



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

BI 805: SEMINAR IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

Spring 2012, Due West Campus

Meeting Times: **Thursdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**, beginning **Feb 2**

Professor: Max Rogland

Office Phone: (803) 771-6180 ext. 106	Email: rogland@erskine.edu
Office Fax: (803) 540-2846	Web: www.erskine.edu/seminary
	Address: Erskine Theological Seminary 1500 Lady Street, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 29201

OFFICE HOURS FOR SPRING 2012:

During the Spring 2012 semester my Columbia office hours are 1:30-4:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, but it is always advisable to call or email for an appointment first, just in case I have to be away for some unexpected reason. Other times and locations may be available by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In a seminar format, students analyze various important approaches to and methods of interpretation developed by both the Church and the academy. Each time the seminar is offered, it focuses on a specific topic related to Biblical interpretation. The course involves substantial reading, research, and analysis of primary and secondary sources (using the Biblical languages as appropriate), as well as both oral presentations and written essays. *Required for Th.M. students majoring in Old or New Testament. Elective for other Th.M. students. D.Min. students may take this course as a norms elective. Offered alternate years. Three hours*

SPRING 2012 SEMINAR TOPIC:

The theme for this seminar is "Intertextuality and the Minor Prophets". A variety of topics relevant to this theme will be considered, including the Minor Prophets' use of other Old Testament Scriptures, the use of the Minor Prophets by the New Testament, and the exegetical methods current within Second Temple Judaism and the Greco-Roman world. Participants in this seminar will undertake substantial reading in the secondary literature on these and related topics, and will be expected to engage in the exegesis of relevant Biblical passages in their original languages.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

The purposes and objectives of this class will be achieved through lectures, class discussions, oral presentations and written work. While there will be a lecture component to this class, this class will be taught in a graduate seminar dynamic which seeks to be genuinely collaborative in nature. We will seek for all members of the class, professor and graduate students alike, to be actively engaged in comprehending, evaluating and mastering the materials together.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for service in the Christian Church.” As part of that mission, this seminar seeks to develop the student’s ability to interpret Scripture not only by applying the tools of grammatical-historical exegesis but also by learning to discern and appreciate the phenomenon of Biblical intertextuality or inner-Biblical exegesis. By observing and reflecting upon the way in which the canonical authors employ Old Testament texts, the student’s own interpretative skills are sharpened, resulting in increased competency for studying and applying Scripture in a variety of academic or pastoral tasks.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at:

<http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>

There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD and Amazon) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students’ and professors’ purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

PLEASE NOTE: When ordering a book that has been published in more than one edition, make certain that you acquire the correct one (check the ISBN number when ordering); do not attempt to substitute an older edition of a required textbook.

Fishbane, Michael, *Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1988. ISBN: 978-0-19-826699-0.

Lunde, Jonathan & Kenneth Berding (eds.), *Three Views on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008. ISBN: 978-0310273332

Moyise, Steve, *Paul and Scripture: Studying the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN: 978-0801039249

Moyise, Steve, *Jesus and Scripture: Studying the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8010-3904-1

Shepherd, Michael B., *The Twelve Prophets in the New Testament*. Studies in Biblical Literature 140. Frankfurt am Main/New York: Peter Lang, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-4331-1346-8

Students will also need to bring a Hebrew Bible, Greek New Testament and an English translation of the Bible with them to class (I typically cite the English Standard Version). Additionally, a number of articles will be required for reading and discussion.

RECOMMENDED:

Beale, Greg K. & Don A. Carson (eds.), *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007. ISBN: 978-0801026935

Hays, Richard B., *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993. ISBN: 978-0300054293

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance** – Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions is expected. The vitality of the seminar format depends upon all students having completed the assigned readings and engaging in substantial reflection and critique of the material. Students are expected to arrive on time for class and to remain at each session until it concludes. A student who misses more than 9 hours of class time for the semester will normally be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in extreme cases.

2. **Review presentations** – Each student will be asked to prepare a critical review and interaction with readings assigned by the professor. In class, the student will present an oral version of the review and facilitate a classroom discussion of the assigned work(s). If asked, the student should be prepared to submit a written draft of the review. See below for guidelines on style and formatting for written work.

3. **Research paper** – A major paper of c. 18-20 pages is required for this course and is due one week after the last class session on May 3. The specific topic or passage for the paper will be chosen by the student in consultation with the professor, and should be approved by **March 1**, and a preliminary bibliography of the paper should be submitted by **March 15**.

4. **Oral presentation of research** – Students will make an oral presentation of their research, summarized in a paper of c. 8-10 pages maximum. Another student will prepare a response to the presentation, which will then be followed by classroom discussion. Two copies of the paper must be submitted at least one week in advance of the presentation, preferably two weeks in advance for the benefit of the student who will make a response to the paper. Full documentation and a bibliography must accompany the oral presentation.

5. **Response paper** – Each student will be required to make a response to another's student's research presentation. The response will be 4-5 pages. Full documentation and a bibliography must accompany the response.

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S GRADING SCALE:

100-95	A	85-84	C+	71-70	D-
94-93	A-	83-80	C		
92-91	B+	79-78	C-	69-0	F
90-88	B	77-76	D+		
87-86	B-	75-72	D		

COURSE SCHEDULE:

A detailed schedule of readings will be provided at the first class session. For now, take note of the following important dates:

- Class begins on Thursday, **Feb 2**.
- The last class session is **May 3**, and the research paper is due on **May 10**.

GRADING SCALE/CRITERIA FOR THIS GRADUATE SEMINAR:

In this seminar, grades for papers and presentations will be assigned along the following lines:

A = the paper is essentially publishable, creative and in-depth with almost flawless editing; the presentation held us spellbound.

A- = the paper is of very high quality, needing only some fairly minor changes for publication; the presentation was impressive, with only a few minor disputable points

B+ = you have done the work expected of you; solid work; be proud;

B = acceptable work; solid, but some deficiencies to keep it from B+ status;

B- = acceptable work, but significant improvement needed;

C+ = unacceptable, essentially amounts to a failing grade.

“The play’s the thing,” according to Hamlet; in this seminar, however, “The research paper’s the thing.” The main weight of your course grade rests upon your research paper; if your paper is in the “A/A-” range then normally you can expect your overall course grade to be in that range as well. An exception to this general rule would be if your attendance, oral presentations and/or participation and classroom demeanor are clearly sub-par; these will adversely affect the course grade even if the research paper is excellent. On the other hand, outstanding oral presentations and participation will not raise one’s overall grade into the “A” range if the research paper is in the “B” range.

STYLE AND FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITTEN WORK:

All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). This document is available at:

<http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstruct.htm>

In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements. If you have not already done so, you should consult the seminary’s approved paper on “Writing Theological Papers” by Dr. Fairbairn, which can also be located at the link give above.

Please take note the following additional criteria for evaluating oral and written work:

- Clear statement of the thesis of the paper
- Logical organization and development of the paper
- Conclusions clearly stated and supported
- Strength of Biblical support for the thesis and its development
- Judicious and balanced use of primary and secondary sources
- Depth of insight in the paper
- Originality of content
- Creativity in addressing the thesis and development of the argument
- Correct use of the English language and follows guidelines for written work

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND SEMINARY POLICIES:

For official seminary policies on Course Drop/Add/Withdrawals, Required Textbooks, Language About God and Humanity, Conduct in Theological Discussions, Course Incompletes, Class Attendance, Style and Bibliographic Formatting Requirements, Exegesis Credit for Bible Electives, Chapel Attendance, Portfolio Requirements, and Plagiarism, see the following link:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf

In addition to the information provided there, please note the following:

Taping Class Lectures: If you wish to tape a lecture using your own recording device, you must complete an “Audio Recording Request” form, which can be downloaded from the Seminary website at: <http://www.erskineseminary.org/Academics/PdfDownloads.html>

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Beale, Greg K. (ed.), *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts?* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1994. ISBN: 978-0801010880

Hays, Richard B., *The Conversion of the Imagination: Paul as Interpreter of Israel’s Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. ISBN: 978-0802812629

Juel, Donald, *Messianic Exegesis: Christological Interpretation of the Old Testament in Early Christianity*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1988, ISBN: 978-0800627072

Moyise, Steve & Maarten J. J. Menken (eds.), *The Psalms in the New Testament*. London/Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 2004. ISBN: 978-0567089144

Moyise, Steve & Maarten J. J. Menken (eds.), *The Minor Prophets in the New Testament*. Library of New Testament Studies 377. London/Edinburgh: Continuum/T & T Clark, 2009. ISBN: 978-0567033055

Porter, Stanley (ed.), *Hearing the Old Testament in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006. ISBN: 978-0802828460