

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2018
BT/ TH 700	Advanced Hermeneutics	Prerequisite: NT 502 or OT 502 or TH 501
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	Wednesday	Instructor:	Jo-Ann Badley, Ph.D.	First day of classes:	Thu, Jan. 4
Time:	6:30-9:30	Email:	jbadley@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan. 14
Room:	L2084	Phone:	403-410-2000 ext.3994	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Mar. 5
Lab/ Tutorial:	none	Office:	L2043	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar. 16
	Note: some classes are held online	Office Hours:	By appointment	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar. 26
Final Exam:	None			Last day of classes:	Wed, Apr. 11

Course Description: This course provides an orientation to key issues in theological hermeneutics essential for the interpretation of the Bible and the study of theology. The course will describe ancient and contemporary reflection on hermeneutics as well as provide an opportunity for students to develop a hermeneutic appropriate for the study of Bible and theology within a confessional context.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete BT/TH 700 will:

- Increase their competence in the skill of reading and summarizing (complex) theological texts;
- Develop a framework to evaluate contemporary hermeneutic approaches;
- Summarize and evaluate two hermeneutic proposals: one historical (either Augustine or Schleiermacher) and one contemporary (suggested options: Narrative: Frei/ McClendon; or 2nd Naivety: Ricoeur; Correlation: Tracy; other options can be proposed).
- Synthesize the historical and contemporary models studied to articulate their own understanding of the issues and most fruitful approach to reading the Bible for the purposes of Christian faith and theology.

Textbooks: none required

Recommended books:

Jasper, David. *A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.

Lindbeck, George A. *The Nature of Doctrine: Religion and Theology in a Postliberal Age*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1984.

Wood, Charles M. *Formation of Christian Understanding: An Essay in Theological Hermeneutics*. Philadelphia PA: Westminster, 1981. (2nd edition, Trinity Press International, 1993)

Webster, John. *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch*. Current Issues in Theology, edited by Iain Torrance. Cambridge UK: University Press, 2003.

Note: The Moodle wiki and Course Bibliography will list other useful resources. Readings may be assigned during the course to enhance the quality of conversation.

Course Schedule:

Note: This course is designed as a seminar delivered in a hybrid mode; some of the work will be done in the classroom and some will be done online through the course Moodle site. The success of student learning depends on the active participation of all students in class and online. The website contains more information.

Date Place	Topic
Jan.10 L2084	Introduction to Hermeneutics: Identifying the Questions
Jan.17 L2084	Introduction to Hermeneutics: Identifying the Questions
Jan.24 Online	Collaborative work on Augustine or Schleiermacher
Jan.31 Online	Collaborative work Augustine or Schleiermacher
Feb.7 L2084	Augustine Presentation(s)
Feb.14 L2084	Schleiermacher Presentation
Feb.21	Reading Week Research on Contemporary Hermeneutics
Feb.28	Research on Contemporary Hermeneutics
Mar.7 L2084	Mid-point Conversation: Clarifying the Questions
Mar.14	Preparation of Presentation on Contemporary Hermeneutics

Online	
Mar.21 Online	Preparation of Presentation on Contemporary Hermeneutics
Mar.28 L2084	Contemporary Hermeneutics Presentations
Apr.4 L2084	Contemporary Hermeneutics Presentations
Apr.11 L2084	Contemporary Hermeneutics Presentations
April 18	Final paper due at midnight (submit online)

Requirements:

1. Wiki Collaboration (on Augustine or Schleiermacher)

Worth 20% of the final grade

Due during the period of January 10 to February 7 (Augustine) or February 14 (Schleiermacher)

Students will contribute to the summary of the arguments of Augustine or Schleiermacher using the wiki on the course moodle.

- For Augustine, the argument will be summarized within the structure of De Doctrina Christiana (in four “books”)
- For Schleiermacher, the argument will be summarized within the three part structure of Introductory or General Comments, Grammatical, and Technical arguments.
- Student comments will be assessed considering quality and degree of interaction; the instructor will monitor the exchange in lieu of class meetings.

2. Historical hermeneutics group presentation: Augustine or Schleiermacher

Handout:

Worth 10% of the final grade

Due: at the time of the presentation Augustine (Feb.7) or Schleiermacher (Feb.14)

Maximum length: 2 pages

Submit in paper (enough copies for the class) or electronic form (by noon and instructor will bring copies)

Group Presentation:

Worth 10% of the final grade

Presentation on Augustine: February 7

Presentation on Schleiermacher: February 14

Maximum length: 40 minutes including class discussion

The presentation will include the conclusions of the group about the meaning of the text. Effectively this is a re-statement of the thinking of Augustine or Schleiermacher without evaluation. Each group is responsible to provide a presentation handout which will include a) an overview of the presentation; b) bibliography of at least five useful sources; and c) two questions that will prompt class discussion.

3. Contemporary hermeneutics presentation

Worth 20% of the final grade

Dates for presentation to be assigned: either March 28, April 4, or April 11

Maximum length: 30 minutes including class discussion

The presentation will present the conclusions of the individual student (or group) about the perspective of the contemporary thinker or framework under consideration and will include evaluation of that perspective. The contemporary hermeneutics student presentation will be assessed using the amended version of the presentation rubric (to be edited in class, March 7). The presentation must include a handout similar to the one developed for the historical hermeneutics presentation, including an overview, at least five useful sources for further study and two questions to prompt class discussion.

4. Final Paper

Worth 40% of the final grade

Due: April 18, 2018 (midnight)

Maximum length: 15 pages (approximately 4,000 to 4,500 words)

Required number of sources: 15, including primary texts, periodical literature and monographs (or parts thereof).

Submit the paper through the course Moodle site.

The final paper for the course is a synthesis drawing on the historical and contemporary work done, coming to a personal statement that reflects on the questions that have formed the framework of the discussions all semester. A concise expression of the synthesis forms the thesis of the paper but historical and contemporary sources will be used in the body of the paper.

Please document using Chicago style. For assistance see:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/03/>

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

Note: no student can pass this course without completing every assignment.

Attendance: Unexcused absences will be considered in calculating the final grade.

Grade Summary:

Wiki Collaboration	20%
Historical hermeneutics	
Handout	10
Group presentation	10
Contemporary hermeneutics	
Presentation	20
Final Paper	<u>40</u>
	100%

See the Seminary Academic Calendar (page 41) for the Grade Scale. Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a

laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.