

Ambrose Seminary
Fall 2009
PR601 Interpreting Scripture for Preaching and Teaching
Peter Ralph ThM, DMin
pralph@ambrose.edu

Course Description

This course trains students in 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.

Course Objectives

Students will learn to do practical exegesis, forming basic preaching and teaching structures based on that exegesis. This learning will form the basis for future courses in preaching and teaching. Students will emerge from the course with greater confidence and sophistication as well as greater humility regarding the task of interpreting scripture.

Course Text and Reading

Students will read and come to class prepared to discuss the class text: Sidney Greidanus, *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature* and other assigned reading.

Course Requirements

Students will complete three papers of seven pages each on each of the following topics.

<i>Interpreting Biblical Epistle</i>	due week of October 5	33%
<i>Interpreting Biblical Gospel</i>	due week of Nov. 2	33%
<i>Interpreting Biblical Narrative</i>	due week of Nov. 30	33%

A format for each paper will be presented in class. The papers will be exegetical in nature and will prepare students to further produce teaching and preaching outlines in courses such as PR701, Expository Preaching.

Extensions will be considered only for serious issues that arise due to circumstances beyond the student's control. This provision does not include the overlap of due dates from different courses. Extensions of longer than three days cannot be permitted. Careful student schedule planning is mandatory.

Submission Requirements

All work must be submitted in 12 point word-processed form, double spaced between lines but not between paragraphs. Graphics or other embellishments are not acceptable. Cover sheets featuring the student's name, the name of the paper, date of submission,

course name and number and the instructor's name are required. Footnotes must be used wherever and as often as any secondary sources are used. Wherever footnotes are used they must conform to seminary academic requirements. Students may choose to include handwritten work along with and in addition to final word-processed work if they so desire.

All assignments are to be turned in to the professor in class on the due date. Papers will be returned to students through on-campus mail only if a mail box number is included on the upper right hand corner of the cover page of the paper.

Attendance Policy

The nature of the class is such that attendance is mandatory at all classes. Students will interact with the instructor, the material and with each other regularly.

Academic Policy Statements

Add/Drop Policy

Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the Calendar of Events in the academic calendar.

Course Extension or Alternative Exam Requests

Students may not turn in coursework after the date of the scheduled final examination for the course unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination times must be submitted to the Registrar's office two weeks prior to examination week) noted as the "Last Day for Alternative Exam or Course Extension Requests" on the academic calendar). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy.

The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic honesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Outline Format for All Papers in PR601

Part of learning the method in PR601 is learning a sequence of interpretive steps. These steps are as follows.

1. Pre-Understanding: meaning and significance statement
2. Genre Analysis: meaning and significance statement
3. Contextual Analysis: meaning and significance statement
4. Structural Analysis: meaning and significance statement
5. Word Analysis: meaning and significance statement
6. Literary Analysis: meaning and significance statement
7. Social, Cultural and Historical Analysis: meaning and significance statement
8. Secondary Sources Analysis: meaning and significance statement
9. Theological Analysis: meaning and significance statement
10. Christological Analysis: meaning and significance statement
11. Summary Statement: meaning and significance statement
12. Homiletical Analysis: meaning and significance statement

Every paper will have all of these steps in this order. Each section will be completed by a meaning and significance statement which describes how the interpretive work done in the preceding section has affected or changed the student's understanding of the passage under study.