

BIBHB 650: Queer Biblical Hermeneutics  
Fall Semester 2021

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This course will be fully online, and it will consist of both synchronous and asynchronous sessions. The synchronous portion of the course will happen on Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30 am (Central). For the asynchronous portion, students will post and comment on relevant social media, films, and music. Details on this assignment will be available before the course starts.

Appointments with the professor may be scheduled most afternoons (Monday through Friday).

**Course Objectives:**

- Familiarity with the historical development of queer hermeneutics and its current expressions
- Understanding various reading strategies for queer biblical interpretation
- Recognition of intersectional dynamics of race, gender, sexuality
- Identification of these themes in contemporary media, including movies, videos, and songs

**Required Book List** (accessed on 4/12/21 at amazon.com):

Cheryl B. Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies: The Need for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation* (New York, Oxford University Press, 2009). ISBN: 978-0-19-5305500. \$35.95. Kindle version: \$19.24.

Robert E. Goss and Mona West, eds., *Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible* (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2000). ISBN: 0-8298-1397-7. Kindle version: \$8.49 with 15% discount.

Deryn Guest, *When Deborah Met Jael: Lesbian Biblical Hermeneutics* (London: SCM Press, 2005). ISBN: 978-0334029588. \$35.00.

Teresa J. Hornsby and Deryn Guest, *Transgender, Intersex, and Biblical Interpretation* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016). ISBN: 978-1628371352. \$24.69 with 12% discount. Kindle version: \$24.69.

Additional articles to be read will be made available on the course Moodle site.

### **Course Assignments:**

Doing the readings for and participating in a weekly synchronous class and in the weekly asynchronous portion of the course (viewing and commenting on weekly posts of videos, films, media posts on gender, sexuality, and identity).

Participation in the synchronous sessions will include each student leading the class discussion on two readings (article or book chapter). The student's presentation should include a brief summary and analysis of the reading and it should make thematic connections between that reading and other materials discussed in the course.

Total contribution to final grade for asynchronous work and in-class participation:  
20%

A brief exegetical paper on a pericope chosen by the student (Length: 6 pages):  
25% Due: October 10, 2021

A contextual bible study\* that incorporates scholarly insights learned from the exegetical paper (Length: 6 pages): 25% Due: November 14, 2021

A brief analytical paper that develops a chosen theme covered in the course.  
(Length: about 6-8 pages) Due on December 20, 2021: 30%

Grading rubrics for these assignments will be posted on the course Moodle site.

**All course requirements must be completed to receive a final grade in the course.**

\*"Contextual bible study" is a way to do bible studies in church and community settings that was developed in South Africa. A lecture on how to use this method will be posted on Moodle during the course.

## **Academic Policies**

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the [Academic Handbook](#) for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

### **Writing**

- Academic integrity and [plagiarism](#): (See 19-20 Handbook, 12, 78-83) All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The *Turabian Manual for Writers* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online [here](#). In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA). (19-20 Handbook, 84)
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See <https://www.garrett.edu/student-life/student-services> "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

### **Attendance and Class Participation**

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed.... All participants in the teaching- learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.

(See 19-20 Handbook, 9)

- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class. (19-20 Handbook, 19)

- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

### **Academic Accommodations**

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the *Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities* policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook (19-20 Handbook, 12). Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.
- Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term. (19- 20 Handbook, 20)

### **Course Schedule (Readings for synchronous class):**

#### **September 9**

Goss and West, eds., *Take Back The Word*, Chapters 1-5

Article: David Taub Steward, "LGBT/Queer Biblical Hermeneutics and the Hebrew Bible "(2017).

#### **September 16**

Goss and West, eds., *Take Back The Word*, Chapters 6-11

Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies*, Chapter 1

#### **September 23**

Goss and West, eds., *Take Back The Word*, Chapters 12-16

Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies*, Chapter 2

Article: Brett Krutzch, "Un-straightening Boaz in Ruth Scholarship" (2015)

**September 30**

Guest, *When Deborah Met Jael*, Chapter 1

Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies*, Chapter 3

Article: Bailey, "That's Why They Don't Call the Book Hadassah': The Interse(ct)/(x)ionality of Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality in Esther" (2009).

**October 7**

Guest, *When Deborah Met Jael*, Chapter 2

Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies*, Chapter 4

Article: White, "How Paul Became the Straight Word" (2019)

**October 14**

Guest, *When Deborah Met Jael*, Chapter 3

Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies*, Chapter 5

Article: Yee, "Of Foreigners and Eunuchs: An Asian American Reading of Isaiah 56: 1-8" (2019)

***October 21: Reading Day*****October 28**

Guest, *When Deborah Met Jael*, Chapter 4

Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies*, Chapter 6

Article: Kim, "Queer Hermeneutics: Queering Asian American Identities and Biblical Interpretation" (2019)

**November 4**

Guest, *When Deborah Met Jael*, Chapter 5

Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies*, Chapter 7

**November 11**

Guest, *When Deborah Met Jael*, Chapter 6

Article: Apostolacus, "The Bible and the Transgender Christian: Mapping Transgender Hermeneutics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" (2018)

Article: Carvalho, "Whose Gendered Language of God? Contemporary Gender Theory and Divine Gender in Prophets" (2016)

**November 18**

Hornsby and Guest, *Transgender, Intersex, and Biblical Interpretation*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Article: Liew, "Queering Closets and Perverting Desire: Cross-Examining John's Engendering and Transgendering Word Across Different Worlds" (2009)

Article: Valentine, "Examining Scripture in Light of Trans Women's Voices" (2021)

**December 2**

Hornsby and Guest, *Transgender, Intersex, and Biblical Interpretation*, Chapter 2

Article: Powell, "Delight, Desire, and Drag: The Saga of the Gibeonites and the Queering of Covenant Theology" (2019)

Article: Graybill, "Masculinity, Materiality, and the Body of Moses" (2015)

**December 9**

Hornsby and Guest, *Transgender, Intersex, and Biblical Interpretation*, Chapter 3

Article: Cheng, "Multiplicity and Judges 19: Constructing a Queer Asian Pacific American Biblical Hermeneutic" (2002)

Article: Stone, "What happens when Achsah gets off her ass? Queer Reading and Judges 1:11-15" (2009).

**December 14 (Tuesday)**

Hornsby and Guest, *Transgender, Intersex, and Biblical Interpretation*, Chapter 4

Article: Van Klinken, "Cultural Wars, Race, and Sexuality: A Nascent Pan-African LGBT-Affirming Christian Movement and the Future of Christianity" (2017)