

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM 620/BOT 620 Exposition of Genesis

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A detailed expositional study of the book of Genesis. The course will focus on exegetical and interpretive methods for OT narrative, with specific application to the text and message of Genesis. In addition to narrative-by-narrative analysis, special attention will be given to preaching from Genesis, and to the role of biblical theology in preaching.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the historical and cultural background of Genesis.
2. Explain distinctive biblical-theological themes in Genesis.
3. Understand the unique characteristics of narrative as a genre.
4. Exegete and interpret passages in OT narrative, and specifically Genesis.
5. Demonstrate competence in biblical-theological method.
6. Develop and preach messages from Genesis (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.
7. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application.

TEXTBOOKS

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002.

_____. *The Unfolding Mystery*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.

Dumbrell, William J. *Covenant and Creation*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1984.

_____. *The End of the Beginning*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.

Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Overview of the Structure of Genesis
 - a. Genesis in Canonical Form and Context
 - b. Creation
 - c. Noah
 - d. Abraham
 - e. Jacob

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

- III. Exposition of Genesis
 - a. Introduction
 - i. Author, Date, Audience, Origin, etc.
 - ii. Purpose (in the light of biblical theology)
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. Unique Theological Contributions
 - ii. Biblical-Theological Motifs
 1. Historical-Grammatical Exegesis
 2. Redemptive-Historical Synthesis

- IV. Two Rounds 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 Genesis, including hermeneutical methods.
3. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student sermons.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

***NOTE** – Spring Study Break – February 27 – March 3 (No regular classes will meet)
Chapel – Thursday, February 2 – 1:30p.m. – 2:45p.m.
Chapel – Thursday, April 6 – 1:30p.m. – 2:45p.m.

1. **Reading.** Read Dumbrell (pp. 11-79 in *C&C*, and *End*, all); Clowney (*Preaching and BT*, all; *Unfolding Mystery*, all); and Ross as necessary for exposition and preaching. Submit a statement of completion by the last day of class.

2. **Biblical-Theological Paper.** Write a 10-12 page biblical-theological paper on a motif that begins in Genesis (see the paper guide).
3. **First Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver **without notes** a 15-minute expository message based on the biblical-theological paper. **There are two primary reasons for learning to preach without notes. First, preaching without notes demands a higher level of “ownership” (spiritual and intellectual saturation) of the material. Second, speaking without notes promotes a stronger connection with the listeners, which in turn maximizes the impact 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 also 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 Genesis. 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. **Second Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver **without notes** a 15-minute expository message based on his/her exegesis of a narrative preaching unit in Genesis.
 - a. Full sentence, exegetical, theological, and homiletical outlines (carried to the third level of subordination, e.g., I.A.1.a) are 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 when preaching will also result in a full letter grade deduction.
 - b. A 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 (include all the verses) passage the student chooses in Genesis. 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.

5. 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
 - 20% Biblical-Theological Paper
 - 50% Sermons (including manuscripts and outlines)
 - 10% Self-Critiques
 - 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.

Bibliography printed separately for distribution to class.