

Ohio NorthEast School of Theology

How to Understand the Bible (Biblical Hermeneutics) – 1.5 Hours

Spring, 2023

Tuesdays, April 11 – June 27, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

As much as possible classes will be at Steel Valley Association Office

All classes will be available on Zoom

Dr. Randy Langham

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course designed to further the student's understanding of principles related to studying the Bible and to develop his or her skills in interpreting Scripture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Appropriately follow basic steps of drawing out biblical principles.
2. Recognize the main literary genres found in the Bible and understand how the distinctive features of each genre affect interpretation.
3. Appropriately apply Scripture passages in modern ministry contexts.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

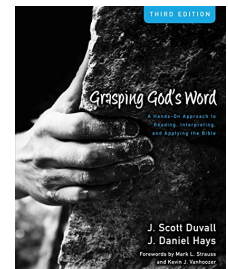
J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

NOTE: **not** the 2nd or 4th editions. We will use the 3rd edition.

You do not have to buy the 3rd edition, but that is the one we will use.

Each edition has a different picture on the cover. This is the 3rd →

Inexpensive copies can be obtained as an ebook or in hardcover at a variety of locations (*Thriftbooks.com*, *BetterWorldBooks.com*, *AbeBooks.com*, etc. *BookFinder.com* can speed your searching.)



Randy Langham, *Standing For God's Ideal: Remaining True to the Marriage Vows*, Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2019.

The only inexpensive version is the Kindle ebook available on amazon.com.

SCHEDULE

Week	Topic in Class	Reading assignments after class
1	Bible translations and study tools	D&H, chapter 1
2	The Journey	D&H, chapter 2, RL, chapters 1-2
3	Sentences	D&H, chapter 3
4	Paragraphs and Disclosures	D&H, chapters 4-5
5	Microscopic and Macroscopic	RL, chapter 3
6	Historical and cultural contexts	D&H, chapter 6; RL chapter 4-5
7	Literary context	D&H, chapter 8
8	Word studies	D&H, chapter 9
9	Meaning	D&H, chapters 10-11; RL, chapter 8
10	Role of the Spirit	D&H, chapter 12
11	Application	D&H, chapter 13; RL, chapter 6
12	Conclusion and Summary	

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Weekly preparation (reading selected chapters and answering selected questions) and class participation. 20% of course grade.
2. Research papers. Two research papers (at least 500 words each) will require you to practice particular exegetical skills and/or demonstrate your ability to think through hermeneutical issues. Each paper will be 40% of course grade.
 - a. The first paper will be on Philippians 2:1-4 and will be due before 6 pm on Week 7. This paper will utilize topics from weeks 1-6.
 - b. The second paper will be on Acts 16:22-30 and will be due Week 12. This paper will utilize topics from all previous weeks, especially weeks 7-12.

CONDUCT

Punctuality shows respect for the times of others. Anyone absent or late needs to communicate to the instructor ahead of time.

Encouragement esteems others more than oneself. One of the best ways to learn any material is to learn it well enough to help others learn it.

Honesty in writing papers will produce completely original material. Plagiarism, the copying of material produced by others, will not be permitted in this class. Any copying of a quote should be referenced properly. Plagiarism will result in an automatic failure in the class.

Deference is the removal of distractions so as not to be a stumblingblock to others. Therefore, eating food will not be permitted during class times, unless you are on Zoom and you are able to adjust the camera so that your eating is not seen.