

The Prophets: Isaiah 40–66 (OT 6304)

MATS Educational Goals Supported by the Course

1. The student will identify and offer informed discussion of major issues in the interpretation of representative books of the New Testament (Gospels and Acts, Pauline letters, General Letters, Apocalypse).
2. The student will prepare papers, sermons, classes, and other assignments demonstrating familiarity with methods and principles of biblical exegesis in Old and New Testaments.

Course Objectives

1. The student will gain an understanding of the content and structure of the biblical book of Isaiah, especially of chapters 40–66 (“Second Isaiah,” or “Deutero-Isaiah”; often further subdivided into chaps. 40–55 [“Second” or “Deutero-Isaiah”] and 56–66 “Third” or “Trito-Isaiah”), and the place and message of these chapters within the canonical book as a whole.
2. The student will increase the ability to use biblical commentaries as an aid to the independent exegesis of Scripture.
3. The student will gain an awareness of the importance of Isaiah 40–66 to the witness of the NT and the proclamation and exposition of the Christian faith in the ancient church.

Required Texts

1. Walter Brueggemann, *Isaiah 40–66* (Westminster Bible Companion)
2. Mark W. Elliott, ed., *Isaiah 40–66* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture)

Course Requirements

1. Attendance at all scheduled meetings of the class.
2. In preparation for each meeting of the class, preparatory reading of (1) assigned biblical passages, and (2) three biblical commentaries on these passages; all students will read Walter Brueggemann’s Westminster Bible Companion volume and Mark Elliott’s collection of patristic commentary, and in addition each student will be assigned a third commentary to consult on a regular basis.
3. Each student will prepare an exegetical essay of 10 pages on a pericope selected in consultation with the instructor. The essay will be due via e-mail, snail mail, or hand delivery to my box at the School by 4:30 PM on Tuesday, May 6. The essay should reflect a thorough reading of at least five commentaries referred to regularly in the course. This reading is to be evidenced by substantive consideration of exegetical issues raised by the commentaries, *including adjudication of at least three issues on which the commentators do not agree in their interpretation*, as well as citation of the commentators in footnotes to your article.

Course Schedule

Tuesday, January 29

Introduction: The Book of Isaiah

Tuesday, February 5

Isaiah 40

Tuesday, February 12

Isaiah 41

Tuesday, February 19

Isaiah 42

Tuesday, February 26

Isaiah 43–44

Tuesday, March 4

Isaiah 45–46

Tuesday, March 11: NO CLASS MEETING (Spring Break)

Tuesday, March 18:

Isaiah 47–48

Tuesday, March 25

Isaiah 49–51

Tuesday, April 1

Isaiah 52–55

Tuesday, April 8

Isaiah 56–59

Tuesday, April 15

Isaiah 60—62

Tuesday, April 22

Isaiah 63–64

Tuesday, April 29

Isaiah 65–66

Tuesday, May 6

Exegetical paper due by 4:30 PM (preferably emailed as attachment, faxed to 512.476.3919, or left in hard copy in my mailbox)