

**Alabama Course of Study  
Huntingdon College  
Winter 2019 – January 18-19 and February 8-9  
Assignment and Course Requirements**

**Course: COS 121 – Bible I: Introduction**

Instructor: Dr. Robin Wilson

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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*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2006. (ISBN 9780800635602)
- Fee, Gordon D., and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: Fourth Edition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014. (ISBN 9780310517825)

- Hayes, John, and Carl Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. (ISBN 9780664227753)

**Reference Texts (will not be discussed in class but are required for your work):**

- Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Peterson, eds. *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010. (ISBN 978-0687334117)
- Harrelson, Walter J., ed.; *The New Interpreter's Study Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003. (ISBN 978-0687278329)
- Powell, Mark Allan. *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. New York: HarperOne, 2011. (ISBN 9780061469060)

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:

Reflection Paper	15%	(due at start of first weekend)
Fee and Stuart Paper	25%	(due at start of first weekend)
Exegetical analysis	25%	(due at start of second weekend)
Biblical application project	15%	(due at start of second weekend)
Class Participation	20%	

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me.