



30 Carrier Drive, Suite 204
Toronto, Ontario
M9W 5T7

Course Snapshot

The purpose of this course is to guide you through the basic strategies for interpreting the various genres in the Bible. There will be some exposure to the larger hermeneutical enterprise for Christian interpretation of canonical texts, including attention to the preunderstanding of the interpreter as well as the historical, canonical and contemporary contexts of the text. The passages you will study this semester will become the foundation for sermons in future Homiletics classes and Bible studies in future Religious Education classes, thus freeing you up in those courses to work more intensely on the presentation of Biblical material rather than the skills for interpretation. This is not a Hermeneutics class, although it will involve discussions about the hermeneutic that underlies our interpretation.

Professor Snapshot



Dr. Mark Boda spent his early life in the Academy setting, growing up in the home of a seminary professor and president in Western Canada. He ministered in pastorates in both Toronto and Philadelphia and served in campus ministry in North Etobicoke before joining the faculty of Canadian Bible College and Theological Seminary in Regina, Saskatchewan where he served from 1994 until 2003. Presently he is Professor in the Faculty of Theology at McMaster University and holds the Chair in Old Testament at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario where he enjoys teaching and mentoring students.

Mark began his education at CBC where he received a Bachelor of Theology in 1984. After his first pastorate he studied for the Master of Divinity at Westminster Theological Seminary (1991) before reading for the Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge (1996).

Dr. Boda has published over 35 articles on the Old Testament and Semitic Languages in scholarly journals, collected essays and dictionaries. He is author of four books and editor of four others on various issues related to the Old Testament and Christian Theology, ranging from studies on the books of Haggai and Zechariah to presentations of the theology of Penitence and Kingship. Mark is presently writing commentaries on Judges (Zondervan) and Chronicles (Tyndale House) and a book on the Old Testament theology of Repentance (IVPress).

Mark is ordained in the C&MA and enjoys regular preaching opportunities. He and his wife Beth, who is an artist, spend most of their evenings communing with their three boys (David 18, Stephen 16, and Matthew 11) as they drive them to a seemingly endless array of activities around the Golden Horseshoe.



Description

A study of the methods of exegesis of the various genres of the Bible for purposes of preaching and teaching. Students will develop and test their skills in the preparation of portions of Scripture for these purposes.



Resources

- Klein, W. W., Blomberg, C. L. and Hubbard, R. L. (KBH)
2003 *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (2nd edition). Nashville: Nelson.
- Boda, M. J.; Hall, G.
1997 *Reading in Three Dimensions: Biblical Interpretation in Practice* (computer program).

Purpose

- Cognitive: To know the various types of literature found in the Bible and the interpretive strategies appropriate for each.
- Pragmatic: To attain skills for interpreting Scripture sensitive to the variety of genres.
- Affective: To appreciate the diversity of biblical literature and gain a passion for lifelong interpretation of the Scriptures sensitive to this diversity.

Learning Opportunities:

Reading: You must read KBH completely and a record of your reading handed in with the last assignment. This is a presupposition of this course and does not have a positive grade, however, failure to complete the reading will result in up to 10% grade reduction.

Analyses: Three analyses will be performed outside of class time: one each on a portion of narrative, poetry and prose. Each of these will involve a study of the genre and will be worth 25% of your grade each. One of these will be expanded to include a three dimensional reading which includes an examination of the dimensions of approach, history, and application as well as literature. This final analysis will involve consulting secondary literature and will be worth an additional 15% (for a total of 40% for that genre).

These analyses will reveal that you have grasped the basic skills. These can be single spaced, but must be typed in an acceptable font (10-12) on 8½" x 11" paper with 1" margins, with a title page and proper documentation. You must show evidence of having performed the basic steps under the "Principles" of the respective section while having avoided the "Pitfalls". You may photocopy passages to work on and use highlighters and even handwriting on these photocopied pages, but the handwriting must be legible. Follow the pattern I have established in *Reading in Three Dimensions* under Guided Practice: Answers (in the computer program this is found by pressing Guided Practice and then pressing the lightbulb so it turns red). This means that you can use single spacing but you must write in complete sentences explaining your answer to the particular principle (on the following page I have provided an example which, although shorter than many of the other types of analysis will provide a guide for you).

Genre 1: 25%, due 16 March 2005 (at beginning of class: two copies)

Genre 2: 25%, due 18 May 2005

Genre 3: 40%, due 18 May 2005

Evaluation: At the beginning of the second weekend together, your first analysis will be exchanged with another classmate who has not done the same sub-genre as you. You will read your classmate's analysis and write a 3 page evaluation: affirming areas of strength and offering suggestions for improving the analysis. This should be emailed to your classmate and the professor by a week after the second weekend.

Evaluation: 10%, due 26 March 2005

Schedule

Weekend #1

Dates: 9-11 February 2005 (Taste of Seminary, Audit, Credit)

Times:

Thursday 9 Feb 2005 7pm-10pm
Friday 10 Feb 2005 7pm-10pm
Saturday 11 Feb 2005 9am-12noon
Saturday 11 Feb 2005 1pm-4pm

Weekend #2

Dates: 16-18 March 2005 (Audit, Credit)

Times:

Thursday 16 Mar 2005 7pm-10pm
Friday 17 Mar 2005 7pm-10pm
Saturday 18 Mar 2005 9am-12noon
Saturday 18 Mar 2005 1pm-4pm

Format

So I can properly evaluate your work the following format is to be used for papers in this class.

- ✓ **Layout:** Typewritten in an acceptable font (10-12 point) on 8½" x 11" paper with 1" margins, a title page, bibliography. Please use Turabian (5th edition) for your formatting and ensure that the course name, instructor's and student's names are on the title page. The title page and bibliography is not included in the page numbers required. If you wish to include a table of contents this is helpful for you and I, but also is not included in the page numbers required.
- ✓ **Inclusive language:** Use inclusive language when referring to humans, that is avoiding using masculine designations when the gender of the person can be either male or female.
- ✓ **Citations:** You must cite the source of your material very carefully using a consistent system, not only when quoting from a section, but also when drawing from it as resource. Quotations should be kept to a minimum as I favour integration of secondary literature.
- ✓ **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated in this course and will result in a failing grade for the particular assignment. See CTS student handbook for definition of plagiarism.

So I can properly evaluate your work and help you grow in your biblical and writing skills the following style guide should be followed:

- ✓ **Presentation:** Is the spelling correct? Does the grammar/syntax reflect proper English? Is the paper laid out properly?
- ✓ **Argumentation:** Does the argument flow with ample support? Is the question answered? (for the Evaluations: does it have a proper introduction/conclusion?)
- ✓ **Content:** Are all the points considered? Is there proper documentation of sources used?

Administrative Issues

Library Resources

- ✓ It is *expected* that you will be accessing the library resources of an advanced theological library in order to complete the learning experiences in this course. There are several of these in the Greater Toronto Area. Questions regarding library resources may be made to director to Dr. Mark Chapman, Associate Director of CTS – Toronto.

Submission of Assignments

- ✓ The due dates of the various assignments are outlined in the syllabus above. Students must submit their completed paper assignments *to the professor* at his address below or (in the case of the paper) as a Microsoft Word or .rtf file attached to an email. A copy of all assignments (digital or paper) should be retained by the student at all times.

Return of Assignments

- ✓ The professor will return graded assignments to the Administrative Assistant for CTS-Toronto
- ✓ Papers will be returned by mail to students, unless arrangements are made to pick them up at the CTS-Toronto Office
- ✓ Papers, which are unclaimed and/or undeliverable, will be held for one year from the due date, and then destroyed

Policy of Extensions

- ✓ The general policy is that of no extensions, save for serious medical problems or family tragedies. However, extensions will be granted at the discretion of the CTS-Toronto Director in consultation with the instructor.
- ✓ All requests for extensions must be made in writing or by email prior to the due date. Such requests must be made to the office of CTS-Toronto. Once granted, the instructor will be notified.

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- ✓ The extension is of an 8-week duration from the due date. Only one extension can be requested. After the extension time has expired the paper will be grade as is or if not submitted, marked F.

Contacting the Professor

- ✓ Mail
Dr. M. J. Boda
31 Spruceside Avenue
Hamilton, ON L8P 3Y2
- ✓ Fax
Attention Dr. M. J. Boda
(530) 325-9464
- ✓ E-mail
mjboda@sympatico.ca
- ✓ Phone consultation
(905) 524-4843