



The University of Manchester



School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTOR

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Unit title	Reading and Using the Bible
Unit code	409
Credit rating	30
Level	7
Contact hours	40
Pre-requisite units	n/a
Co-requisite units	430 Studying Christian Theology, 462 Spirituality
School responsible	Spurgeon's College with School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
Member of staff responsible	Dr Stephen I. Wright
ECT	15
Notional hours of learning	300

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

This unit deals with the principles and tools of biblical interpretation and exegesis. It explores the formation of the Bible and nature of the major literary genres found in the Bible, introducing and encouraging the use of different tools for exegesis as well as considering the different ways the Bible has been and is interpreted.

AIMS

To help master's students without a background in theology to handle and apply the Bible in a mature, informed and competent way, encouraging them to reflect critically on their use of the biblical text; to encourage faithfulness to the text and correct use of exegetical tools and study aids.

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">• identify the nature of (the genres within) the biblical text and the steps that need to be taken in the interpretative process• demonstrate an awareness of important developments in the history of biblical interpretation
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• offer critical appreciation of some modern approaches to biblical interpretation• illustrate the effect of different approaches and theories in the interpretation of specific texts
Practical and transferable skills; personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• demonstrate an awareness of their stance as a reader• use a range of exegetical tools• apply the content of this module in the use of the Bible in different settings in the life of the Church• demonstrate adequate presentation skills

ASSESSMENT

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A class presentation	30 minutes	n/a
Summative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An exegetical essay• A topical essay	3500-4000 words 3500-4000 words	50% 50%

FURTHER INFORMATION

Semester	either
Available on which programme(s)?	MA (compulsory)

Content	The Bible and the quest for meaning The Bible, human and divine Genres of biblical literature Exegetical studies of biblical narrative, prophecy, wisdom, poetry and letter How the Bible interprets itself: the use of the OT in the NT Reading the Bible from contemporary perspectives: feminist, liberationist and postcolonial interpretation Reading the Bible with past readers Using the Bible in Christian discipleship and mission today
Teaching method	Seminar group
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 (<i>for office use</i>)	
Information updated on	January 2021

INDICATIVE READING

- Alexander, T. Desmond, and Brian S. Rosner, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (Leicester: Apollos, 2000), part 1:
<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/1470271/9>
- Bartholomew, Craig G., *Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Framework for Hearing God in Scripture* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2015)
<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2039623/0>
- Barton, John, 'Historical-critical Approaches', in John Barton, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 9-20. Available in Cambridge Companions Online:
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/cambridge-companion-to-biblical-interpretation/historicalcritical-approaches/300C673A158D18EB6E2996A21F7AE380>
- Carson, D.A., *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd edn (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996)
<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2051278/0>
- Dube, Musa W., *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible* (St Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2000) <https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2042354/1>
- Goldingay, John E., *Reading Jesus's Bible: How the New Testament Helps us Understand the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2017)
<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2015391/0>
- Holgate, David A. and Rachel Starr, *SCM Study guide to Biblical Hermeneutics*, 2nd edn (London: SCM, 2019) <https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/1437544/1>
- McDonald, Lee Martin, *The Origin of the Bible: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: T. & T. Clark, 2011) <https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/817750/1>
- Moyise, Steve, *The Old Testament in the New: An Introduction*, 2nd edn (London: Bloomsbury T. & T. Clark, 2015) <https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/394461/2>
- Prickett, Stephen, 'The Bible in Literature and Art' in John Barton, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 160-78. Available in Cambridge Companions Online:
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/cambridge-companion-to-biblical-interpretation/bible-in-literature-and-art/0B62833A1A4FC283945AC47E7C621636>
- Reid, Barbara E., *Wisdom's Feast: An Invitation to Feminist Interpretation of the Scriptures* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016)
<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2015473/0>
- West, Gerald, 'The Bible and the poor: A new way of doing theology' in Christopher Rowland, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Liberation Theology*, 2nd edn (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 129-52. Available in Cambridge Companions Online:
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/cambridge-companion-to-liberation-theology/bible-and-the-poor-a-new-way-of-doing-theology/008D8273C404A7925985B11DDE0B8A38>
- Ryken, Leland, *How to Read the Bible as Literature...and get more out of it* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984) <https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/557896/0>
- Sugirtharajah, R.S., *Exploring Postcolonial Biblical Criticism: History, Method, Practice* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012)
<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/1003450/0>
- Thiselton, Anthony C., *Hermeneutics: An introduction* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009)
<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2015770/0>

See general unit reading list on Perlego:

<https://www.perlego.com/reading-list/311769/unit-409-reading-and-using-the-bible>