

Biblical and Theological Hermeneutics (PH 901)

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary - Fall 2024

Synchronous f2f meetings: Wednesdays 8:30-10:45 AM – Room 211 (Main)

Instructor:

Dr. Nancy Elizabeth Bedford (pronouns: she/*ella*)

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Office hours:

After class on Wednesdays in P-114 or by appointment

Feel free to contact Dr. Bedford by leaving her a voice mail (847-866-3931) or writing her an email (nancy.bedford@garrett.edu). On weekdays, she will respond within 24 hours; she usually does not answer emails on weekends or holidays.

Land Acknowledgement¹

Garrett-Evangelical sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires -the Ojibwe, Potawatomie, and Odawa- as well as of the Menominee, Miami, and Ho-Chunk nations.

1. September 4 - Prolegomena

Readings:

Two essays on hope by Jürgen Moltmann, “Meditation on Hope” *Theology of Hope. On the Grounds and Implications of a Christian Eschatology* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993), 8-25; and “A Meditation on Hope,” *The Source of Life. The Holy Spirit and the Theology of Life* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997), 38-42. (See course reserves and Moodle for copies)

2. September 11- Hermeneutical method: Hope and Humility (1)

Readings:

¹ For a virtual tour exploring the indigenous heritage of our area, cf.

<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/ebff084d13358a8bea44028ba1a1bc7a/indigenous-tour-of-northwestern/index.html>

- David Tracy, *Plurality and Ambiguity: Hermeneutics, Religion, Hope* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994). ISBN 9780226811260. Price on Amazon.com: \$27.75.
- Hans Georg Gadamer, *Truth and Method* (Bloombury Academic, 2004). ISBN 082647697X. Price on Amazon.com: \$21.19 [Note: there are various editions of this book available]

3. September 18 – **Hermeneutical method: Hope and Humility (2)**

Readings:

- Hanna Reichel, *After Method. Queer Grace, Conceptual Design, and the Possibility of Theology* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2023). ISBN 9780664268190. Price on Bookshop.org: \$37.20.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*,

4. September 25 – **Hermeneutical Method: Hope and Humility (3)**

Readings:

- William Eggington, *In Defense of Religious Moderation* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011). ISBN 023114878X. Price on Amazon.com: \$29.24.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

5. October 2 – **A Hermeneutic of Hope against Hope (1)**

Readings:

- Tiya Miles, *Night Flyer: Harriet Tubman and the Faith Dreams of a Free People* (New York: Penguin Press, 2024). ISBN 0593491165. Price on Bookshop.org: \$27.90.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

6. October 9 - **A Hermeneutic of Hope against Hope (2)**

Readings:

- Lisa M. Bowens, *African American Readings of Paul. Reception, Resistance and Transformation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020). ISBN 0802876765. Price on Amazon.com: \$30.00.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

7. October 16 - **A Hermeneutic of Hope against Hope (3)**

Readings:

- Kelly Brown Douglas, *Resurrection Hope. A Future where Black Lives Matter* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2021). ISBN 162698445X. Price on Amazon.com: \$20.43.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

8. October 23 – **Sites of Hermeneutical Hope (1)**

Readings:

- Benjamín Valentín, *Touched by this Place. Theological Writing and the Power of Place* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2024). ISBN 1626985731. Price on Bookshop.org: \$32.55.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

9. October 30 - **Sites of Hermeneutical Hope (2)**

Readings:

- Nimi Warikobo, *The Pentecostal Hypothesis. Christ Talks, They Decide* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2020). ISBN 1725254514. Price on Bookshop.org: \$26.04
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

10. November 6 - **Sites of Hermeneutical Hope (3)**

Readings:

- Johnson Thomaskutty, ed., *An Asian Introduction to the New Testament* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2022). ISBN 1506462693. Price on Amazon.com: \$15.50
[Note: we will read only pp. v-182 of this book]
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

11. November 13 – **Nativity, Hermeneutical Imagination, and Hope (1)**

Readings:

- Emily Raboteau, *Lessons for Survival. Mothering against “The Apocalypse”* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2024). ISBN 1250809762. Price on Amazon.com: \$20.73.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

12. *Thanksgiving Break*

13. November 20 - **Nativity, Hermeneutical Imagination, and Hope (2)**

Readings:

- Rubem Alves, *Tomorrow's Child. Imagination, Creativity, and the Rebirth of Culture* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011). ISBN 1608990079. Price on Bookshop.org: \$28.83.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*

14. December 4 – **Pedagogy and a Hermeneutic of Hope**

Readings:

- Kevin M. Gannon, *Radical Hope. A Teaching Manifesto* (Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Press, 2020). ISBN 1949199517. Price on Amazon.com: \$15.03.
- Gadamer, *Truth and Method*