



Advancing God's Kingdom by Preparing Competent Christian
Leaders for Spirit-Empowered Life and Ministry



BI5101 Interpreting God's Word

July 5-9, 2021

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3 credit hours

COURSE GOALS

Course Description

This course introduces students to the theory and practice of biblical interpretation. By exploring the genres, historical contexts, and theology of various books of the bible, students will engage in the complex process of interpreting these texts in order to communicate them effectively to a contemporary audience.

Relationship to Horizon's Mission

The course prepares Christian leaders for Spirit-empowered life and ministry by equipping them with the skills necessary for thoughtful sermon and Bible study preparation. This involves an introductory consideration of philosophical and methodological approaches to hermeneutics, as well as the provision of a series of practical exercises that hone specific interpretive skills.

Course Competencies and Learning Outcomes

To demonstrate competency in biblical and theological literary, students will

1. Perform close readings and analysis of different types of biblical passages.
 - *Assessment:* Online Tutorials and Workbook; Exegetical Exercises
2. Recognize the significance of genre for accurate interpretation of biblical texts.
 - *Assessment:* Fee and Stuart textbook reading

3. Summarize and evaluate some basic concepts and approaches to hermeneutics.
 - *Assessment:* Book Review
4. Provide an exegetical analysis and outline of select biblical books with consideration of their distinct genres, theology, and historical contexts.
 - *Assessment:* Online Tutorials and Workbooks, Exegetical Exercises

COURSE WORK

Required Readings

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Fourth Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-310-51782-5

Brown, Jeannine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-8010-2788-8

**While students have the benefit of accessing their textbooks online through the Digital Theological Library, they will not have access to the Digital Theological Library upon graduation. Therefore, we encourage students to purchase select textbooks to build their personal library. For your convenience, Horizon has partnered with Kennedy's Parable to provide textbooks.

Pre-Course Assignments

1. **Book Review.** Review Jeannine Brown's, *Scripture as Communication*. 25%
Instructions for this assignment will be posted in the Lessons section of Populi.
 - Related learning outcome: #3
 - **Assignment Length:** 3-4 pages, 900-1200 words
 - **Due date:** June 19, 2021.
2. **Online Tutorials and Workbook.** Listen to two online tutorials (posted in the Lessons section of Populi) and complete workbook exercises on select biblical books and passages (posted in the Lessons section of Populi). 15%
 - Related learning outcomes: #1, 4
 - **Assignment Length:** ~5-7 pages (point form)
 - **Due date:** June 26, 2021.
3. **Readings from Fee and Stuart.** Read assigned pages of the Fee and Stuart textbook, and indicate in an email to me the percentage of reading you have completed. 10%
 - Related learning outcome: #2
 - **Assignment Length:** n/a.
 - **Due date:** This assignment can be completed before, during, or after the modular week. Final deadline for completion: August 30, 2021

Post-Course Assignments

1. **Exegetical Exercises.** Complete exegetical assignments on select books. 50%
Malachi, Philippians, Revelation
(Detailed instructions for these assignments will be provided in class.)
 - Related learning outcomes: #1, 4
 - **Assignment Length:** ~10-12 pages
 - **Due date:** August 30, 2021.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Secondary Readings
July 5	Introduction and Definitions	Brown, 19-56
	Authors, Texts, and Readers	Fee and Stuart, 21-35
		Brown, 57-78
	Social, Literary, and Historical Context of Malachi	Brown, 189-231
July 6	Malachi (Continued)	
	Prophecy	Fee and Stuart, 187-211
	Which Texts? Scriptural Authority and Canon	
July 7	OT Narrative	Fee and Stuart, 93-111
	Mosaic Law	Fee and Stuart, 168-186
	Analyzing Words and Choosing Translations	Brown, 166-188; Fee and Stuart, 36-56
July 8	Gospels and Parables	Fee and Stuart, 132-167
	NT Letters	Fee and Stuart, 57-92
	Social, Literary, and Historical Context of Philippians	
July 9	Apocalyptic Literature: Revelation	Fee and Stuart, 258-273
	How Do We Live These Texts?	

- Assignments will not be accepted after August 30, 2021.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

General Guidelines for the Submission of Written Work

Formatting Papers

- Papers should be typed, double-spaced and follow the appropriate formatting guidelines (e.g. 1 inch margins).
- Follow the [Horizon Format Guide](#) consistently.
- The length of papers should fall within +/- 10% of the stated length. Papers that fall outside the length guidelines may not be graded and will receive a grade reduction.

Failure to follow these guidelines warrants a grade reduction.

Submitting Your Assignments

Assignments should be submitted via [Populi](#). The resource at this link

<https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/articles/223792507-How-to-submit-work-for->

[assignments](#) explains how to submit assignments on Populi (the link to the video is also available on the info tab of the Populi course page).

Late Assignments and Extensions

All assignments are due when stated by the professor or, if not specified, within 8 weeks after the first day of class. Please contact the professor well in advance if you would like to request an adjustment to any of your due dates. A late penalty will be assessed for all overdue assignments: 1-3 days late, penalty of 10%; 4-6 days late, penalty of 20%. After six days late, an assignment receives a grade of 0.

Grading

Grade	Percentage	GPA
A+	97-100%	4
A	93-96%	4
A-	90-92%	3.7
B+	87-89%	3.3
B	83-86%	3.0
B-	80-82%	2.7
C+	77-79%	2.3
C	73-76%	2.0
C-	70-72%	1.7
D+	67-79%	1.3
D	63-66%	1.0
D-	60-62%	0.7
F	<60%	0

Academic Honesty

Horizon uses the University of Saskatchewan definition of plagiarism described as “the presentation of the work or idea of another in such a way as to give others the impression that it is the work or idea of the presenter. Adequate attribution is required. What is essential is that another person have no doubt which words or research results are the student’s and which are drawn from other sources” (Office of the University Secretary, 2012). Students are expected to give due recognition to sources from which all substantial phrases, sentences or even ideas are drawn. Note also that you may not submit work done in one course to satisfy the requirements of another course (unless both instructors agree beforehand to accept such work). See [here](#) for examples of plagiarism and further guidelines in the College [Student Handbook](#).

Disability Services Information

If you would benefit from learning accommodations due to pre-existing physical or mental health conditions or learning disabilities, contact the Academic or Student Life departments at the beginning of the course. Horizon will work to meet your learning and/or physical needs where possible. If any conditions arise during the course that you wish to disclose, please contact us as soon as possible. In all cases you will need to provide current [documentation](#) of the disability or condition you wish to disclose. Horizon takes appropriate care to ensure confidentiality about any such disclosures. For more information, contact Bob Williamson, Dean of Students, at bwilliamson@horizon.edu; Heather Wood, Associate Dean of Students, at hwood@horizon.edu; or Leanne Bellamy, Academic Coach, at lbellamy@horizon.edu.

Class Attendance

Students should attend all classes in order to optimize their learning experience. In the case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, students may miss one day of a module course or three days of class in a term or semester course without academic penalty. A student must be present for the full duration of a class period in order to be registered as present for the class. Students who are absent for more than the number of classes stated above will automatically fail the course. Students wishing to be exempted from this policy due to extenuating circumstances may make an academic appeal, where they will need to document and verify those circumstances.

Campus Health Policy

While on campus, please maintain 2 metres of physical distance between yourself and others. Do not come on campus if you are experiencing symptoms (even if they are mild) of fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, runny nose, or a loss of your sense of taste or smell. If you have any of these symptoms, do not return to campus until advised by Public Health. You should self-isolate and contact HealthLine 811 for advice on whether you should be tested for COVID-19. This will help keep others safe and possibly spare them from self-isolation and testing. While you are in self-isolation, you may attend class online. The link to access your class is posted on the course page on Populi, under the Syllabus tab, under Links on the right side of the page.

Live-Streaming Etiquette

If attending class online via live-stream, keep your camera on and stay present and attentive throughout the class session. Access your class with a computer (preferably) or tablet, not a cell phone. Arrive to class on time, and dress as you would if you were attending class on campus. Join the class from a quiet space with minimal background noise, and mute your microphone until you wish to speak to the class.

Use of Technology

Horizon encourages the use of electronic devices in the classroom to enhance learning. Careful consideration must be given to privacy issues, copyrighted materials, and the general care and concern for others. Please respect the following classroom policies:

- Please use online access for course learning only. This is a matter of respect for the instructor's teaching, your own learning, and fellow students who may be distracted by other uses.
- Students should secure permission from the instructor to record any teaching material. This includes PowerPoint slides, white board illustrations, notes, and any form of audio or video.
- Student feedback is a valuable input for course improvements. Please resolve any classroom grievance about the instructor or course with the instructor personally, through the Horizon College and Seminary grievance procedures, or the Populi-based course evaluations. It is inappropriate to air classroom grievances on a social media platform.
- When instructors use recording mechanisms in the classroom, recorded materials will be used for the sole purpose of instruction and cannot be released to any social media outlet without the written consent of the students whose images have been recorded.
- In general, it is not acceptable to share photographs or videos of students in the classroom setting without permission from those whose images appear in such media.

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