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## Course Syllabus

<b>Course title:</b>	<b>ET 621 Hermeneutics</b>
<b>Course description:</b>	<p>An introduction to the basic principles of biblical interpretation, including a survey of the history of interpretation. Special attention is given to the foundational presuppositions of Reformed hermeneutics, the principles of grammatical-historical-theological interpretation, and special hermeneutic issues such as the various kinds of literary genres in Scripture, bridging the cap between the ancient text and the modern audience (application), science and hermeneutics, textual criticism, and tools for hermeneutics. Additionally, the student will be introduced to principles of Bible translation as well as common exegetical fallacies. Finally, the course will include an overview and assessment of the three major Bible study software platforms: <a href="#">Bibleworks</a>, <a href="#">Logos</a>, and <a href="#">Accordance</a>.</p>
<b>Course instructors:</b>	<p><b>Mark Chanski</b> has labored full time as a pastor since 1986 in churches in Ohio and Michigan. He has been Pastor of the Reformed Baptist Church of Holland, Michigan since 1994. He holds a Bachelor's degree (B.A.) from Cornerstone University, and a Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) from Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary. He has authored the companion books <a href="#">Manly Dominion</a> (Calvary Press) and <a href="#">Womanly Dominion</a> (Calvary Press). Mark and his wife, Dianne, have four sons and one daughter. Mark blogs at <a href="#">With All Your Might</a>.</p> <p><b>Bob Gonzales</b> has served as a pastor since 1997 and has been the Academic Dean and a professor of RBS since 2005. Dr. Gonzales holds an M.A. in Theology and a Ph.D. in Old Testament Interpretation from Bob Jones University. He is the author of <a href="#">Where Sin Abounds: the Spread of Sin and the Curse in Genesis with Special Focus on the Patriarchal Narratives</a> (Wipf &amp; Stock), a contributor to <i>Reformed Baptist Theological Review</i> and <i>The Founders Journal</i>, and <i>Westminster Theological Journal</i>. He is a member of the Evangelical Theological Society. He and his wife, Becky, have five children. He blogs at <a href="#">It Is Written: Promoting the Supremacy of Scripture</a>.</p>
<b>Guest lecturer:</b>	<p><b>Mark L. Ward, Jr.</b> is the Secondary Bible Curriculum Author at BJU Press, where he is also part of the Biblical Worldview Team. Currently, he is writing an eighth grade textbook, which will be a redemptive-historical tour through the Old Testament. In 2011 he completed his dissertation ("Paul's Positive Religious Affections") for a degree in New Testament Interpretation at Bob Jones University. He is a long-time member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Greenville, SC, and is the leader of its weekly Neighborhood Bible Class outreach ministry. He has a wife and two small children, and he blogs at <a href="#">By Faith We Understand</a>.</p>
<b>Course credit:</b>	3 credits

**Course requirements:**

Student must satisfactorily complete the following course requirements:

**(1) Lectures**

The student must listen to all **20 lectures** by Mark Chanski on Hermeneutics either live or via audio/video format.

**(2) Reading**

The student must read pages assigned in lectures from the following three works:

Berkhof, Louis. *Principles of Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1952.

Mickelsen, Berkeley. *Interpreting the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Ramm, Bernard. *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1970.

[See additional reading for book reviews below.]

Lecture outline and reading schedule:

1. Hermeneutics: Introduction and Definition (Ramm, 1-22; Berkhof, 11-13; Mickelsen, 3-19).
2. The History of Hermeneutics (Ramm, 23-92; Berkhof, 14-39; Mickelsen, 20-53).
3. The Foundational Presuppositions of Reformed Hermeneutics (Ramm, 93-113, 195-214; Berkhof, 40-66; Mickelsen, 80-98).
4. Grammatical Interpretation (Ramm, 113-48; Berkhof, 67-112; Mickelsen, 99-113).
5. Historical Interpretation (Ramm, 149-62; Berkhof, 113-32; Mickelsen, 159-77).
6. Theological Interpretation (Ramm, 163-84; Berkhof, 133-40, 157-66).
7. Special Hermeneutics
  - A. Typology (Ramm, 215-40; Berkhof, 140-48; Mickelsen, 236-79).
  - B. Parables (Ramm, 276-88; Mickelsen, 199-235).
  - C. Prophecy (Ramm, 241-75; Berkhof, 148-57; Mickelsen, 280-305).
  - D. Narrative
  - E. Poetry and Wisdom (Mickelsen, 323-37).
8. Miscellaneous Hermeneutical Issues
  - A. Application (Mickelsen, 356-68; Ramm, 185-200).
  - B. Hermeneutics and Science (Ramm, 201-14).
  - C. Textual Criticism
  - D. Tools (Ramm, 19-22).
  - E. Good Habits (Mickelsen, 375-82).

**(3) Course exams**

There will be *two* examinations. Each will be equal in value. The first exam will cover the materials from the “Introduction and Definition of Hermeneutics” through “Grammatical Interpretation.” The second exam will cover the materials from “Historical Interpretation” through “Miscellaneous Hermeneutical Issues.” The student should take and submit one exam at a time. If necessary, the instructor or dean will contact the student after the exam and discuss the results. If you have questions about the exams, contact Pastor Chanski ([markchanski@gmail.com](mailto:markchanski@gmail.com)) or Dr. Gonzales ([dean@rbseminary.org](mailto:dean@rbseminary.org)).

**(4) Book reviews**

The student should read the following books in their entirety and write a 5-8 page (double-spaced) book review of each:

Carson, Donald A. *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd edition. Baker Books, 1996.

Fee, Gordon, and Mark Strauss. *How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth*. Zondervan, 2007.

The review should summarize the book's contents, highlight its positive contributions, and offer critical observations if necessary. When finished, the student should send the reviews as an email attachment to Dr. Bob Gonzales at [dean@rbseminary.org](mailto:dean@rbseminary.org).

**Course grading:**

Lectures and reading = 10%

Exam 1 = 35%

Exam 2 = 35%

Book Review 1 = 10%

Book Review 2 = 10%