



Adventist University of Africa

# THST 610 Revelation, Inspiration and Hermeneutics for Pastoral Theology and Leadership

3 Semester Credits

25 May – 6 June 2017

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**Instructor:** Victor Figueroa PhD/  
Efe M. Ehioghae PhD (Adapted)

**E-mail:** [figueroav@aua.ac.ke](mailto:figueroav@aua.ac.ke)  
[ehioghae@babcock.edu.ng](mailto:ehioghae@babcock.edu.ng)

## I. Course Description

A study of the biblical, historical and theological aspects of the Christian doctrine of revelation and inspiration. This course focuses on the process by which God communicates with human beings and of sound methods for interpreting and understanding the Scripture and applying its message.

## II. Objectives/Outcomes of the Research Methods Course

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the shifts from premodern to modern to postmodern models of Revelation, Inspiration, and Hermeneutics (RIH).
2. Compare and contrast Classical (conservative) and Liberal models of RIH with Fernando Canale's Cognitive-historical model.
3. Summarize the biblical data on RIH and biblical authority.
4. Discuss the biblical data on Christ as Supreme Revelation, Scripture as Special Revelation, and Nature as General Revelation.
5. Evaluate reason, experience, and tradition as resources for theology.
6. Show how recent research has influenced his/her personal understanding of RIH.
7. Identify comparisons and contrasts between historical and contemporary theories and models and one's personal approach to RIH.
8. Discuss the application of the foundational concepts and issues of RIH to real-life situations.
9. Explain how this class has contributed to development of participants' competencies as outlined in the various seminary programs.

## III. Course Requirements

- A. **Class Attendance:** Campus policy on attendance will be applied. Because of the number of in-class activities, those who are absent will be penalized by missing activities which will be turned in for credit.
- B. **General Criteria for Written Assignments:** All written assignments for this class are due the day after they are assigned, unless otherwise specified, and must be submitted at the beginning of the class period. These assignments are to be presented in typewritten form, unless otherwise stated, with a minimum of errors, and in Turabian format. Assignments which do not meet these criteria will not be accepted. Final research papers should be 15-20 pp. long, and reference at least 15 sources. Papers will be examined for:
  - Evidence of a genuine spirit of inquiry
  - Depth of analysis
  - Synthesis of fundamental concepts
  - Adequacy of sources: quantity, quality, variety, balance

- Logical reasoning
- Courage to share personal convictions
- Organization, form, grammar, mechanics, etc.

### Late Submission

Late work will be subject to penalties in the form of lowered grades. There will be a 10% daily penalty.

### C. Required Readings

White, Ellen. *Selected Messages*, vol. 1 (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1958), 5-76.

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van Bemmelen, Peter. "Inspiration," in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2000), 22-57.

Richard M. Davidson, "Biblical Interpretation" in *Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology*, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2000), 58-104.

### D. Breakdown of Grading. Grading will be as follows:

Class activities & participation	20%
Midterm	30%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	30%
	<b>100%</b>

## IV. Guidelines for Assigning Student Grades

### A. Final Grades

The following will serve as a guide in determining the final letter grades for this course:

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	93-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D	60-69
B-	80-82		

### B. Grading Rubric for final paper

The research paper will be worth 50 points, broken down into five areas, each worth 10 points:

**Content:** Have you referenced relevant and sufficient academic literature?  
 Is the literature of appropriate academic quality?  
 Have you missed major areas which relate to your topic?  
 Have you said something new and of value?  
 Have you avoided wasted words and empty phrases?

**Organization:** Are all the required sections present and in the proper order?  
 Do paragraphs start with a main idea and move from one idea to the next?  
 Do you avoid repetition of similar content in different sections?

**Grammar/Usage:** Is your use of the English language comprehensible?  
 Is the grammar correct? Did you edit carefully?

**Mechanics:** Spelling, APA formatting rules, punctuation, References, proper citing. Is it always clear who is speaking and whose ideas are being discussed? Are in-text references relied on to do their job?

**Critical Thinking:** Have you given this paper some value added through your own thinking?

Is there evidence of your thinking about the issues? Is there new information in the text, not merely a repetition of ideas from other authors?

### References

- Allen, Ronald. *Contemporary Biblical Interpretation for Preaching*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1984.
- Barr, James. *The Scope and Authority of the Bible*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1980.
- Bartlett, David. *The Shape of Scriptural Authority*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983.
- Canale, Fernando. *Back to Revelation-Inspiration: Searching for the Cognitive Foundation of Christian Theology in a Postmodern World*. Lanham, NY: University Press of America, 2001.
- Holbrook, Frank, Leo Van Dolson, eds. *Issues in Revelation and Inspiration*. Berrien Springs, MI: Adventist Theological Society, 1992.
- Dulles, Avery. *Models of Revelation*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1983.
- Frei, Hans. *The Identity of Jesus Christ: The Hermeneutical Bases of Dogmatic Theology*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1975.
- Gnuse, Robert. *The Authority of the Bible: Theories of Inspiration, Revelation, and Canon*. New York: Paulist Press, 1985.
- Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Gruenler, Royce Gordon. *Meaning and Understanding: The Philosophical Framework for Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
- Hasel, Gerhard F. *Biblical Interpretation Today*. Washington DC: Biblical Research Institute, 1985.
- Johnston, Robert. *The Use of the Bible in Theology: Evangelical Options*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1983.
- Kelsey, David. *The Uses of Scripture in Recent Theology*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1975.
- Longman, Tremper. *Literary Approaches to Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- Lundin, Roger, ed. *Disciplining Hermeneutics: Interpretation in Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- McKim, Donald. *The Bible in Theology and Preaching: How Preachers Use Scripture*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Radmacher, Earl and Robert Preus, eds. *Hermeneutics, Inerrancy, and the Bible: Papers from ICBI Summit II*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Ricoeur, Paul. *Essays on Biblical Interpretation*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.
- Robinson, James and John Cross, eds. *New Frontiers in Theology. Vol. 1: The Later Heidegger and Theology. Vol. 2: The New Hermeneutic*. New York: Harper & Row, 1963, 1964.
- Silva, Moises. *Has the church Misread the Bible? The history of Interpretation in the Light of Current Issues*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
- van Bemmelen, Peter M. *Issues in Biblical Inspiration: Sunday and Warfield*. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1988.