

# DICKERSON-GREEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## I. BIM 700 Biblical Interpretation for Effective Church Ministry

II. Professor/Instructor

Dickerson-Green Theological  
Seminary – Waverly Building

## III. Course Name and Description

BIM 700 Biblical Interpretation for Effective Church Ministry

This course is designed to equip future church leaders, pastors, and ministry workers with the essential skills and methodologies for interpreting the Bible. Participants will learn to accurately understand, apply, and communicate the truths of Scripture in various ministry contexts. The course emphasizes the importance of historical, cultural, and literary contexts in hermeneutics, while also encouraging personal spiritual formation through engagement with biblical texts.

## IV. Course Policies

### Class Attendance

Attendance for an online course is measured by participation in, completion of and submission of online course assignments as assigned/outlined in the course syllabus, schedule and on the course online page. Absence from this online course is determined by the lack of discussion forum post and assignment submissions. Absence from 1 week of an online course is considered excessive, whether excused or unexcused. Please note that merely logging onto the online learning platform (eLearning) is not synonymous with participation. If you do not participate in discussion forums and submit weekly assignments, you will be counted as absent from the course. For absences that are considered excessive, your instructor may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs, who will research the reasons for said absences and will move forward with scheduling a meeting with you and the appropriate unit head. In some instances, excessive absences will be addressed as combined effort between Vice President of Student Affairs, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Division Dean and/or the Department Chair.

Other pertinent policies that affect class attendance, conduct and academic performance can be found in the university's Student Handbook at <http://www.allenuniversity.edu/student-handbook/>

- Class Attendance and Excused Absences-p. 10
- Plagiarism-p. 38
- Student Conduct to include disruptive behavior-p. 36-39
- Dress Code- p. 9
- Satisfactory Academic Progress- p.16-17
- Provisions for Disabled or Special Need Students-p. 19-20

**Electronic Usage Policy:** Students are required to have access to a computer in order to complete the requirements of this course. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and maintain computer access throughout the course.

**Online Late Assignment Policy:** Due to the nature of online course design and setup, students are provided assignments and instructions in advance of due dates. This eliminates the need for makeups. However, should a student have circumstances that prohibits the completion of their online coursework,

students have up to 2 days beyond the due date to present that late work. The late submission will be subjected to a 10 percent deduction for each week it is late. This policy is to provide for fair grading and allow for instructor feedback for all assignments. NO assignments will be graded beyond one week late and subsequently a grade of 0 will be recorded.

## VI. Course Units

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course:

- To grasp the historical and literary contexts of biblical texts
- To apply hermeneutical principles to ensure accurate interpretation
- To foster an integrative approach, combining scholarly rigor with devotional practice
- To enhance the capacity to teach and preach the Bible effectively in a church setting
- To cultivate the application of biblical truths in pastoral care and counseling

### Methodology

The course will utilize a combination of lectures, group discussions, case studies, and contemplative/reflective practical exercises. Students will engage in weekly exegesis assignments and participate in peer review sessions to refine their interpretative skills.

### Course Schedule

| Week | Module                    | Readings and Viewings                             | Assessment                                     |
|------|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1    | Hermeneutical Foundations | Intro to Hermeneutics                             | Reflection paper on hermeneutical approach     |
| 2    | Hermeneutical Foundations | Historical development of biblical interpretation | Quiz on historical interpretation              |
| 3    | Hermeneutical Foundations | Presuppositions in reading the Bible              | Class discussion                               |
| 4    | Contextual Analysis       | Understanding historical-cultural contexts        | Group presentation on cultural context         |
| 5    | Contextual Analysis       | Exploring literary and genre considerations       | Written analysis of biblical genre             |
| 6    | Contextual Analysis       | Role of archaeology                               | Research assignment on archaeological findings |
| 7    | Exegetical Practices      | Textual criticism and manuscript evidence         | Essay on textual criticism                     |
| 8    | Exegetical Practices      | Analyzing biblical languages                      | Language analysis exercise                     |
| 9    | Exegetical Practices      | Utilizing commentaries and exegesis tools         | Exegesis of a selected passage                 |
| 10   | Theological Synthesis     | Biblical theology and its coherence               | Mid-term exam                                  |
| 11   | Theological Synthesis     | Systematic theology in biblical interpretation    | Presentation on systematic theology            |

| Week | Module                           | Readings and Viewings           | Assessment                   |
|------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12   | Theological Synthesis            | Ethics and social implications  | Case study analysis          |
| 13   | Preaching and Teaching the Bible | Homiletics and art of preaching | Preaching practicum          |
| 14   | Pastoral Application             | Biblical counseling principles  | Role-play counseling session |
| 15   | Integration and Practice         | Final project preparation       | Final project submission     |

## Final Assessment and Course Grading Scale

### 1. Final Reflection Paper (70 Points)

#### Description:

The final reflection paper is a comprehensive essay where students will synthesize their learning from the course, reflecting on the various modules covered throughout the semester. This paper should demonstrate a deep understanding of the course material, personal insights gained, and the application of these learnings in a ministry context.

#### Requirements:

Length: 8-10 pages, double-spaced

Format: APA or MLA format, including citations from course readings

#### Content:

Discuss key learnings from each module

Reflect on personal growth and understanding developed through the course

Illustrate how these insights can be applied in a practical ministry setting

Include specific examples from course materials, lectures, and personal experiences

#### Assessment Criteria:

- Depth of understanding (30 Points): Demonstrates a thorough grasp of course concepts and their interconnections.
- Reflection and Insight (20 Points): Provides thoughtful personal reflections, showing how the learnings impacted their perspective on ministry.
- Application (20 Points): Effectively discusses the practical application of course concepts in real-world ministry settings.
- 2. Final Test (30 Points)

#### Description:

The final test will consist of a series of questions covering key topics from the course. This test is designed to assess students' retention of course content and their ability to articulate and apply key concepts and theories.

#### Format:

Multiple Choice Questions (10 Points): Covering key concepts and theories from all course modules.

Short Answer Questions (10 Points): In-depth questions requiring concise, structured responses.

Case Study Analysis (10 Points): Application of course concepts to a hypothetical ministry scenario.

#### Assessment Criteria:

Accuracy and Completeness (10 Points): Correctly answers factual and conceptual questions.

Analytical Skills (10 Points): Demonstrates the ability to analyze and interpret key concepts.

Application and Reasoning (10 Points): Effectively applies course material to specific scenarios or case studies.

#### Submission Instructions:

The final reflection paper must be submitted via the course management system by the specified deadline.

The final test will be conducted in a supervised environment, either in-person or online, as per the course guidelines.

#### Grading Scale:

A: 90-100 Points

B: 80-89 Points

C: 70-79 Points

D: 60-69 Points

F: Below 60 Points

#### **Course Textbook**

Course Textbook with instructions on chapter readings are sent in a separate email.

#### **VII. Course Reading, Listening, and/or Videos**

Additional course content is provided by the instructor. These supplemental resources will be posted on eLearning. It is the responsibility of students to keep up with any readings that they miss. It is imperative that students complete work outside of the class. Students are expected to follow the syllabus and to begin the required readings before class. Readings for the week should be completed by the end of that week. Lecture and reading material supplement one another.

Students are responsible for all material covered in the required readings. Please refer to course schedule unless otherwise stated.