Department of Theology

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term:          Spring 2015
Instructor:    D. Stephen Long
Course #:      THEO 8514
Section #:     101
Course Title:  Hermeneutic Theory and Method

Content:

Central to all theological endeavors, theoretical and practical, is the interpretation of Scripture. Before the modern era, theologians already developed sophisticated forms of biblical interpretation. The modern era developed the rise of historical criticism and the use of scientific hermeneutical tools, which both depended upon and rebelled against the pre-modern forms of biblical interpretation. The modern methods of biblical interpretation have been fiercely defended and contested in both the Church and the academy. This course will explain and explore pre-modern and modern hermeneutical approaches. It will then examine how these approaches are used in theological method by examining why ‘hermeneutics’ became so important in the modern and post-modern eras. In order to accomplish this, particular attention will be given to language, history, culture, truth, nature and metaphysics.

Format:

Lecture and Seminar Presentation

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Master’s Students: 3 Essays, 6-8 pages, double spaced
- Doctoral Students: In class presentation and final essay.