

OT758/858 Reading and Believing: *Hermeneutics and Genesis 1–3*

Lecturer: Rev Dr Andrew Sloane.

Andrew has taught Old Testament, Hermeneutics and Christian Ethics first at Ridley College and then Morling College in a full time capacity since 1996. He has published in Christian ethics, and has written *At Home in a Strange Land*, a book on using the OT in Christian ethics.

Mondays 9am-5pm, 16/2, 9/3, 6/4 4/5 & 25/5

The following should be understood as indicative only. Details may be subject to change:

Outcomes:

At the end of the unit, candidates should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of major issues and ideas in hermeneutics, with particular reference to the exegesis of Genesis 1–3 and its use as Christian Scripture;
- Articulate a coherent approach to the interpretation of Scripture and its use in Christian ministry, with particular reference to Genesis 1–3;
- Show an enhanced ability to engage exegetically and theologically with the text of Genesis 1–3;
- Demonstrate an awareness of practical and theoretical issues that arise in the use of Genesis 1–3 in preaching, teaching and ethical reflection in Christian ministry.

Outline of content:

- General hermeneutics including: the definition, importance and scope of hermeneutics; general principles of hermeneutics and their theological rationale;
- The development of hermeneutics, including: pre-critical, critical and “post-critical” exegesis; theories of interpretation;

- Hermeneutics in Genesis 1–3 including: case studies in the interpretation of Genesis 1–3; hermeneutical principles in interpreting Genesis 1–3; the influence of hermeneutical theory and interpretive methodology on the interpretation of Genesis 1–3;
- Practical hermeneutics in Genesis 1–3; hermeneutics in ministry; preaching Genesis 1–3 and its use in Christian ministry

Bibliography:

a. General works on hermeneutics

Aichelle, G.et.al., *The Postmodern Bible* (YUP, 1995)

Barton, J., *Reading the Old Testament* (Westminster, 1984)

Coggins, R.J. & Houlden, J.L.(eds), *A Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation* (SCM, 1990)

Goldingay, J., *Models for Interpretation of Scripture* (Eerdmans, 1995)

McKnight, E.V., *Post-modern Use of the Bible: The Emergence of Reader-Oriented Criticism* (Abingdon, 1988)

Osborne, G.R., *The Hermeneutical Spiral* (IVP, 1991)

Thiselton, A.C., *New Horizons in Hermeneutics* (Zondervan, 1992)

Watson, F., *Text, Church and World: Biblical Interpretation in Theological Perspective* (T&T Clark, 1994)

b. Works on Genesis 1–3

Brett, M.G., "Motives and Intentions in Genesis 1", *JTS*, 42/1 (1991), 1-16

Clines, D.J.A., *What Does Eve Do To Help? And Other Readerly Questions to the Old Testament* (JSOT, 1990)

Kennedy, J.M., "Peasants in Revolt: Political Allegory in Genesis 2-3", *JSOT* 47 (1990) 3-14

Trible, P., *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality* (Fortress, 1978)

Westermann, C., *Genesis 1-11: A Commentary* (SPCK, 1984)

Plus other major commentaries on Genesis.

Method of assessment:

- *Major assessment:* 4,000 word essay integrating theoretical issues in Old Testament ethics with practical ethical or ministry concerns. (50%)
- 4,000 word seminar paper and presentation examining an important text or theme in Old Testament ethics and applying it to Christian ethics. (50%)

Extensions

Any extension to a submission date must in the first instance be made to the lecturer on the appropriate form, providing reasons for the extension. Where the lecturer agrees to an extension, the lecturer submits the extension form to the Director of Postgraduate Studies for approval of the extension, and the form is returned to the student. Students must attach the signed extension form to their assessment task. Where an extension would exceed the final submission date of 25 June 2007, the extension form, along with supporting documentation, e.g. a medical certificate, must be forwarded to the Australian College of Theology for approval.
