METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY
Houghton College | Equipping for Ministry | Houghton.edu
OFFICE OF MINISTRY RESOURCES

Wed-Friday, October 23-25, 2019

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Class Location:
This is a hybrid class, with some students attending in person at Houghton College (Houghton, NY) and some students attending online via zoom.

- In-person class Location will be sent out by October 1, 2019.
- Online link to join the class will be sent out by October 1, 2019.

Class Schedule
Wednesday, October 23, 2019 - 1pm to 5pm (with breaks)
Thursday, October 24, 2019 - 8am to Noon, 1pm to 5pm (with breaks)
Friday, October 25, 2019 - 8am to Noon, 1pm to 5pm (with breaks)

Course Description:
This course meets the ordination requirement for “Methods of Bible Study” for the Wesleyan Church. The class serves as an introduction to biblical interpretation for pastoral ministry and personal spiritual growth.

Course Objectives:
Students who complete the class satisfactorily will be able to:
1. Derive insight from a biblical text that is true to the author’s original intent and applicable to their pastoral ministry.
2. Identify and apply different genres in Scripture
3. Develop personal Bible study habits to enhance their personal life
4. Demonstrate Bible study practices for preaching, teaching and counseling in the pastoral ministry.

Course Textbooks:

- Eugene H. Peterson *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. (186 pages) ISBN: 0802864902

Assignments:

Pre-class

1. Read
   a. Read all three assigned textbooks. Be prepared to discuss the books in class. In class you will be asked to sign a document verifying you have read all the materials.

2. Read
   a. The Gospel of Mark in 3 different translations. At least one of the translations must be one of the following: (NRSV, NASB, ESV). These are more “word for word” translations.
   b. Come prepared to class with notes to discuss: a) the overall purpose of Mark’s Gospel with specific evidence from the text, b) differences you noticed between the various translations and any impact that has on the meaning of the text.

3. Write
   a. 2 page reflection paper for each of the required text books. (3 papers total) Each paper should include the following elements.
      i. Summarize the thesis or main point of the book.
      ii. Choose an idea that was new or fresh to you and explain how it is shaping your approach to Scripture
iii. Critique (analyze and offer a suggestion or correction) an idea in the book you disagreed with or felt needed additional support or research.

b. 2 Bible study lessons from the Gospel of Mark that could be used in a small group study of Scripture or a SS class format.
   i. Students will share one lesson the first day of class and one lesson the final day of class.
      1. A written copy of the lesson outline with complete notes will be turned in prior to the presentation.
      2. Additional handouts and study guides for the rest of class is recommended but not required.
      3. The lesson plan should be 15-20 minutes long
         a. Plans submitted to professor must include the following
            i. Text selected and reason for text selection
            ii. Main idea of the text
            iii. Supporting texts from the Gospel of Mark for the main point
            iv. Application points students should derive from the lesson

Post-class Work

1. Write
   a. 7 – 10 page sermon manuscript based on a text from the NT chosen in class.
      i. Due 2 weeks after the course is completed.
      ii. Late papers will not be accepted.

Grades:

Pre-course reading: 20 points
Pre-course papers: 15 points
In course participation: 10 points
In course presentations: 30 points
Post course sermon: 25 points
Policies & Requirements

Attendance
Students are required to attend all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% (16 hours) of the minimum required seat time (20 hours) will result in automatic failure of the course. Any and all absences within that 20% window must be approved by the professor prior to the course in writing (e.g. email). Do not ask for permission to be excused during the class or after the absence has already occurred.

Grading Scale
100-97 A
96-94 A-
93-91 B+
90-88 B
87-85 B-
84-81 C+
80-76 C
75-71 C-
70-68 D
67 or below F

Students must get a “C” or above to pass the course and receive credit for ordination.

Books
Required Textbooks
Students are responsible for ordering their textbooks and may choose where to purchase them.

- Eugene H. Peterson *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. (186 pages) ISBN: 0802864902
Due Date
All assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus or verbally communicated by the instructor. Professors are required to submit grades to Education and Clergy Development at a maximum of 4 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments may not be submitted to the professor any later than 2 weeks after the last day of class. Assignments not submitted by the due date will result in an automatic “0” for the assignment.

Extensions
Extensions may be (but are not guaranteed) granted for sickness, serious injury, or death in the student’s immediate family or for similar extenuating circumstances. When in doubt, please contact the professor. Also, no assigned work will be accepted after the final due date, unless an extension has been granted in writing (e.g. email) from the professor. Communication is the key! Professors may reduce a student’s grade by 20% for each week past the due date (even in the event of approved extensions). Education and Clergy Development reserves the right to refuse extension and override the professor as it deems necessary.

Papers
All written papers must be typed. Papers should be double spaced on 8.5x11 paper using 12 point font in a normal, easy to read type style (Arial, Cambria, Times New Roman, etc.). Margins should be 1” on all sides. Each paper should include at least: student’s full name, course title, and date. It is advisable to include your name on each page of the paper.

Ordination Deadline
If the student is a candidate for ordination in a given year, coursework must be completed as follows: the final grade submission deadline (12 weeks after the last day of class) must be at least 40 days before the student’s district conference. Professors are not required to fulfill any requests for grade submission prior to this deadline.

Plagiarism
Ministerial students in The Wesleyan Church are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty. As such, students in our ministerial training courses are required to adhere to strict academic guidelines.
The following is borrowed from a college catalog.

Plagiarism — This is defined as offering the work of another as one’s own. It is an attempt to deceive by implying that one has done work that was actually done by another. Faculty and students are honor bound to show that ideas and words match with the sources used and thus demonstrate that honest research has been done. Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Copying all or part of a theme, examination, paper, library reading report, or other written work from another person’s production
2. Submitting as one’s own work that which was wholly or partially done by another so as to appear to one’s professor to be more accurate or skilled in one’s work than one actually is
3. Quoting material from any source without proper documentation
4. Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without proper documentation
5. Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
6. Using in collateral reports or book reviews the opinion of a professional literary critic or of a campus friend as though it were one’s own original thought
7. Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor

Cheating — Examples of cheating include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Use of unauthorized prepared materials (cheat sheets) for answering test questions
2. Giving aid to another student during a test or quiz
3. Gaining answers to test questions from others during testing periods
4. Signing another person’s name to the attendance record
5. Claiming to have done laboratory work or outside reading that was not done
6. Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the professors involved

Education and Clergy Development policy for all students receiving credit through non-accredited ministry training programs (e.g. FLAME, FLAMA, Correspondence Courses, Cross Training, District Extension Classes, Equipping for Ministry, etc.):
1) Any instance of plagiarism (whether intentional or not) will result in an automatic “F” for the particular assignment and may also result in an automatic failing of the course.

2) A repeat offense will result in an automatic failing of the course.

3) A third offense will result in an automatic withdrawal from a credentialing track in The Wesleyan Church.