



**Introduction to Hermeneutics**  
Midway Bible Institute  
3 Credit Hours  
Fall 2023



## **I. Class Information**

### Logistics:

Start and End Dates: **8/10/2023-10/5/2023**

Class Times: **Thursdays from 6-9pm**

Class Location: **Midway Church, A 105**

### Contact Information:

Instructor: **Jonas Crump, Mobilization Pastor, M.A. in Theological Studies, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**

Instructor Contact Info: **Email: [jonas@midwaychurch.org](mailto:jonas@midwaychurch.org) Phone: 417-830-2677**

## **II. Course Description**

A study of the principles of interpretation with application to Biblical interpretation and preaching

## **III. Course Objectives**

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Evaluate hermeneutical approaches and conclusions for their consistency with the doctrine of Scripture, especially the doctrines of inspiration and inerrancy.
2. Explain the distinction between of Scripture's genres concerning their forms, features, and functions.
3. Employ sound hermeneutical principles to interpret passages of Scripture in their historical, literary, and theological contexts.
4. Equip the local church to apply the message of a passage of Scripture with hermeneutical integrity and contextual awareness.

All instruction, activities, and assessments in this class will relate to one or more of these course objectives.

## **IV. Textbooks (Provided)**

Fuhr, Richard Alan and Andreas J. Kostenberger. *Inductive Bible Study: Observation, Interpretation, and Application Through the Lenses of History, Literature, and Theology*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2016. 353 Pages.

Hamilton, James. *What is Biblical Theology: A Guide to the Bible's Story, Symbolism, and Patterns*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014. 104 Pages.

## V. Assignments

### **Inductive Bible Study Chapter Summaries**

Requirements: Students will reflect upon the chapters assigned in six summaries using 500-600 words (2-3 pages if formatted according to the *Midwestern Style Manual*). Summaries will include: 1. A summary of each chapter's hermeneutical significance. 2. Reflection as to how the contents of the reading will affect how one properly interprets the truth of God's word.

Grading: Submissions will be graded both for demonstrated familiarity with the textbook and application to the student's context.

### **Class Development Project**

Description: Students will compile the truths, tools, and techniques taught in this course to create a full curriculum that could be used for a "How to Interpret the Bible" class in a discipleship setting with a lay audience (e.g. Sunday School, students, or small groups).

Requirements: This curriculum should be comprehensive enough to include all the primary elements of this class and complete enough that another qualified teacher could implement it with minimal training or clarification. *Implementing this curriculum to teach a class is not required and not counted toward the course load.*

Grading: Submissions will be graded both for demonstrated familiarity with the textbook and lecture material and the ability to contextualize the content to a chosen demographic.

### **Exegetical Paper**

Description: Students will implement the truths, tools, and techniques explained in this course to interpret a passage of Scripture.

Requirements: This paper will be 3000 words (10 pages if formatting according to the *Midwestern Style Manual*) and will include the following sections: 1. Introduction and Background (100-150 words), 2. Exegesis (1,800-2,400 words), 3. Theology of Application (300-900 words), and 4. Conclusion (100-150 words). At least 10 academic sources are required.

Assignment Options:

Romans 6:1-14  
2 Corinthians 5:1-10  
Ephesians 4:7-16  
Philippians 3:1-14  
Colossians 1:9-23

Grading: Submissions will be graded based on their hermeneutical clarity, writing quality, and ability to use quality sources.

### What is Biblical Theology Reflection Paper

Requirements: Students will reflect upon the work in 800-1,100 words (3-4 pages if formatted according to the *Midwestern Style Manual*). Reflections will include 1. A summary of the book's contents (300-400 words), 2. An evaluation of the book's point(s) and argument(s) (300-400 words), and 3. The student's plan to apply the book's truths to his or her life and ministry (200-300 words).

Grading: Submissions will be graded both for demonstrated familiarity with the book and application to the student's context.

### Mid-Term and Final Exams

Description: Students will demonstrate their comprehension and competence of course content through a mid-term exam and a final exam.

Requirements: Students will answer a variety of questions (true-false, multiple choice, short answer, paragraph, or essay, as assigned by the instructor) relating to the required reading, assignments, and instruction. The mid-term exam will take place in the middle of the term and cover only the instruction up to that point (1-2 hours of test time). The final exam will take place at the end of the term and cover all instruction up to that point (including materials covered on the mid-term; roughly 2-4 hours of test time). The instructor will make students appropriately aware of what they will be expected to know for exams.

Submission: The assessment will be a take-home, open-book exam.

### **VI. Grading Scale**

<b>A</b>	93-100	<b>C</b>	73-77
<b>A-</b>	90-92	<b>C-</b>	70-72
<b>B+</b>	88-89	<b>D+</b>	68-69
<b>B</b>	83-87	<b>D</b>	63-67
<b>B-</b>	80-82	<b>D-</b>	60-62
<b>C+</b>	78-79	<b>F</b>	59 or less

### **VII. Class Schedule**

The instructor will provide students a class schedule with due dates for all assignments before instruction, reading, assignments, or activities begin. (see Course Schedule below)

### **VIII. General Information**

1. Questions regarding this syllabus, class schedule, or class policies should be addressed to the instructor. The instructor of this class reserves the right to reasonably amend the details of this syllabus as needed. It will be the responsibility of the instructor to communicate any changes to all students with appropriate notice. It will be the responsibility of the student to inquire about apparent discrepancies or request further detail.
2. Plagiarism is a serious ethical and legal matter, and instances of plagiarism will result in an "F" for an assignment and possibly an "F" for the course.
3. Class Attendance: Attendance is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. **Absences, for any reason, should not exceed 25% of the total class time (more than two absences).**

Withdrawal from the course is required after a student is absent from more than 25% of the class sessions, except in cases of confining illnesses or serious circumstances.

4. In Christian higher education institutions, it can be assumed that each believer-learner is at a different place of personal maturity and educational preparedness. For these reasons, it is requested and expected that each student exhibits mutual respect, even when divergent viewpoints are expressed in the classroom. Students should refrain from behaviors that negatively affect the teaching environment. Students should conduct themselves as ministerial professionals who give, and are worthy of, a high level of respect.

# Introduction to Hermeneutics

## Course Schedule

WEEK	LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENTS
<b>1</b>	WHAT IS HERMENEUTICS?	Fuhr, Köstenberger, <i>Inductive Bible Study</i> (Chapters 1-3)	
<b>2</b>	OBSERVATION	Fuhr, Köstenberger, <i>Inductive Bible Study</i> (Chapters 4-7)	<i>Inductive Bible Study</i> Chapters Summary
<b>3</b>	CONTEXT	Fuhr, Köstenberger, <i>Inductive Bible Study</i> (Chapter 8)	<i>Inductive Bible Study</i> Chapter Summary
<b>4</b>	INTERPRETATION (PT. 1)	Fuhr, Köstenberger, <i>Inductive Bible Study</i> (Chapters 9-10)	<i>Inductive Bible Study</i> Chapters Summary
<b>5</b>	INTERPRETATION (PT. 2)	Fuhr, Köstenberger, <i>Inductive Bible Study</i> (Chapters 11-12)	<i>Inductive Bible Study</i> Chapters Summary  Mid Term Exam
<b>6</b>	APPLICATION	Fuhr, Köstenberger, <i>Inductive Bible Study</i> (Chapters 13-14)	<i>Inductive Bible Study</i> Chapters Summary
<b>7</b>	INTERPRETING BIBLICAL GENRES (PT. 1)	Fuhr, Köstenberger, <i>Inductive Bible Study</i> (Chapters 15)	<i>Inductive Bible Study</i> Chapter Summary  Class Development Project
<b>8</b>	INTERPRETING BIBLICAL GENRES (PT. 2)	Hamilton, <i>What is Biblical Theology?</i>	Exegetical Paper
<b>9</b>	HERMENEUTICS AND BIBLICAL THEOLOGY	Hamilton, <i>What is Biblical Theology?</i>	Hamilton Paper  Final Exam