

NT 5100: English Bible: The Book of Hebrews (3 hrs)

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School – Akron Extension
Fall Semester 2014
Tuesdays from September 2 through December 9, 5:30-8:30 pm

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Course Description (from TEDS Academic Catalog)

Demonstration of inductive Bible study method and treatment of the special teaching of a particular book or books of the New Testament based on the English text. May be repeated for credit as the book studied changes. Not for credit in the MA/NT or MA/OT programs. Two to three hours.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester the student should:

1. have a deeper appreciation of and love for Jesus, the Christian faith, and Scripture;
2. be more fully committed to the gospel and be able to inspire that same commitment in others based on the inspiration given in Hebrews;
3. be better equipped to interpret Scripture in its ancient context and apply it to a modern context;
4. be able to explain the purpose of Hebrews and the methods the author uses to accomplish his purpose;
5. be aware of the historical, cultural, rhetorical, and philosophical backgrounds that were assumed by the first-century author and audience and be able to interpret Hebrews in light of these backgrounds;
6. be able to discuss modern scholarship on Hebrews and weigh in on some of the debated issues with regard to the letter;
7. have a more robust theology that accounts for the Christological and other theological implications of the Epistle to the Hebrews;
8. be aware of how Hebrews has been interpreted throughout the history of the church; and
9. be able to draw lessons from Hebrews for church life today.

Course Textbooks

Koester, Craig R. *Hebrews: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Yale Bible 36. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

Mason, Eric F., and Kevin B. McCrudden, eds. *Reading the Epistle to the Hebrews: A Resource for Students*. Society of Biblical Literature Resources for Biblical Study 66. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

Course Requirements

1. *Readings and Participation* (35%) – Readings from Koester and Mason/McCruden have been given in the syllabus. For most weeks there will be an additional article or essay to read that will be emailed to you or handed out in the previous class. All readings are to be done **before** the class meeting, and students will be graded on how prepared they are to participate in class discussion. Sometimes students will be given specific questions to reflect on as they read, and the students' responses should be handed in. Sometimes a quiz will be given on the reading.
2. *Theology Presentation* (20%) – Beginning on Week 3 there will be a theological issue discussed during each class meeting. Sign up for one of the topics and prepare a 20-minute presentation on the issue based on course readings and on other literature (the professor will recommend some readings for each topic). Following your presentation the class will continue to discuss the issue together.
3. *Exegesis Paper* (25%) – A 4-5-page, single-spaced paper on a passage from Hebrews. Details will be given on the first day of class. Students are encouraged to have done much of the research by the time their particular passage is discussed in class so that our discussion of the passage will be able to go deeper, but the actual paper is not due until December 2 or 9 (whichever date you are not giving a presentation for assignment #4).
4. *Reflection Paper and Presentation* (20%) – A 3-page, single-spaced, reflection paper discussing how to apply Hebrews to a particular Christian practice. Example topics include: how to motivate faithfulness to Christ, how to preach effectively, how to design worship services, how to read Scripture, how to relate Christ to the culture, how to preach, how to pray, etc. This is more of a reflection paper than a research paper. Use of commentaries and secondary sources is not required, but be sure that you are not unaware of modern discussions of the topic. More important than using secondary sources is engaging the text of Hebrews and relating the letter to the topic at hand with specific applications. You will present your reflections to the class on either December 2 or 9.

Grading Scale

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 93-100% = A | 90-92.9% = A- | |
| 87-89.9% = B+ | 83-86.9% = B | 80-82.9% = B- |
| 77-79.9% = C+ | 73-76.9% = C | 70-72.9% = C- |
| 67-69.9% = D+ | 63-66.9% = D | 60-62.9% = D- |
| 59.9% and below = F | | |

Academic Integrity Policy

The world needs men and women of integrity and the choices you make now will affect how you act in the future. Students are expected to uphold the level of integrity that is described in the student handbook and is expected of disciples of Christ. Students caught **copying** the work of others or letting others copy their work, turning in **work that was done for another class** without permission, or **failing to document sources** on any written assignment (including a simple homework assignment) will receive reduced grades and be reported to the proper authority.

Course Schedule

| Date | Lecture Topic | Presentation | Koester | Mason |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 9/2 | Introduction to Hebrews | | 1-64 | |
| 9/9 | Background of Hebrews | | 64-96 | 1-30 |
| 9/16 | Hebrews 1:1-2:4 | Cosmology | 171-212, 97-100 | 31-76 |
| 9/23 | Hebrews 2:5-2:18 | Christology | 213-241, 104-110 | |
| 9/30 | Hebrews 3:1-4:13 | Scripture | 242-280, 115-118 | 77-98 |
| 10/7 | Hebrews 4:14-6:20 | Apostasy | 281-334 | 99-144 |
| 10/14 | Hebrews 7 | Jesus as Priest | 335-373 | 145-188 |
| 10/21 | Hebrews 8-9 | Covenant and Law | 374-428 | 189-230 |
| 10/28 | Hebrews 10 | Israel and the Church | 429-467, 110-115, 118-125, 127-129 | 231-268 |
| 11/4 | Hebrews 11 | Faith and Rewards | 468-520, 125-127 | |
| 11/11 | Hebrews 12 | Eschatology | 521-553, 100-104 | 269-296 |
| 11/18 | Hebrews 13 | | 554-584 | 297-308 |
| 11/25 | <i>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</i> | | | |
| 12/2 | Applying Hebrews | | <i>[Reflection Presentations]</i> | |
| 12/9 | Applying Hebrews | | <i>[Reflection Presentations]</i> | |

Recommended Reference Works

Technical Commentaries

1. Craig R. **Koester** (AYB, 2001)
2. David A. **deSilva**, *Perseverance in Gratitude* (Eerdmans, 2000) – strongest on the use of Greco-Roman rhetoric in the letter.
3. Peter T. **O'Brien** (PNTC, 2010) – one of the best evangelical exegetes and thinkers; more accessible to the student who doesn't know Greek than Lane, Ellingworth, and Attridge; O'Brien thinks the audience was predominantly Jewish Christians.
4. William L. **Lane** (WBC, 2 vols, 1991) – as technical as Ellingworth and Attridge and perhaps a better interpreter.
5. Paul **Ellingworth** (NIGTC, 1993) – strongest on the Greek text.
6. Harold W. **Attridge** (Hermeneia, 1989) – strong on Greco-Roman parallels.
7. Gareth Lee **Cockerill** (NICNT, 2012) – a replacement for Bruce's volume; Cockerill thinks the audience was predominantly Jewish Christians.
8. F. F. **Bruce** (NICNT, 1997) – strong exegesis but a little outdated as much of the material is from his 1964 edition.

Mid-Level and Practical Commentaries

1. William L. **Lane**, *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment* – This commentary is a much easier read than Lane's more technical commentary and yet it is a good practical reflection by a master interpreter of Hebrews.
2. R. T. **France** (REBC, 2006) – This commentary is grouped with others on James through Revelation. France is a master exegete and understands Hebrews very well.
3. Philip E. **Hughes** (Eerdmans, 1987) – This is a good theological reading of Hebrews.
4. James W. **Thompson** (Paideia, 2008) – Thompson is excellent on the rhetorical background, and he condenses the message of Hebrews well.
5. Luke T. **Johnson** (NTL, 2006) – Johnson is excellent on the background and theology of Hebrews.
6. George H. **Guthrie** (NIVAC) – Guthrie understands Hebrews well and provides lengthy reflections on how to move Hebrews into a modern context and apply it accordingly.
7. Thomas G. **Long** (Interpretation) – This commentary shows the power of Hebrews as a sermon.
8. Ben **Witherington III**, *Letters and Homilies for Jewish Christians* (2007) – Like deSilva, Witherington views the letter from a socio-rhetorical perspective, but unlike deSilva he sees it as written primarily to Jewish Christians.
9. John **Owen** (Crossway Classic Commentaries) – This is the best 19th century commentary on Hebrews.
10. N. T. **Wright**, *Hebrews for Everyone* (2003) – Of all these commentaries this is the most brief and the most down-to-earth, and yet it is written by one of the best thinkers in New Testament scholarship today.
11. David L. **Allen** (NAC, 2010) – This is a good, evangelical work, but occasionally it is hindered by Allen's unlikely view that Hebrews was written by Luke to former priests in Jerusalem.
12. Raymond **Brown** (BST, 1974) – a good, short commentary on Hebrews.

Introductions to Hebrews

1. Daniel J. Harrington, *What Are They Saying About the Letter to the Hebrews?* (Paulist, 2005). This is not so much an introduction to Hebrews as it is an introduction to scholarship on Hebrews. It is a very helpful read, and I considered requiring it.
2. Andrew H. Trotter, *Interpreting the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Baker, 1997).
3. Kenneth Schenck, *Understanding the Book of Hebrews: The Story Behind the Sermon* (Westminster John Knox, 2003).
4. Andrew T. Lincoln, *Hebrews: A Guide* (T&T Clark, 2006).

Special Studies on Hebrews

1. Richard Bauckham, Daniel R. Driver, Trevor A. Hart and Nathan MacDonald, eds., *The Epistle to the Hebrews and Christian Theology* (Eerdmans, 2009). This is a collection of essays similar to Mason and McCrudden but a little more technical. Some of the essays in this collection are better than anything I've read on Hebrews.
2. Gelardini, Gabriella, ed. *Hebrews: Contemporary Methods - New Insights*. Leiden: Brill, 2005. Another helpful collection of essays.
3. David Peterson, *Hebrews and Perfection* (SNTSMS 47; 1982). An excellent technical treatment of the theme of perfection in Hebrews.
4. Herbert W. Bateman, IV, *Four Views on the Warning Passages in Hebrews* (Kregel Academic, 2007). A great debate on the warning passages.
5. David A. deSilva, *The Letter to the Hebrews in Social-Scientific Perspective* (Cascade Companions, 2012). This is a good introduction to the social-scientific approach deSilva uses in his commentary.
6. Michael D. Morrison, *Who Needs a New Covenant? Rhetorical Function of the Covenant Motif in the Argument of Hebrews* (Princeton Theological Monographs, 2008).
7. Barnabas Lindars, *The Theology of the Letter to the Hebrews* (NTT; Cambridge University Press, 1991).
8. L. D. Hurst, *The Epistle to the Hebrews: Its Background of Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).
9. George Guthrie, *The Structure of Hebrews: A Text-Linguistic Approach* (Baker, 1994).
10. David L. Allen, "The Authorship of Hebrews: The Case for Luke," *Faith and Mission* 18.2 (2001): 27-40. A condensed argument of the lengthier given in his book, *Lukan Authorship of Hebrews*.
11. Susanne Lehne, *The New Covenant in Hebrews* (JSOT, 1990).

Multi-Volume Bible Encyclopedias

1. IVP Bible Dictionary Series, 8 vols. The most useful volume for Hebrews would be Ralph P. Martin and Peter H. Davids, eds., *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998), but I would recommend purchasing all of the volumes. The New Testament volumes are bundled together in *The Essential IVP Reference Collection* on Logos Bible Software (see below).
2. Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, ed., *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. (6 vols; Nashville: Abingdon, 2006-2009).
3. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, ed., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (revised; 4 vols.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-1988).
4. David N. Freedman, ed., *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* (6 vols; New York: Doubleday, 1993).

One-Volume Bible Dictionaries

1. David Noel Freedman, ed., *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000).
2. Leland Ryken, James C. Wilhoit, Tremper Longman III, eds. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998). (Included in *The Essential IVP Reference Collection*.)
3. Kevin J. Vanhoozer, ed., *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005).
4. Joel B. Green, ed., *Dictionary of Scripture and Ethics* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011).

New Testament Introductions

1. D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (2nd ed; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).
2. David A. deSilva, *An Introduction to the New Testament: Context, Methods and Ministry Formation* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2004).
3. Gary M. Burge, Lynn H. Cohick, and Gene L. Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009).
4. Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Introduction* (4th ed.; Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1990).

New Testament Theologies

1. G. K. Beale, *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011).
2. Frank Thielman, *New Testament Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).
3. I. Howard Marshall, *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004).
4. Ben Witherington, III, *The Indelible Image: The Theological and Ethical World of the New Testament* (2 vols; Downers Grove: IVP, 2009-2010).
5. Thomas R. Schreiner, *New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008).

Also Highly Recommended

1. G. K. Beale, and D. A. Carson, eds., *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007).
2. Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Biblical Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1993).

Note: A great reference package can be purchased through Logos Bible Software:

<http://www.logos.com/product/8588/the-essential-ivp-reference-collection-version-3>

This will include the best multi-volume New Testament encyclopedia, some of the best one-volume Bible dictionaries (IVP's *New Bible Dictionary* is very similar to *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*), and the IVP Bible Background Commentaries.