

CSS-121 The Pastor as Interpreter of the Bible  
July 17 – July 21, 2023

(This is going to be a relatively short syllabus because many of the details to flesh out this skeleton will be constructed each day as we move through the elements to be addressed. Do not be fooled: one page today doesn't mean we will be finished by Wednesday!)

What to bring to class each day:

- Your wide-awake self
- Two Bibles: the one you use most often and your most “different” one

What is required of you for your grade:

60% •One paper, submitted absolutely no later than July 22, 2022

10% •Class participation

This does not necessarily mean talking. One can participate by being an active listener, by asking questions, by writing exit tickets [Stay tuned for their definition] every day. Participating in discussions is encouraged, but the highest grade does not necessarily go to the person who says the most words.

30% •Final exam – first half of the class period on July 22

What we will cover:

•How to study the Bible – tools and procedures

*Why is all this necessary anyway? Isn't the Bible in English? Doesn't it mean what it says? Shouldn't we just believe it and not criticize it? After all, who are we to criticize the Word of God?*

Words: dictionary translations/cultural translations

Text criticism

Form criticism

Redaction criticism

Hermeneutics: whose point of view gets to count?

•The content of the Bible – an overview of the story and some of the ways it came to be the way we have it now.

•Ways to communicate what you learn at Wesley with those in your parish.

Each day I will tell you what text(s) to read and ponder for the next day's class. My choices will grow, in part, out of the direction of the class discussion. That is, there are many many examples that can be chosen and I want to use whatever is most interesting and most useful to the particular people in the class this year. I know for sure that we will be looking at Genesis 1-4 in great depth as well as Matthew 5 and 25 and Luke 15.