

**New Testament**  
**NT508: Biblical Hermeneutics**

New Geneva Theological Seminary – Fredericksburg Extension  
Robert Rumbaugh, M. Div.

***Syllabus***

Jan 8, 2018 – April 9, 2018

**Course Description:**

This is an introduction to the principles of biblical interpretation, including general and special hermeneutics, basic exegetical methods and tools, and current issues in the field of hermeneutics.

**Objective:**

The specific objectives of this course relate to character, skills, and knowledge

Regarding Character:

- A life that reflects a love and devotion for the Word of God
- A growing love and devotion for the God who gave us His word
- A greater appreciation for the need to “handle accurately” God’s Word
- A growing commitment to Reformed principles of interpretation
- A desire always to be faithful to Scripture by not imposing personal preferences at the expense of proper interpretation
- A concern for the way Scripture is being mishandled and misused

Regarding Skills:

- An ability to discern truth from error in interpretations of Scripture
- An understanding of how to interpret various genre of Scripture such as narrative, prophecy, parable, wisdom literature, OT law, etc.
- An ability to apply a method of interpretation
- A recognition of the gap historically, linguistically, culturally, geographically, etc., and the need to interpret and apply Scripture to today’s context
- An ability to detect false allegorical interpretations
- A recognition of major current issues in interpretation and an ability to discern false influences

Regarding Knowledge:

An understanding of

- How the Scriptures interpret themselves
- The analogy of faith
- The unity of Scripture and how all Scripture reveals Christ
- The perspicuity of Scripture
- A thorough understanding of the guidelines for interpretation
- An understanding of contemporary trends and issues in hermeneutics

### **Grading and Procedure:**

- 30% : Reading quizzes. Reading assignments are to be completed prior to the date assigned. In order to prepare for these quizzes, students may bring one page of notes that they personally have taken on that day's assigned readings to use during the quiz.
- 25% : Mid-Term Exam
- 20% : Reflection Paper. Students will write a short paper (5-7 pages) using hermeneutical principles to respond to a contemporary cultural issue (i.e. sexual immorality, abortion, evolution, etc.)
- 25% : Final Exam.

### **Reading:**

- *Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics*, Louis Berkhof, Baker Book House 1950
- *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics*, Walter C. Kaiser & Moises Silva, Zondervan 2007

### **Schedule:**

<b>Jan 8</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Introduction to Hermeneutics</b> Read <i>PBH</i> pg. 11-14; Read <i>IBH</i> pg. 15-48
<b>Jan 15</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>History of Hermeneutics</b> Read <i>PBH</i> pg 14-39; Read <i>IBH</i> pg. 255-274
<b>Jan 22</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>The Proper Conception of the Bible</b> Read <i>PBH</i> pg. 40-66; Read <i>IBH</i> pg. 67-82; 95-106
<b>Jan 29</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Grammatical Interpretation</b> Read <i>PBH</i> pg. 67-112
<b>Feb 5</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Literary Genres – Narrative, Poetry, Wisdom</b> Read <i>IBH</i> pg 121-156
<b>Feb 12</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Literary Genres – Gospels, Epistles, Prophecy</b> Read <i>IBH</i> pg. 157-209
<b>Feb 19</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
<b>Feb 26</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Historical Interpretation</b> Read <i>PBH</i> pg. 113-132; Read <i>IBH</i> pg. 107-120
<b>Mar 5</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Theological Interpretation</b> Read <i>PBH</i> pg 133-166; Read <i>IBH</i> pg. 241-254
<b>Mar 12</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Preaching Christ in all of Scriptures</b> No reading assignment
<b>Mar 19</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Contemporary Approaches to Hermeneutics</b> Read <i>IBH</i> pg. 275-294
<b>Mar 26</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>The Case for Calvinistic Hermeneutics</b> Read <i>IBH</i> pg. 295-320
<b>Apr 2</b> , 6 pm - 7:50 pm	<b>Final Exam – Reflection Paper due</b>