GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OT 562 Isaiah in Depth
Fall 2008
Tues/Thur 8am-9:30am
Thomas D. Petter, Ph.D.
(tpetter@gcts.edu)
978-646-4243

Office hours: 1-2pm Tues/Thurs (other times by appointment)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the foundational principles necessary for biblical interpretation. Using Isaiah as our focus, attention will be given to the practice and use of proper methodology for interpretation and exposition of biblical texts. In addition, discussions will cover detailed exegetical analyses of key chapters in Isaiah, historical issues and the theology of the book of Isaiah.

COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are to enable you to:
1) develop foundational skills to interpret the biblical text
2) understand the main theological and historical issues related to the book of Isaiah
3) Situate Isaiah within redemptive history

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- J. A. Motyer, Isaiah, Tyndale, IVP, 1998
- W.W. Klein, C.L. Blomberg, R.L. Hubbard, Introduction to Biblical Interpretation (Nelson) [KBH]

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Jeffery, S., et al., Pierced for Our Transgressions: Rediscovering the Glory of Penal Substitution (Good News and Crossway, 2007)
- D.B. Sandy, Plowshares and Pruning Hooks (IVP, 2002)
IV. Course Requirements

1. Narrative exegetical assignment # 1 (20%) : Analysis of Isaiah 6 (3-5 pages single-spaced). Exegetical techniques for this assignment will be discussed in class.
2. Poetry exegetical assignment # 2 (30%) examines the servant song of Isa 52:13-53:12 in its exegetical, literary and biblical settings (5-7 pages single-spaced). Further guidelines will be given in class.
3. Reading Isaiah assignment (20%) consists of three parts:
   - Read Isaiah five times (10%). It is important that the first reading is completed in one sitting.
   - Generate an Overview Chart of Isaiah (10%). Guidelines to be given in class.
4. Final exam (30%) based on class lectures, discussions and readings. Note: you will be asked to reproduce both Greek and Hebrew alphabets as part of the final.
5. Class participation and class readings. It is expected that students will attend classes and actively participate in the various activities scheduled for the course. Obvious lack of preparation, participation and attendance will result in grade penalty. A reading report must be submitted.

VI. Class Schedule

Week 1 SEPT 9/11 “Introduction”

Class topics:
   - Isaiah, The Big Picture
   - Workshop: how to do an overview chart

Assignment for next class:
   - Generate a rough overview chart

Week 2 SEPT 16/18 “Tools of Interpretation”

Class topics:
   - Overview of the steps of interpretation
   - Isaiah 1-5
Assignment for next class:
   - Generate final draft of overview chart
Readings:
   - KBH ch 1; survey chs 2, 3, 4
   - Motyer: introduction + commentary on Isa 1-5
WEEK 3  SEPT 23/25 “OT Hermeneutics”

Class topics:
- Text-based hermeneutics
- How to interpret the prophets
- Isaiah 6-12

Readings:
- KBH chs 5, 6
- Motyer commentary on Isa 6-12

Recommended reading: G. Fee and D. Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth* (chapter on prophecy)

Overview chart is due Sept 25

Begin work on exegetical assignment #1

WEEK 4  SEPT 30/OCT 2 “Narrative”

Class topics:
- Hebrew narrative techniques
- Isaiah 13-27

Readings:
- KBH ch 7
- Motyer commentary on Isa 13-27


WEEK 5  OCT 7/9 “Poetry”

Class topics:
- Hebrew Poetry techniques
- Isaiah 28-35

Readings:
- KBH ch 8
- Motyer commentary on Isa 28-35

READING WEEK
WEEK 6 OCT 21/23 “Lexical analysis”

Class topics:
- How to research key lexemes/phrases
- Memorizing Hebrew/Greek alphabet
- Isaiah 36-39

Readings:
- KBH ch 9 (survey ch 10)
- Motyer commentary on Isa 36-39

Exegetical assignment #1 is due

WEEK 7 OCT 28/30 “History”

Class topics:
- The authorship of Isaiah: literary and historical implications
- Israel and Judah during the 8th cent. B.C.
- Isa 40-48

Readings:
- KBH ch 12 (survey ch 11)
- Motyer commentary on Isa 40-48

WEEK 8 NOV 4/6 “Isaiah in the Old Testament”

Class Topics:
- Role and function of Isaiah in the OT
- Isaiah 49-55

Assignments for next class:
- Motyer commentary on Isa 49-55

READING WEEK

WEEK 9 NOV 18/20 “Isaiah in the New Testament”

Class topics:
- Kingship
- Sacrifice
- Isaiah 56-59
Assignments for next class:
  • Motyer commentary on Isa 60-69

WEEK 10 NOV 25 “Isaiah in the New Testament, continued”

Class Topics:
  • Judgment and Restoration
  • The Promise of Zion
  • Isaiah 60-69
Note: Thursday is Thanksgiving Day: No class

DEC 2: FINAL EXAM

DEC 9: Assignment #2 is due/ Reading Report is due

VI. RESOURCES


