf?queryID=442e39e2df2dccc6f77b91835de39939&searchIndexType=books>]

Sugirtharajah, R. S. (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Postcolonial Biblical Criticism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)
[<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190888459.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190888459>]

Thiselton, Anthony C., *Hermeneutics: An Introduction* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009)
[<https://www.perlego.com/book/2015770/hermeneutics-an-introduction-pdf>]