

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM640/BNT 641 Exposition of Ephesians

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A detailed expositional study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The course will focus on exegetical and interpretive methods for NT epistolary literature, with specific application to the text and message of Ephesians. In addition to verse-by-verse analysis, special attention will be given to preaching from Ephesians.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the historical and cultural setting of Ephesians.
2. Explain distinctive theological themes in Ephesians.
3. Understand the unique characteristics of the epistle as a genre.
4. Exegete and interpret passages in the NT epistles, and particularly Ephesians.
5. Develop and preach messages from Ephesians (and other epistles) that are TRUE to the biblical text, CLEAR and well organized, INTERESTING to listen to, and RELEVANT to the listener's needs.
6. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application.

TEXTBOOKS

Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Lincoln, Andrew T. *Ephesians*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1990.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Overview of Paul's Thought
 - a. Christ: the Center
 - b. Paul's Use of the OT
 - c. Jew-Gentile Debate
 - d. Grace and Law
 - e. Spirit and Flesh
 - f. Creation-New Creation

- II. Epistle Genre
 - a. Structure
 - b. Literary Conventions
 - c. Expository Methods

- III. Ephesians
 - a. Introduction
 - i. Author, Date, Audience, Origin, Destination
 - ii. Particular Task
 - iii. Structure
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. Unique Theological Contributions
 - ii. Biblical-Theological Analysis
 - 1. Historical-Grammatical Exegesis
 - 2. Redemptive-Historical Synthesis

- IV. Round of Preaching
 - a. Student Sermons
 - b. Related Assignments

METHODOLOGY

1. The course will utilize lectures, discussion, readings, written assignments, and student preaching (with critiques and video review).
2. The first part of the course will focus primarily on lectures and discussion of the text of Ephesians.
3. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student sermons.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

***NOTE** – Day of Renewal, Friday, September 23 – Class will not meet.
 Fall Study Break – October 24 – 28 (No regular classes will meet.)

1. **Reading.** Read chs. 4, 5, and 12 in Greidanus. Use Lincoln's commentary for the entire text of Ephesians. Submit a statement of completion by the last day of class.
2. **Exegetical paper.** Write a 10-12 page exegetical paper on a passage in Ephesians (see the sign up sheet and the paper guide).
3. **Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver **without notes** a 15-minute expository message based on the exegetical paper. ******(There are two primary reasons for learning to preach without notes. First, preaching without notes demands a higher level of internalization, focus and clarity [unity, order, progress of thought, and precision with words]. Second, speaking without notes promotes a stronger connection with the listeners, which in turn maximizes the goal of preaching which is life change and growth in following Christ.)
 - a. A full sentence, homiletical outline (carried to the third level of subordination, e.g., I.A.1.a) is due to the professor by noon of the day before the student preaches. Late work will receive a full letter grade

deduction. Exceeding the time limit will result in a full letter grade deduction.

- b. A full manuscript (roughly 10 pages) of the sermon is due to the professor by noon of the day before the student preaches in class. This manuscript should reflect the actual content of the message. It should read like a sermon and not like an academic research paper.
- c. Each student will prepare a one page homiletical outline (with homiletical proposition) of the entire (all the verses) passage the student chooses in Ephesians. This outline will be distributed to the class and professor at the time the sermon is delivered.
- d. The student is also to provide videotape for recording the sermon. The student will review the tape within one week of the preaching date, and submit to the professor a typed, two page, self-critique due at the next class session.
- e. The student is required to preach in class on the date assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one letter grade for that assignment.

4. Class Participation.

- a. Students are expected to participate in discussion, thoughtful peer critiques, and with logistics (e.g., video camera operation).
- b. Faithful attendance.
- c. Professor reserves the right to adjust grade for outstanding participation.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Preaching is an art and therefore evaluation is partly empirical but also partly subjective. The “sermon” grade will be based on my subjective evaluation and the level achieved in (1) Accuracy (to text and to audience), (2) Clarity (of homiletical proposition throughout), (3) Interest (compelling delivery), and (4) Relevance (concrete images; developmental questions).
2. The final grade will be based on the following percentages:
 - 10% On-Time Reading
 - 30% Exegetical Paper
 - 30% Sermon (including manuscript)
 - 10% Outlines
 - 10% Self-Critique
 - 10% Class Participation
3. Grades will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12.

**Thanks to Edgar Lee and Joe Castleberry for their ideas and materials included in this syllabus.

Bibliography printed separately for distribution to class.