

COS 111, Summer Intensive, August 9-20, 2010
Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Rev. Susan J. Bowman, Instructor
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Local Pastor/student will use the course texts to research and interpret assigned biblical texts, showing ability to use ancient context to relate to current context in an authentic way. An effort will be made to differentiate between this course and other COS classes in Bible.

Focus will be on key biblical events and theological concepts contained in both the Hebrew and Christian Testaments which inform tradition and faith.

Attention will be paid to the formation of the biblical canon.

The student will demonstrate awareness of the force of his or her biblical interpretation on congregational belief and life and will be able to demonstrate the importance of biblical tradition along with experiential faith, as well as the importance of relying on sound biblical tradition rather than personal opinion. The Wesleyan four point test for authenticity will be used in class.

The student will also show awareness of the ways in which their own appointed setting may influence what and how they present their faith in preaching, Bible study, etc.

Accepted basic vocabulary used by the academy of biblical scholars will be presented and used.

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study will provide a class model for in-depth transformative biblical study for students and a resource for parishes. The class will engage certain key scriptures from the Hebrew and Christian Testaments using the format suggested by this study.

There will be lectures on key concepts, use of reference resources, lectionary.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Local pastors/students will experience the scholarly interpretation of biblical texts and become familiar with ways to access this information on their own.
- Students will see and be able to access information about the historical context of the scriptures.
- Students will show ability to link the ancient context to the present in faithful ways in their preaching and teaching.
- Students will be able to discern and “sift” biblical theologies implied and stated by popular culture’s media preachers, the church growth movement, printed devotional materials and Bible study curriculum, plus other Christian claims in our culture. Class members should be able to see whether these are faithful to biblical scholarship and to a holistic view of scripture. (Note: this does not mean that all have to believe alike, nor must the student’s theology match the instructor’s.)
- The student will come to appreciate the influence of one’s own biblical theology, lifestyle and witness as a primary means of pastoral interpretation of the Bible.
- The student will appreciate the ways in which differences between denominations and among their members may have roots in biblical interpretation, informed and uninformed. (e.g. know of and the reasons behind *The United Methodist Discipline* rule on use of evangelists in the UMC.)

REQUIRED TEXTS

THE HOLY BIBLE—standard text will be NSRV. Other translations may be used for comparison and enrichment.

References (not to be read in full before class) **for this course and for a permanent library:**

1. Walter J. Harrelson, ed.: *The New Interpreter’s Study Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2003; ISBN 0687278325)
2. Paul J. Achtemeier: *Harper Collins Bible Dictionary* (Harper San Francisco, 1996; ISBN 0060600373)

Specific to this course: (to be read pre-class)

3. Walter Brueggeman: *The Bible Makes Sense* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993; ISBN 086716558)

4. Robert Darden: *Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples* (Abingdon Press, 2006; ISBN 0687493951)

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- Bibles brought to class.
- Acquiring all texts, having them available for class. Before the first sessions, reading #3 & #4 texts listed above. The reference texts should be browsed for format.
- Full-time class attendance, faithful preparation and participation. To receive credit student must be present for no less than 80% of the time. Any absence should be for emergencies. The instructor should be informed of the reason for absence in advance if possible.
- All assignments are to be prepared by the student, not copied from any other source, including the Web. Having others prepare work and/or copying others' work will be cause for failure.
- All assignments prepared outside of class time are to be typed and proof-read. Single or double-space is acceptable. Names and page numbers should be on each page. No extensions will be granted. The instructor will make marginal comments and return work to the student.
- New this year: letter grades are mandated by Nashville. An A will be given only for outstanding work which is performed at seminary level. There are no incompletes. Poor, shoddy, or irresponsible work will receive a low grade.

ASSIGNMENT TO BRING TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS (to be shared and turned in):

- A statement of your personal experience of Bible study throughout your life: when, how much, where, who led it? What were you taught about the Bible? What do you believe about the Bible as a whole? Include a statement of your belief about use of the "Old" Testament in preaching and teaching.
- Your expectations for growth in interpretation of Scripture as a pastoral leader during this course.

BETWEEN-WEEKS ASSIGNMENT (this will be discussed further)

There will be an interpretative paper assigned between the first and second weeks involving your biblical interpretive analysis of two TV preachers, (not Bible study leaders) showing ability to discern the implications of what they

are teaching and preaching, and likewise, not saying but implying either intentionally or unintentionally. In other words, what is the listener likely to take away as truth claim? Is the preacher preaching "to the choir?" Or to pre-Christians?

IN CLASS

Using our Bibles and references, we will be researching some key historical biblical events and the ways these formed the people and the faith, such as the Creation, the Exodus, Covenant, Sin, Atonement, Prophecy, Right Living, Conversion, Freedom, Grace, as well as Paul's letters and their theology and context. Overnight you may be asked to do some biblical reading as preparation for class or to lead morning devotions.

We will discuss ways your discoveries may change the way that you teach and preach from these texts

Once you have enrolled in the course, , send me an e-mail telling me a little about you and where you are based, so that I may know my student body better as we begin. This is required.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's district superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.



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 COS 111

Pastor as Interpreter of the Bible

Rev. Susan J. Bowman

Summer Intensive 2010

			Retail Price	Disc.	Clergy Price
Required Books					
_____	<i>Harper Collins Bible Dictionary (Revised edition)</i>	Achtemeier	47.95	20%	38.36
_____	<i>The Bible Makes Sense</i>	Brueggemann	10.95	20%	8.76
_____	<i>Reluctant Prophets and Clueless Disciples</i>	Darden	28.00	20%	22.40
_____	<i>The New Interpreter's Study Bible</i>	Hardbound	48.00	40%	28.80
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_____	<i>The New Interpreter's Study Bible</i>	Black Leather	94.00	40%	56.40
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New Interpreters' Study Bible and all New Interpreters' titles are 40% off through April 30, 2010

ORDERING INFORMATION

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Prices and discount status are always subject to change
Shipping Charges are added unless purchase is picked up at the store.