

Course ID:	Course Title:	Winter 2020
BT/TH 700	Advanced Hermeneutics	Prerequisite: One of NT 502, 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:	Tue, Jan 7
Time:	6:30-9:30	Email:	jbadley@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Jan 19
Room:	A2133	Phone:	403-410-2000 ext.3994	Last day to request revised exam:	Mon, Mar 9
Lab/ Tutorial:		Office:	L2043	Last day to withdraw from course:	Fri, Mar 20
		Office Hours:		Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Mar 30
Final Exam:	No final exam			Last day of classes:	Thurs, Apr 9

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:

- 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 a classic hermeneutical text (either Augustine or Schleiermacher) and a 20th-21st century hermeneutical approach (options will be discussed in class);
- 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.

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.

Note: A recommended reading list will also be provided.

Course Schedule

	Class Topic
Jan.8	Introduction: What are the questions? Reading Westphal
Jan.15	Introduction: What are the questions? Reading Westphal
Jan.22	Augustine
Jan.29	Augustine
Feb.5	Schleiermacher Augustine paper due
Feb.12	Schleiermacher
Feb.19	Reading Week: no class
Feb.26	Contemporary Hermeneutics Reading to be assigned Schleiermacher paper due
Mar.4	Contemporary Hermeneutics Reading to be assigned
Mar.11	Contemporary Hermeneutics Reading to be assigned
Mar.18	Contemporary Hermeneutics Reading to be assigned
Mar.25	Contemporary Hermeneutics Reading to be assigned
Apr.1	Feminist and Postcolonial Critiques Reading to be assigned
Apr.8	Conclusions Reading Webster Contemporary Hermeneutics paper due
Apr.15	Synthesis due

Requirements:

1. Classic Hermeneutics Paper: Summarize the hermeneutical approach of either Augustine **OR** Schleiermacher using their primary writings and some secondary literature. This goal of this paper is to describe well, not

critique. If studying Augustine, use the structure of DDC for your paper; if studying Schleiermacher, use the three part structure of Introductory or General Comments, Grammatical, and Technical arguments.

Maximum length: 8 pages (2000-2500 words; include a word count)

Minimum number of sources: 8 including either Augustine's *De Doctrina Christiana* (variously titled in English)

OR Schleiermacher's *Handwritten Manuscripts* and other essays

Worth 40% of the final grade

Augustine essay due Feb.5, 2020 (6:30 in class; submit a paper copy)

Schleiermacher essay due Feb.26, 2020 (6:30 in class; submit a paper copy)

2. **Recent Hermeneutics Paper:** Summarize the hermeneutical approach of a representative of a 20th or 21st century approach to hermeneutics. The goal of this paper is to describe well and locate the approach within the framework developed in class, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the approach. Options for this paper include Narrative, 2nd Naivete, Correlation, Critical Realism, and Wesleyan Quadrilateral; other options can be proposed

Maximum length: 8 pages (2000-2500 words; include a word count)

Minimum number of sources: 8 including some primary writings by the author under consideration.

Worth 40% of the final grade.

Essays are due April 1, 2020 (6:30 in class; submit a paper copy)

3. **Synthesis:** Develop a personal synthesis that reflects on the primary hermeneutical questions we have considered during the semester in light of the classic and modern writers you studied. Use Westphal and Webster in your synthesis.

Maximum length: 6 pages (1500-1800 words; include a word count)

Minimum number of sources: 8 including Westphal and Webster

Worth 20% of the final grade

Essays are due April 15, 2020 (midnight; submit on the Moodle)

Note: no student can pass this course without completing all three assignments.

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

Grade Summary:

Classic hermeneutics paper	40%
Recent hermeneutics paper	40%
Synthesis	20%

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. 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.