1. Course Description

The course aims at providing students with an introduction to biblical interpretation organized around four areas: Biblical Theology, Hermeneutics, the History of Biblical Interpretation, and Exegesis. The course will begin with an overview of various models for interpreting the unity of the two testaments (Biblical Theology), then engage in a conversation with the history of biblical interpretation to illumine hermeneutical issues associated with the place of authorial intention, the role of the text, and the place of the reader (Hermeneutics/History of Interpretation). Special emphasis will be placed upon the nature of the relationship between authorial intention, providence, and figural readings of Scripture. The middle and final sections of the course will discuss the study of biblical words and texts, the place of literary genre, and the NT use of the OT in the dual contexts provided by Israel’s scriptures and late second Temple Judaism. Five to six case studies of various biblical texts drawn from both testaments will provide opportunities to illuminate these issues in the concrete context of exegesis and interpretation (Exegesis). Course workload will be comprised of five homework assignments, one book review, and a short paper (for specifics on the requirements, consult section 4 of this syllabus on Course Requirements and Grading).

2. Course Objectives

The general set of outcomes Trinity desires for each of our graduates includes the following:

1. The student will recognize and identify the biblical theology evident in the course work.

2. The student will be able to articulate an Anglican understanding of biblical, historical, systematic, and pastoral theology.

3. The student will be able to effectively communicate the Christian message to a diversity of people in order to advance the mission of God.

4. The student will be prepared to effectively lead in a variety of Christian communities.

BI500 is an entry level course designed to introduce students to biblical theology, biblical history, and biblical interpretation. As such, it presupposes an Anglican understanding of the
Bible by focusing upon the unity (or ‘non-repugnancy’) of Scripture (cf. Article XX of *XXXIX Articles of Religion*). The course also assumes that an understanding of the Bible’s coherence is an obvious pre-requisite for communicating the Christian message and offering effective Christian leadership in God’s church. More specifically, the course aims at the following objectives:

1. To introduce students to a two-testament approach to biblical theology and the distinctive contribution each testament makes to our understanding of the Bible as Christian scripture.

2. To facilitate the development of interpretive skills for reading Scripture.

3. **Course Texts**

   **Required**

   An English version of the Bible

   For study purposes I recommend one of the more literal translations such as the English Standard Version, New American Standard Bible, or the Revised Standard Version. The New Revised Standard Version and the New International Version are also adequate, though less preferable.


4. **Course Requirements and Grading**

   The online lectures have been uploaded to Google Classroom. If you wish to download them, it is generally better if you use Google Chrome browser to do so. You can download them using Firefox, but in order to do so, you have to go through a few steps (this sometimes happens using Chrome as well). Initially, you will get an error message. However, if you open up a new tab or new window, then try downloading, you should be able to do so. Please contact Russ Warren (rwarren@tsm.edu) if you have any technical problems.
a) Grading

Five homework assignments......................60%
Sanctified Vision review..........................20%
Drama of Scripture paper.........................20%

b) Requirements for the book review (Sanctified Vision)

Your review should be between 6-10 pages double-spaced. About one-half to two-thirds of your paper should be devoted to summary of the book’s content. The other one-half to one-third should focus upon responding to the following questions:

Do you think that Reno and O’Keefe provide persuasive arguments for taking seriously the early fathers’ approach to biblical interpretation in our day? Why or why not?

Reno and O’Keefe state that “the text is the subject matter” on page 13, and also make comments that are similar to this statement in other contexts in the book (cf. for example the comments on pages 27-28, 30, and 116, to name but a few). What do they mean by this, and what issues (if any) are they trying to address in modern biblical exegesis when they make such a statement?

How might Reno and O’Keefe respond to Walter Kaiser’s view of allegory, as articulated by Kaiser in Kaiser & Silva, Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics?

You should be aware that you are not required to sign off on everything Reno and O’Keefe have to say about patristic exegesis. However, if and when you feel compelled to express disagreements with them, I will expect you to give reasonable arguments in support of your objections. A ‘reasonable argument’ or objection is one that is based upon a careful reading of what the book actually teaches, and not a misrepresentation or short-sighted reading that fails to do justice to what the book as a whole has to say about a particular issue.

c) Requirements for the paper (The Drama of Scripture)

The Drama of Scripture offers a story-shaped approach to Biblical Theology by providing an overview of the Bible’s narrative movement in six acts. Using this framework as a large-scale map to help orient your own approach, your assignment will be to devise a means of helping people gain a sense of the main features of the narrative movement of both testaments in terms of these six acts.

Imagine that you have been asked to present the story of Scripture in an adult Sunday School class, and that you have been given 30 to 45 minutes to do so. Write a paper between 6 to 10 pages (double-spaced) that moves through the six acts described in The Drama of Scripture. Your paper should be written in a style that is appropriate to an oral delivery, rather than the style you would adopt for a formal, academic paper.
I am not looking for a simple restatement of the content provided in the book, but for your own way of stating that content. Make sure your presentation covers all the six acts, and that you use at least one illustration in each of the six acts in order to make it easier for your audience to understand. In making use of illustrations, students are free to draw upon whatever resources and/or formats they find useful for supporting their presentation.

Finally, your paper should also take care to bring out the Old Testament’s character as Christian scripture. In the schema presented by Bartholomew and Green, the first 3 acts (creation, fall, Israel) comprise what we now call the Old Testament. Be sure to address how these 3 acts bear witness to the person and work of Jesus Christ the eternal Word of God in a time of promise, prior to his incarnation in the flesh. Your grade will depend upon the effectiveness of your communication, your pedagogical skills, as well as your ability to set forth the Christian character of both testaments.

NOTE WELL: Incompletes must be filed by 5 p.m. (Eastern) on May 10, 2019, which includes submitting a form and paying a fee. Incompletes are usually granted only for unforeseeable, critical reasons, not for time management difficulties. For those who do take an Incomplete, the deadline set by the registrar for completing an incomplete is absolute except in cases of medical emergency or family bereavement.

TSM Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an act of “literary theft,” in which the work of another is misrepresented as the original work of the student. This may be done intentionally or unintentionally. The policy on plagiarism is strictly enforced. Please see page 95 of the Academic Catalogue.

5. Course Schedule

Note: All reading assignments should be completed by the beginning of the next class following the day they are listed in the syllabus. For example, the reading for Stephen Fowl assigned for Lecture 1 should be completed by the following week, before listening to Lecture 2.

Lecture 1 Syllabus overview
What is Biblical Theology?

Readings: 1) Stephen Fowl, Theological Interpretation (88 pp.)

Lecture 2 Theological Interpretation
Fowl: Contexts and Problems in Biblical Theology

Readings: 1) Kaiser & Silva, 67-81

Lecture 3 A canonical approach to Biblical Theology
Alternative models: strengths and weaknesses
Readings: 1) Kaiser & Silva, 257-272  
2) Yarchin, History of Biblical Interpretation, 31-110  
3) Muller, *Post-Reformation Dogmatics* II, 30-37 (online pdf).

*Homework #1* (posted online)

Lecture 4  The locus of meaning: text, author, reader (I)  
Premodern approaches (Early church)

2) Yarchin, History of Biblical Interpretation, 171-306

Lecture 5  The locus of meaning: text, author, reader (II)  
Premodern to early modern approaches (Reformation)

2) Yarchin, History of Biblical Interpretation, 307-429

Lecture 6  The locus of meaning: text, author, reader (III)  
Modern and Postmodern approaches


*Homework #2* (posted online)

Lecture 7  How to study words  
Fallacies  
Tools

Readings: 1) McCartney & Clayton, 198 – 201 (online pdf)  
2) Read through the book of Judges (2x)

*Homework #3* (posted online)

Lecture 8  How to study texts  
Case Study: Judges 11

Reading: 1) Kaiser & Silva, 123-154  
2) Read Gen. 9:18-29  
3) Read Prov. 8:22-31

Lecture 9  Literary analysis of OT genres  
Narrative  
Poetry & Wisdom
Reading: 1) Kaiser & Silva, 157-188

Lecture 10    Literary analysis of NT genres
              Gospels
              Epistles

Reading: 1) Kaiser & Silva, 95-105
2) Read Collett, “Reading Forward” (online pdf)
3) Read Matthew 2 and Hosea 11.

Homework #4 (posted online)

Lecture 11    The NT use of the OT (I)
              Case study: Matt 2:15 and Hos. 11:1
              Authorial intention, providence, and Christology

Reading: 1) Peter Enns on 1 Cor. 10:1-11 (online pdf)
2) Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 (2x)

Lecture 12    The NT use of the OT (II)
              Case Study: 1 Corinthians 10:1-11
              The place of Second Temple hermeneutics

Homework #5 (posted online)

Lecture 13    The NT use of the OT (III)
              Case study: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18
              Paul’s theological ontology

Book Review of Sanctified Vision Due May 10, 2019

Paper due (Drama of Scripture) May 10, 2019

Note: All work must be in by 5 p.m. (Eastern) on May 10, 2019, unless an Incomplete has been arranged with the Registrar (see note above under Course Requirements).

Note: Samples of student work may be used as part of an on-going assessment of courses and degree programs by Trinity School for Ministry and the Association of Theological Schools. Students’ names will be removed from any work used for this purpose.