

Old Testament Prophets: Ezekiel

Course Syllabus, OT 6305(e)

Fall 2018

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Class Meeting Time: Thursday 7:00-9:40 P.M.

Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 10:00–12:00 PM; Wed. 1:00–3:00 PM.

Course Goals:

- 1) Students will identify and engage in informed discussion of major issues in the interpretation of Ezekiel.
- 2) All students will prepare presentations on a passage from Ezekiel, reflecting awareness of literary and historical issues which the book of Ezekiel raises, and conduct research for these presentations using appropriate commentaries and helps.

Course Objectives:

- 1) The student will acquire an in-depth knowledge of Ezekiel 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 commentators listed in “required texts” below.
- 3) The student will learn how to write an exegesis paper on a passage from Ezekiel, 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 Ezekiel 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 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 Ezekiel. 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 doing exegesis of much of the book of Ezekiel. The course will entail “hands on” experience with exegesis of the English text.

Those who have had Hebrew or Greek, of course, are encouraged to use those abilities and tools in their exegesis.

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). 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.

See comments below on the "precept," for the oral presentation of the exegesis paper.

Sermon or Bible Study Series:

The sermon will be based upon the results of your exegesis paper. The sermon or Bible study 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.

Joseph Blenkinsopp, *Ezekiel* (Interpretation, W/JKP, 1990).

Ronald Clements, *Ezekiel* (Westminster Bible Companion, W/JKP, 1996).

Recommended Text:

Leslie Allen, *Ezekiel 1-19* (Word Biblical Commentary, Thomas Nelson, 1994).

Select Bibliography on Ezekiel: 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 6304 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*, *Logos*, or *Olive Tree Software Bible Study App*.

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.

Schedule of lectures and oral presentations of exegesis papers:

Aug. 30: Introduction to Ezekiel.

Sept. 6: chapter 1.

Sept. 13: chapters 2–3.

Sept. 20: chapter 4-5.

Sept. 27: chapters 6–7.

Oct. 4: chapters 8–11.

Oct. 11: chapters 12–14.

Oct. 18: chapters 15–19.

Oct. 25: *Mid-term exam*

Nov. 1: chapters 20–24.

Nov. 8: chapters 25–32.

Nov. 15: chapters 33–37.

Nov. 22: *Thanksgiving holidays, no class*

Nov. 29: chapters 38–39.

Dec. 6: chapters 40–48.

(Sermons and exegesis papers due)

Dec. 13: Final Exam.

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