

THE BIBLE: CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES

ASSESSMENT

The assessment for this module consists of two assignments:

1. Textual Analysis (1500 words [25%])
2. Essay (3500 words [75%])

Textual Analysis

Your analysis should consist of a detailed interpretation of one of the following passages in light of one of the approaches discussed in this module. You may approach the text in any way you choose, just be sure to demonstrate a sound understanding of the text, making use of the relevant commentaries, and an independent critical application of your chosen method, with due engagement with the concomitant scholarship.

- Gen 1:26–28
- 1 Sam 1:1–8
- Ezek 16
- Luke 10:38–42
- Heb 10:19–39
- Rev 13

Essay

Your essay should demonstrate a comprehensive critical understanding of one or more of the theoretical approaches discussed in this module, and may be chosen from the following list. This is your opportunity to show that you have engaged with the content of the module in a critical and informed way, and that you are able to articulate acute analytical skills and marshal robust arguments within the context of contemporary biblical scholarship.

- The historical-critical approach has lost its previous dominating position in biblical interpretation. Discuss and critically evaluate its role in the context of contemporary biblical studies.
- Are feminist concerns and biblical authority mutually exclusive?
- 'Imperial Christianity' is a contradiction in terms. Discuss.
- Jewish and Christian scholars are engaging in critical discussions over biblical texts. Discuss the significance of this process of interaction for biblical scholarship and interpretation.
- The authority of the Bible does not absolve the interpreter from his/her ethical responsibility for the outcome of his/her interpretation. Discuss with particular reference to a contemporary issue.
- Discuss and critically evaluate the diversity of contemporary biblical interpretation with reference to at least two of the approaches discussed in this module.

Both assignments should keep to the word limit (give or take 10%), which excludes bibliography and footnotes, and should be submitted by 28th May 2013. They should be written in good clear English and be well-presented, with quotations, references, and bibliography cited and formatted correctly. Abbreviations for primary (*ancient texts*) and secondary (*modern journals, reference works, etc.*) sources should follow the *SBL Handbook of Style*, pp. 68–152. For the School's referencing guidelines, please consult the School's *Referencing Guide*. I have also included a brief exegetical paper on Ephesians 3:20-21 as an example of how you should format and reference your work. For any further queries regarding your assignments, please email the module tutor Dr Jody Barnard: j.barnard@tsd.ac.uk