CHTH 75063/85063/95063 Major Issues in Contemporary Theology:  
Contemporary Theological Hermeneutics  
Three semester hours

Instructor: David J. Gouwens

Prerequisites:
CHTH 85063: D.Min. students: admittance to the program.
CHTH 95063: Th.M and Ph.D. students: admittance to the program.

Description of Content:
This seminar examines major issues and options in contemporary theological hermeneutics as the theory and practice of biblical interpretation. After a survey of the history of hermeneutics, the seminar focuses on modern and postmodern hermeneutics, from Schleiermacher to the present, as an interdisciplinary study that draws from biblical studies, theology, philosophy, literary theory, and understandings of the “social self.” The course will examine a range of approaches, including existentialist, liberation, feminist, and postcolonial theologies; speech-act theory and narrative theology; reader-response and reception theory; and various postmodern approaches. Attention will be given throughout to theological hermeneutics as “the theory and practice of transforming biblical reading.”

Class Procedures:
Seminar discussion based on assigned readings, with student reports.

Requirements:
Class attendance and participation, assigned readings, and the following written work:
1. Three seminar presentations on an assigned reading.
2. CHTH 75063: A 15-page research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.
   CHTH 85063/95063: A 25-page research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Texts: Required texts as listed, with additional readings:


Grading Procedures: Class participation and written work. Each seminar presentation counts 20% of the grade; the final research paper counts 40%. A 4-point grading and point system is used, as described in the Brite Bulletin.