Alabama Course of Study
Huntingdon College
Summer 2020 – July 10-11 and August 7-8
Assignment and Course Requirements

Course: COS 121 – Bible I: Introduction
Instructor: Rev. Robin Wilson
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Opelika, AL 36801
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Please submit this entire assignment stapled on an Alabama Course of Study
Cover Sheet to the instructor listed above. Your pre-work will be due on the first
weekend of the course.

This course introduces biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the inspiration,
formation, and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of
interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture. The importance of the Bible as a
witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity will be
emphasized.

Students will be able to:
1. Articulate the place of scripture in the life of the congregation and the role of
   the pastor in interpretation.
2. Understand the inspiration and formation of the canon and its authority within
   the community of faith.
3. Understand and apply historical, literary, and theological approaches to
   various types of literature in scripture using Genesis, Hosea and Amos,
   Mark, and Philippians.
4. Develop a method of exegesis consistent with the nature and authority of the
   Bible.

All written work should be well written and grammatically correct. Proofread your work
for misspellings, typos, and other avoidable errors. It is often helpful to have someone
else proofread your paper as well. All work must be TYPED and double-spaced, in 12-
pt. font. All work should be gender inclusive when referring to people; in particular,
avoid using the pronoun “he” to reference a generic pastor.

Primary Texts:
- Anderson, Bernhard W. The Unfolding Drama of the Bible. 4th ed. Minneapolis:
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth:
Assignments for First Session

1. **Write** a 2-3 page reflection paper in which you discuss your understanding of the role of the pastor as interpreter of the Bible in the life of a United Methodist congregation. Give examples from your experience about what a congregation might expect from its pastor regarding Biblical knowledge and interpretation.

2. **Read** Fee and Stuart’s *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. **Write** a 5-7 page paper in which you examine four types of Biblical literature covered in their book. Choose two types from the Old Testament and two types from the New Testament. Discuss characteristics of each genre that should be considered for correct interpretation of each particular type of literature.
   Note: you are not examining particular **books** of the Bible or particular passages; you are examining **types** of Biblical literature.

3. **Be prepared** for class discussion of Hayes and Holladay’s *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner’s Handbook*. Here are helpful topics to review before class:
   - Pages 5-16. What factors affect the exegetical process in general? How do these relate to the Bible?
   - Pages 53-71. What is the difference between history **in** the text and history **of** the text? What is meant by “multiple authorship” and “pseudonymous authorship”?
   - Pages 90-100. What do the authors of this book mean by “literary context”? What is “redaction criticism”?

Assignments for Second Session

Assignments for the second session will be given in detail during the first session. Please note that Bernhard Anderson book, *The Unfolding Drama of the Bible*, **DOES NOT HAVE TO BE READ PRIOR TO THE FIRST SESSION.**
PreCourse / MidCourse / PostCourse Work Policy

We all have deadlines that govern our lives. It is crucial that you take seriously your commitment to complete the pre-work assignments by the deadline. Extensions are granted only for extenuating circumstances. Normal pastoral duties do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized. Any extension must be granted by the instructor of the class. For your protection, please keep copies of your pre-work assignments.

- All PreCourse and MidCourse work must be submitted to the professor by the date indicated on the syllabus or assigned by the professor on the first weekend. Late PreCourse/midcourse work will be accepted for two weeks following the due date (but not beyond) with the following penalties:

  1. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted within one week of the due date will receive a **one letter grade deduction**
  2. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted after one week of the due date but within two weeks will receive a **two-letter grade deduction**
  3. **No assignments** will be accepted after two weeks from the due date and a grade of “F” will be given in the course.
  4. In cases where the student has registered late the same policy applies.

- **PostCourse** work may be assigned in some courses. Post course work will be due no later than two weeks after the completion of the second weekend of the course. **No** late submissions will be accepted.

**Grade Determination:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(due at start of first weekend)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee and Stuart Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>(due at start of first weekend)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exegetical analysis</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>(due at start of second weekend)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biblical application project</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(due at start of second weekend)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me.