

Old Testament Prophets: Isaiah

Course Syllabus, OT 6304

Fall 2009

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Class Meeting Time: Tuesday 7:00-10:00 P.M.

Office Hours: Mon, Tues., Wed. 1:00-4:00 P.M.; Th, Fri 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Course Goals:

- 1) Students will identify and engage in informed discussion of major issues in the interpretation of Isaiah.
- 2) All students will prepare presentations on a passage from Isaiah 1-12 which reflects awareness of literary and historical issues which the book of Isaiah raises and conduct research for these presentations using appropriate indices and databases.

Course Objectives:

- 1) The student will acquire an in-depth knowledge of Isaiah 1-39 in its literary, historical, and theological setting.
- 2) The student will acquire knowledge of and be able to discuss and debate the methods and arguments of the three commentators listed in “required texts” below.
- 3) The student will learn how to write an exegesis paper on a passage from Isaiah, using appropriate library and technological resources.
- 4) The student will learn how to go from “text to sermon” in practical, ministerial application of the research done on the exegesis paper.

Means of Assessment:

Regular class attendance and participation is required. All students should come prepared to discuss the particular section of Isaiah assigned for the day. This involves reading the Bible passage for the day, relevant sections in the commentaries, and doing your own studies of important words and contexts

2-3 hour final exam.

1 1/2 hour mid-term exam.

One 7 page, typed *exegesis paper* on one passage found in Isaiah 1-12.

One 5 page, typed *sermon* or *Bible study* based on this exegesis paper.

A brief *oral presentation* of a synopsis or rough draft of the exegesis paper.

Class Discussions:

Three of the required texts are commentaries. There is a very important reason for this. We will be involved in detailed exegesis of the text of Isaiah. These volumes will help you with the preparation of study notes for class preparation, as well as with your exegesis papers. You should come prepared to discuss these passages from week to week as they are assigned.

Preparation of Papers:

Exegesis Paper:

We will be reading and exegeting chaps. 1-12 of Isaiah, and will go on (particularly up to chap. 33) as time allows. The course will entail “hands on” experience with exegesis of the English text of Isaiah. Those who have had Hebrew or Greek, of course, are encouraged to use those abilities and tools in their exegesis of Isaiah.

Exegesis papers must use the proper research style as laid out in K. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers* (latest edition). Exegesis papers should pay careful attention to the literary context (extended and immediate), use of important terminology, and historical setting. Most importantly, students are expected to use Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, Whitaker’s NRSV Concordance, and/or a Hebrew concordance in order to determine the author’s use of words and phrases. For historical background, you will find John Bright *A History of Israel* (4th edition) particularly helpful. Commentaries and other resources will be suggested throughout the semester (see select bibliography attached). While I am most interested in your own exegesis of the texts, you should be aware of and make use of important commentaries, dictionaries, word books, introductions, etc. Your final exegesis paper must have at least two sources (articles, books, commentaries, etc.) which you found via the ATLA database in the library.

Also, see the written guide for the preparation of exegesis papers, which you should follow in the preparation of your exegesis paper.

The *oral reports* will involve your paraphrasing a rough draft of your exegesis paper. Student reports should take 10-15 minutes, followed by a period of

discussion about your paper (10 minutes).

Sermon:

The sermon will be based upon the results of your exegesis paper. The sermon itself is not an exegesis, but uses the results of exegesis to make practical application in the life of the church. A bibliography and aids for writing a sermon from the Old Testament will be provided..

Required Texts:

All students are encouraged to make use of all relevant scholarly helps in their pursuit of the understanding of the text of Holy Scripture. The following are intended to orient you and to be “conversation partners” for our class discussions, but you will wish to consult other books and articles, particularly for your exegesis paper.

The New Oxford Annotated Bible of the New Revised Standard Version, or another good study Bible.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Isaiah 1-39*. Westminster Bible Companion. Louisville: W/JKP, 1998.

Goldingay, John. *Isaiah*. NIBC. Louisville: Hendrickson, 2001.

Seitz, Christopher. *Isaiah 1-39*. Interpretation. Louisville: W/JKP, 1992.

Select Bibliography on Isaiah: see attached sheet.

Software, Database, and Internet Resources:

There are several application software and database resources which Austin Graduate School of Theology provides which are especially helpful for the graduate student. All students in OT 6301 are expected to become familiar with these resources and utilize them especially in the research and preparation of papers:

Accordance Bible Search software: Computer concordance, Bible, and Bible-related database and search engine. Available on library computers, or you may elect to use your own Bible search software, such as *Bible Works* for Windows, *On-Line Bible*, or *Logos/Libronix*.

Online Periodicals: Through EBSCO, Austin Graduate School has access to over 200 full-text journals on the web. See the librarian for access.

ATLA Database: The American Theological Library Association maintains a massive bibliographic database of theological journals and books. You must use this resource for identifying important books and articles for writing the exegesis paper (see above). See the librarian for training and access to this database.

In addition, there are numerous Bible and Bible-related internet sites which may help your research. *The Bible Gateway* is one such site. Please see the librarian for a list of other sites.

Schedule of lectures and oral presentations of exegesis papers:

Sept. 1: Introduction to Isaiah.

Sept. 8: chapter 1

Sept. 15: chapter 2.

Sept. 22: No class, ACU Lectures.

Sept. 29: chapter 3.

Oct. 6: chapter 4-5.

Oct. 13: chapter 6.

Oct. 20: chapter 7:1-8:18.

Oct. 27: **Mid-Term Exam** (over intro. and chapters 1-8:18) and 8:19-9:21.

Nov. 3: chapter 10

Nov. 10: chapters 11-12.

Nov. 17: chapters 13-23.

Nov. 24: chapters 24-33.

Nov. 26-27: Thanksgiving Holiday..

Dec. 1: chapters 34-39.

(Sermons and exegesis papers due)

Dec. 8: **Final Exam** (over chapters 8-39).

All final exegesis papers and sermons will be due no later than the last day of class, prior to finals week.