

**Andrews University**  
**SDA Theological Seminary**  
**Department of Theology and Christian Philosophy**  
**GSEM510 REVELATION, INSPIRATION AND HERMENEUTICS**  
**(3 credits)**  
**Fernando Canale - Fall 2001**  
**Seminary Hall, room N235**

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An interdisciplinary study of 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**

- A. To provide the student with general guidelines to grasp the Biblical concept of revelation and the different types of revelation that are actually present constituting the epistemological origin of the Biblical knowledge.
- B. From a propositional interpretation of revelation the student should be able to develop a basic understanding of the epistemological ground for the SDA way of doing theology.
- C. The student should be able to grasp the role of revealed propositional knowledge in the personal experience of salvation.
- D. Introduce the students to Theological Hermeneutics as context of Textual Hermeneutics

**III. INSTRUCTOR**

The instructor for this course is Fernando Canale, Ph.D., professor of Theology and Philosophy at Andrews University SDA Theological Seminary. Office (N 314), 471-6672; home (8796 S. Bluff View), 471-4394; e-mail, [canale@andrews.edu](mailto:canale@andrews.edu); web page, <http://www2.andrews.edu/~canale/>. Students are welcome to call the instructor home during business hours. For appointments call the instructor or his secretary.

**IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**A. TIME MANAGEMENT**

1. M.Div. Students are required to study two hours for each hour of class.
2. Since **Revelation, Inspiration and Hermeneutics** has 45 contact hours, students are expected to spend 90 hours fulfilling requirements for this course through the semester. The requirements for this class have been designed with this time limitation in mind.
3. Time management varies from student to student. Some may complete their requirements in less time while others may need more.
4. **Time management by requirement**
  - a. Readings 70 hours
  - b. Examination 20 hours
  - c. Class attendance 45 hours

**B. REQUIRED READING** (40 points of the final grade)

## Revelation, Inspiration and Hermeneutics Outline -2-

1. All students are required to read the bibliography indicated below or 70 hours whichever comes first. Students will report their reading at examination time. They will be asked whether they completed the reading assignment in full. Students have completed their assignment by either reading the entire bibliography in less than 70 hours (fast readers), or spending 70 hours without reading the entire bibliography (slow readers). These students will be credited 50 points toward the 100 points of the final grade. Students failing to complete the requirement in full will report the amount of hours they spent reading and will be credited proportionally (for instance 30 hours reading will be credited 25 points toward the final grade).
2. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL ANY STUDENT BE ALLOWED TO COMPLETE OR REPORT COURSE REQUIREMENTS AFTER FINAL EXAMINATION TIME.**
3. **Selected Bibliography (Note: read the following books or portions of books in the order they appear below)**
  - a. **Text Book:** Canale, Fernando. **Understanding Revelation-Inspiration in a Postmodern World.** (Berrien Springs, MI. Andrews University Lithotech, 2001).
  - b. Fernando Canale, **Back to Revelation-Inspiration: Searching for the Cognitive Principle of Christian Theology in a Postmodern World** (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2001).
  - c. White, Ellen. **Selected Messages**, Vol. 1. (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1958), 5-76.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_. **Selected Messages**, vol. 2 (Washing DC.: Review and Herald, 1980), 28-86.
  - e. Van Bemmelen, Peter. "Inspiration," in **Handbook of Seventh-Day Adventist Theology**, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD., Review and Herald, 2000), 22-57.
  - f. Richard M. Davidson, "Biblical Interpretation" in **Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology**, ed. Raoul Dederen (Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald, 2000), 58-104.
  - g. **Canale's Web Page/Resources/Revelation, Inspiration and Hermeneutics/Documents**  
(<http://www2.andrews.edu/~canale/>)
    - (1) General Conference, "Methods of Bible Study: Presuppositions, Principles and Methods."
    - (2) Holbrook, Frank, B. "Biblical Doctrine of Inspiration and Authority."
    - (3) Coon, Roger W. "Inspiration and Revelation: What it is and how it Works."
    - (4) Reid W. George, "The Authority of the Bible"
    - (5) \_\_\_\_\_, "Another Look at Adventist Hermeneutics."
    - (6) \_\_\_\_\_, "Is the Bible our Final Authority?"
    - (7) Zinke, E. Edward, "Historical Criticism."

### C. EXAMINATIONS (40 points)

1. **DATES:**
  - a. **Mid Term:** November 14.
  - b. **Final:** Examination Week (Decemehr 9-13)
2. **Type**
  - a. The tests will consist of three sections: true or false (30%), brief answers (50%), and essay type questions (20%). (The percentages are approximate).
  - b. The questions will require memory, understanding, and the capability to use the acquired knowledge to solve and evaluate theological thinking in new settings.

### Revelation, Inspiration and Hermeneutics Outline -3-

- c. Some questions will be general, some will be rather specific as to test the knowledge of the student in the best possible way.

#### 3. Content

- a. 

Questions for the examination will be based ONLY on the <b>Review</b> section at the end of each chapter of the <b>text book</b> . Reading the chapters will help understanding the review summary and preparing for the test.
--
- b. Class Notes and Lectures will not be examined. They, however, will help the students understand the review sections that will be examined.
- c. The mid term exam will include the first 10 (1-10) chapters of the text book.
- d. The final exam will include the last 10 (11-20) chapters of the text book.

#### 4. Administration

- a. During the examination the students will not be allowed to ask questions from the instructor. Evaluation of the students include their capability to understand the questions.
- b. Students will have 1 hour to complete the mid term examination, and, 2 hours to complete the final.

#### 5. Grading

- a. The instructor will place in the appropriate mailbox the grades of each student as the result of a preliminary evaluation.
- b. Students are welcome to see the graded examinations. In order to do that, they should see my secretary.
- c. Students are not allowed to take their examinations from the office.
- d. Students may check the corrections made on their tests.
- e. Students must report any error by explaining each case in writing (at the top of the first page of the examination).
- f. No oral explanation or complaint will be received. They are welcome in writing though.
- g. After considering the merits of each suggestion on each case, on an individual basis, the instructor will decide the grade for each examination.

#### D. ATTENDANCE (20 points)

- 1. The points will be earned according to the following scale of unexcused absences:
  - a. 0-4 unexcused absences: 20 points
  - b. 5 unexcused absences: 15 points
  - c. 6 unexcused absences: 10 points
  - d. 7 unexcused absences: 5 points
  - e. 8 unexcused absences: 0 points
  - f. **9 and each additional unexcused absence: -5 points**
- 2. Students will indicate their presence in each class by writing their names and signing on the class roll sheet that will be pass around each time the class meets.

3. **STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNING THE CLASS ATTENDENCE SHEET WHILE IN CLASS.**
4. **FAILING TO SIGN WHILE IN CLASS WILL BE EXCUSED ONLY ONCE.**
5. Attendance will be excused by the instructor on the basis of
  - a. illness (medical certificate)
  - b. family emergency
  - c. unforeseen circumstance hinders student presence (car breaks down or slides off the road, and the like).
6. Absences due to late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not considered excused.

#### V. GRADING CRITERIA

A. The Final Grade will be calculated in the following way

1. Readings	40 points
2. Examinations	40 points
3. Attendance	<u>20 Points</u>
4. <b>Total</b>	<b>100points</b>

B. **NO ADDITIONAL WORK FOR EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE AVAILABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.**

C. The instructor may apply the curve in order to ensure that at least 25% of the class is in the A category (A and A-).

D. Letter grade-points equivalency

A	96-100
A-	91-95
B+	86-90
B	81-85
B-	76-80
C+	71-75
C	66-70
C-	61-65
D	51-60
F	1-50

#### VI. PENALTIES

- A. **Only the Associate Dean's office can modify the time of the final examination**
- B. If the a student does not show up at examination time for unexcusable reasons he or she will get 0 points for that part of the evaluation.
- C. When a student is excused by the Associate Dean's office from writing the examination at the appointed time, she/he will be given a different test from the rest of the class, usually an essay type examination consisting of only one question.

**VII. CLASS PARTICIPATION**

- A. In order to maximize time management students are given access to the instructor's Class Notes (Slides Presentations).
- B. The student will greatly benefit from a careful reading this material before class.
- C. Students are encouraged to take notes that may help them to better understand the material under discussion.
- D. Due to the large size of the class and the access to the Class Notes, questions to the instructor should be avoided during his daily presentation. Occasionally, after the presentation is made there will be time for questions and answers.
- E. The students are encouraged to dialogue, discuss, and present their questions and comments to the instructor immediately before or after each class. Appointments for dialogue about class lectures are welcome.
- F. Appointments should be made with mi secretary (phone 471-3197).

**VIII. ACADEMIC HONESTY**

- A. Tests are opportunities to demonstrate advances in learning. Consequently, students are expect not to cheat by glancing at other students' tests, chatting during the examination, or consulting with personal notes or books.
- B. Honesty is important in all professions, yet, it is paramount in those that have received the call to the gospel ministry.
- C. **Ceathing in any test will result in a Failing grade (F) for the entire course.**

**IX. DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS**

- A. Students with diagnosed disabilities may request accommodations and needed assistance to the **Office of Student Success**.
- B. If you qualify for accommodations under the American Disabilities Act, please see the instructor as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodations.

**X. ALTERNATE GRADES**

**A. W (Withdrawal)**

- 1. Students may apply for a W when when for different reasons they need to drop a course.
- 2. Dead Lines to apply for Withdrawal
  - (1) **September 5:** The course will not show at all in your transcript
  - (2) **November 27:** The course will show in your transcript with a W as grande. A W does not affect your GPA.

**B. I (Incomplete)**

- 1. Students may apply for an Incomplete when they cannot finish Course Requirements for prolonged sickness. An incomplete is not granted on the bases of sutdent being overloaded with studies or/and work.
- 2. Students must fill the Incomplete form by the final examination time when all the requirements are due. The Incomplete form may be secured from the Registrar office (Administration Building), or, the Seminary's Associate Dean's office.

**Revelation, Inspiration and Hermeneutics Outline -6-**

Students should feel free to call directly to the instructor during business hours from Tuesday through Friday (471-4394), leave a message at 471-6672 or at their own convenience at [canale@andrews.edu](mailto:canale@andrews.edu).

\* \* \* \* \*