Winter - 2013 - Florida Extension Course of Study  
COS 111 - Pastor as Interpreter of the Bible  
Instructor: Dr. Nora Ramirez

Class Dates:  

Class Times:  
Friday: Registration:  5:00 - 6:00 PM  
Worship:  6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Classes:  7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Saturday: Classes  8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Required Texts:  

Course Objectives:  
1. To explore the role of pastor as interpreter of the Bible in the life of the congregation.  
2. To enable students to understand the formation of the canon and its function within the community of faith.  
3. To provide a critical introduction to historical, literary, and theological approaches to Scripture while keeping in mind the experimental dimension of biblical interpretation.  
4. To develop an exegetical methodology consistent with the nature and authority of the Bible.  
5. To survey representative materials from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament.  
6. To help students develop the ability to understand what the Bible meant historically and to interpret what it means today.

NOTE: Please staple your completed assignments to a “Course of Study Cover Sheet.” All written assignments must be typed and double-spaced.

Pre Course Work Assignments: (These are due first day of class, Friday night, January 25th)  
1. Read the entire Brueggeman text, The Bible Makes Sense, and the following Books of the Bible: Genesis, Amos, Mark, and Philippians.  
2. Written Assignment #1: Pick one of the four biblical books to be discussed in the course and write two pages on your favorite passage in that book. Explain why it is your favorite and discuss what you think is the most important issue raised by it for people of faith today.  
3. Written Assignment #2: After reading the entire Brueggeman text, discuss in no more than one page for each chapter the main point or points Brueggeman is making. Explain how each point might enhance your role as interpreter of the Bible for your congregation. List two questions or issues arising out of this process for each chapter, as a basis for classroom discussion.  
4. Written Assignment #3: Due on Friday Night, February 22nd  
Choose a passage of scripture from one of the four (4) books of the Bible used in this course. Do not use the same book you chose for Written Assignment #1. If you used OT in #2, use NT now, etc.

Breakdown of course grade will be discussed during the first Friday night session in January. If you have questions call me at 863-868-5346 or e-mail me at sar-ner@juno.com. See you in January. Dr. Nora Ramirez