

**COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO
HYBRID COURSES AT UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**COS 121- Bible I: Introduction
(or Pastor as Interpreter of the Bible)**

Fall 2015

SYLLABUS

This course will begin online and conclude in-person on campus.

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Blair
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Course Description:

This course introduces biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the inspiration, formation, and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture.

Objectives: The importance of the Bible as a witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and earliest Christianity will be emphasized. Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the place of scripture in the life of the congregation and the role of the pastor in interpretation.
2. Understand the inspiration and formation of the canon and its authority within the community of faith.
3. Understand and apply historical, literary, and theological approaches to various types of literature in scripture using Genesis, Hosea and Amos, Mark, and Philippians.
4. Develop a method of exegesis consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible.

Required Textbooks: (Students are responsible for obtaining their own books-You can support United by going to the United Bookstore Website-Church Resources to order from Cokesbury)

Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook (Third edition) ISBN 13-9780664227753

The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible with Apocrypha—one of the following study editions: HarperCollins Study Bible, New Interpreter's Study Bible, or the Oxford Annotated

The Bible, the Church, and Authority: The Canon of the Christian Bible in History and Theology ISBN 13-9780814655368

From Pew To Pulpit: A Beginner's Guide to Preaching ISBN 13-9780687066605

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The following are your reading assignments and abbreviated instructions for posting and other assignments. Complete instructions will be available on line when the course opens (the course is intended to be done in order, so each week is opened on Friday by 5:00). The instructor reserves the right to modify or amend the written assignments and presentations, but the reading assignments will not be changed. Please Note: Your individual work for this class is generally due on Tuesday and responses to classmates are expected by Thursday.

Week One

Read or review—*From Pew to Pulpit*

Post a brief self-introduction that answers at least five of the eleven questions posed on page xv of *From Pew to Pulpit*. The instructor will post her own self-introduction both as a pattern, and in order to introduce herself to you.

Post a brief description of how you presently prepare to do a sermon. Please include at least one resource (on-line or print) you regularly use.

Week Two

Read—*The Bible, the Church, and Authority*

A glossary of important words from your reading will be compiled by the class. Each of you will add at least two words which you identify as important to the list, and include your definition as gleaned from the reading. You may not repeat words which have already been used, but you may interact with your classmates if you think previous definitions need enhancement.

Week Three

With an assigned partner or partners you will create a dialogue in which you assume the role of one of the actors or groups (as described in your reading of *The Bible, the Church, and Authority*) in the development of the canon. Each of you will post at least one substantive response to another dialogue.

Week Four

Read—*Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook* Chapters 1, 12 and 13

After watching the assigned video, analyze and explain, based on your reading, how what you have listened to is and is not an exegesis. Each of you will also post a question or critique for a classmate.

Week Five

You will be assigned a chapter (two through eleven) from *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. Each of you will write a synopsis and review of what you have read. Each of you will also post a substantive question or comment concerning someone else's review of a chapter (other than the one which you have reviewed).

Week Six

You will post a brief exegesis of a scripture lesson. First, apply the kind of exegesis which you summarized last week. You may include other kinds of exegeses as well. While it is important to work towards adequate communication, this assignment is geared more toward examining the Biblical text from various perspectives and sources of information. You will respond to at least one classmate as part of this assignment.

Your Final Assignment is worth 50% of your grade and is in two parts:

- 1) You will work with other members of your class (as assigned) to present an exegesis of a lectionary text on which you might preach in the future. This will be done as a round table discussion.
- 2) The second part of the assignment will be a five to seven page exegesis explaining the passage you presented in class. In addition, you will submit a written version of a sermon based on your exegetical work in class (this can be a detailed outline or manuscript).

Grades are turned in to the COS/United office no later than 30 days after the final paper is due (you are allowed one additional week after the face to face time in order to finish the final paper).

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student. Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism. A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor policy, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

- (1) warning
- (2) probation
- (3) suspension for the remainder of the course
- (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
- (5) failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry