

#912 Biblical Interpretation  
Western Reformed Seminary  
John A. Battle, Th.D.  
Fall 2014

## COURSE INFORMATION

### **Course goals**

This course is designed to acquaint you with the importance of biblical interpretation as a discipline, with the history of biblical interpretation in the church, with several important errors in interpretative methods, and with basic principles used to accurately interpret the Bible. You will, in addition to surveying this subject through lectures and notes, read two books on this subject and complete a special assignment in a particular area of study. At the end of the course you should be able to discern the most common errors in interpretation as they occur, and to recognize proper interpretation. You know about the tools necessary to carry out detailed, accurate interpretation of the Word of God, leading to a lifetime of profitable Bible study and teaching.

### **Required reading**

These two books are required to be read by the dates given on the course schedule.

- Louis Berkhof, *Principles of Biblical Interpretation*
- D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*

### **Special assignment**

Choose one of the following for a special assignment. This special assignment is due as noted on the class schedule.

- **Book reading and review**

Select and read a scholarly book in the area of hermeneutics or exegesis. Write a review article on the book of about 300 words, which would be suitable for publication in a theological journal.

- **Analysis paper**

Select a passage of Scripture. Write a paper of about 1500 words analyzing how various standard interpreters have interpreted that passage in different ways. Provide a critique, and reasons for the view you favor. The paper should be typed in standard format.

- **Article response**

Write an article critiquing another article written in a scholarly journal concerning hermeneutics or exegesis. Your article should be about 1000 words in length. Use standard formatting.

- **Subject overview**

Produce an annotated outline of Louis Berkhof, *Principles of Interpretation*, organized into five to ten sections. This outline should have enough material included to provide the basis for a series of five to ten lectures on this subject. Include additional material in areas in which you would supplement Berkhof (especially if he presents a different viewpoint than you would have).

## ***Examinations***

The midterm (Study Questions #1-35) and final (Study Questions #36-61) examinations will be based on our class lectures and notes. You may use a Bible during these examinations. Dates are shown on the course schedule.

## ***Grading***

Reading	30%
Special Assignment	15%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%
Class attendance and participation	15%

## **Course schedule**

Sept.	2	Introduction to course
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	
Oct.	7	
	14	Berkhof due
	21	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
	28	
Nov.	4	
	11	(Veterans' Day vacation)
	18	
	25	Special assignment due
Dec.	2	Carson due
	9	FINAL EXAMINATION