

**Alabama Course of Study
Birmingham-Southern College
Spring 2010 - March 26-27; April 23-24
Assignments and Class Requirements**

Course: Pastor as Interpreter of the Bible (111)
Instructors: Revs. Jeff and Robin Wilson
Address: 8512 Olde Gate
Montgomery, AL 36116
Phone: 334-272-6152
Email: jeff@aldersgateumc.org

Please submit this entire assignment stapled on an Alabama Course of Study Cover Sheet to the instructor listed above. Your pre-work will be due on the first weekend of the course.

COS 111 - Pastor As Interpreter of the Bible

Introduction to the role of the United Methodist pastor in Biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the formation and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of Scripture. The importance of the Bible as a witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity is illustrated from a survey of representative Biblical materials (focus on Genesis, Hosea, Amos, Mark, and Philipians).

Objectives:

1. Exploration of the role of the pastor as interpreter of the Bible in the life of the congregation.
2. Understanding of the formation of the canon and its function within the community of faith, past and present.
3. Critical introduction to historical, literary, and theological approaches to Scripture while keeping in mind the experimental dimension of Biblical interpretation.
4. Development of an exegetical methodology consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible.
5. Survey of representative materials from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament as identified in the course description.
6. Development of ability to understand what was meant historically and to interpret what it means today.

All written work should be well written and grammatically correct. Proofread your work for misspellings, typos, and other avoidable errors. It is often helpful to have someone else proofread your paper as well. All work must be TYPED and double-spaced. All work should be gender inclusive when referring to people; in particular, avoid using the pronoun "he" to reference a generic pastor.

Books are available from Amazon.com and Christianbook.com as well as the Candler Cokesbury Bookstore (404-727-6336) or Birmingham Cokesbury Bookstore (205-822-5190). Used books are available through Amazon.com at a very reasonable price.

Textbooks:

Brueggeman, Walter. *The Bible Makes Sense*. (Saint Anthony Messenger Press, 2003.) ISBN: 0867165588.

Fee, Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart. *How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth (Third Edition)*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003) ISBN: 0310246040.

Assignments for First Session

1. Write a 2-3 page reflection paper in which you discuss your understanding of the role of the pastor as interpreter of the Bible in the life of a United Methodist congregation. Give examples from your experience about what a congregation might expect from its pastor regarding Biblical knowledge and interpretation.

2. Read Fee and Stuart's *How To Read The Bible For All Its Worth*. Write a 5-7 page paper in which you examine four types of Biblical literature covered in their book. Choose two types from the Old Testament and two types from the New Testament. Discuss characteristics of each genre that should be considered for correct interpretation of each particular type of literature.

Note: you are not examining particular books of the Bible or particular passages; you are examining types of Biblical literature.

Assignments for Second Session

Assignments for the second session will be given in detail during the first session. Please note that Brueggeman's book **DOES NOT HAVE TO BE READ PRIOR TO THE FIRST SESSION.**

Grade Determination:

Reflection Paper	15%
First Paper	25%
Exegetical analysis	25%
Biblical application project	15%
Class Participation	20%

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail us, using the above information.