

<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Winter 2022</b>
BT/TH 700	Advanced Hermeneutics	<b>Prerequisite:</b> One of NT 502, OT 502, or TH 501
		<b>Credits:</b> 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Days:</b>	Wednesday	<b>Instructor:</b>	Jo-Ann Badley, Ph.D.	<b>First day of classes:</b>	January 10, 2022
<b>Time:</b>	6:45-9:30	<b>Email:</b>	jbadley@ambrose.edu	<b>Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:</b>	January 23, 2022
<b>Room:</b>	Directed Study	<b>Phone:</b>	403-410-2000 ext.3994	<b>Last day to withdraw from course:</b>	March 18, 2022
<b>Lab/ Tutorial:</b>		<b>Office:</b>	L2043	<b>Last day to apply for coursework extension:</b>	March 28, 2022
		<b>Office Hours:</b>		<b>Last day of classes:</b>	April 14, 2022
<b>Final Exam:</b>	No final exam				

**Course Description:** 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 be able to articulate a hermeneutical position that accords with the ecclesial tradition of which they are a part. This will require these skills:

- Increase their competence in the skill of reading and summarizing (complex) theological texts;
- Develop a framework to evaluate various approaches to hermeneutics by a close reading of classic hermeneutical texts (Augustine and Schleiermacher) and a consideration of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century hermeneutical options;
- Synthesize the historical and contemporary hermeneutical models studied to articulate an understanding of the issues for a fruitful approach to reading the Bible for the purposes of Christian faith and theology within their own ecclesial tradition.

Note: in Winter 2020, this course will be taught as a directed reading course.

## Textbooks:

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

Westphal, Merold. *Whose Community? Which Interpretation? Philosophical Hermeneutics for the Church*. The Church and Postmodern Culture, edited by J.K.A. Smith. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2009.

## Course Schedule and Requirements:

### 1. January, 2022

#### **The problems of hermeneutics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the west.**

Using Merold Westphal's book, *Whose Community? Which Interpretation?* (Philosophical Hermeneutics for the Church series, edited by James K.A. Smith. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2009), we will survey the issues that philosophers consider in their assessment of hermeneutics. Primarily these are in response to the work of Hans Georg Gadamer, *Truth and Method* (New York: Continuum, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1994 translated by Weinsheimer and Marshall from the German of 1960).

Assignment #1: How does Westphal describe the hermeneutical problem? What aspect of his discussion is most pertinent to the issues as you understand them?

Maximum length: 1500 words; use at least 5 sources.

Conversation on Jan. 26 (this will be online)

Due: Feb.2

### 2. February and March, 2022

#### **Two significant theological models for theological hermeneutics:**

a) Augustine. *On Christian Teaching*. Oxford, Oxford University Press. (Translation of De Doctrina Christiana.)

Assignment #2:

Maximum length: 1500 words; use at least two translations of DDC and at least 5 other sources

Conversation on Feb.2 and Feb. 16

Due: March 2

b) Schleiermacher, F. D. E. *Hermeneutics and Criticism And Other Writings*. Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Assignment #3:

Maximum length: 1500 words; use at least 6 sources.

Conversation on March 2 and March 16

Due: March 30

### 3. April, 2022

#### **Anglican models for interpretation.**

This paper could take the form of an historical paper (e.g. on Richard Hooker) or an assessment of current conversations (e.g. Clare Amos, ed. *The Bible in the Life of the Church*. Canterbury Studies in Anglicanism series. Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2013.) or a doctrinal assessment (e.g. John Webster, *Holy Scripture: A Dogmatic Sketch*. Cambridge, University Press, 2003). Essentially you are trying to unpack the meaning of Thomas Cranmer's prayer (abridged):

Blessed Lord,

Eternal God, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning;  
grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them;

that we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our savior Jesus Christ.

Assignment #4:

Maximum length: 1500 words; use at least 6 sources

Conversation on April 6

Due: April 14

<https://covenant.livingchurch.org/2017/03/14/reading-scripture-anglican-hermeneutics-bible/>

[https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/109378/The-Anglican-Way-Signposts-on-a-Common-Journey\\_en.pdf](https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/109378/The-Anglican-Way-Signposts-on-a-Common-Journey_en.pdf)

#### Grade Summary:

Assignment #1	25%
Assignment #2	25%
Assignment #3	25%
Assignment #4	25%

All assignments must be completed to pass the course.

#### Grade Summary:

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A+	Mastery: Complete Understanding of Subject Matter	4.00
A		4.00
A-		3.70
B+	Proficient: Well-Developed Understanding of Subject Matter	3.30
B		3.00
B-		2.70
C+	Basic: Developing Understanding of Subject Matter	2.30
C		2.00
C-		1.70
D+	Minimal Pass: Limited Understanding of Subject	1.30
D		1.0
F	Failure: Failure to Meet Course Requirements	0.00
P		Pass

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](mailto: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. 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.