

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**BOT 538 Studies in Prophetical Books: Isaiah**

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Spring 2007  
Wednesdays, 7:30-10:15 a.m.

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A section by section exegetical study of the Book of Isaiah with emphasis on its theological themes and principlizing for the church today. Attention will be given to selected issues including the unity of the book.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Outline the major sections of the book of Isaiah.
2. Discuss the unity of the book and the strengths and weaknesses of the critical theories of multiple authorship.
3. Describe how the prophecies of Isaiah fit into the historical context of Israel and the ancient Near East.
4. Identify, explain, and apply the major theological themes and concepts taught in the book.
5. Discuss the interpretations of the issues dealt with in class giving your own conclusions.
6. Exegete and apply to the church today any passage in Isaiah.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required**

Cotton, Roger D., ed. *BOT 538 Isaiah Handouts 2007* (AGTS)

Horton, Stanley. *Isaiah: A Logion Press Commentary*. Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 2000.

Motyer, J. Alec. *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1993.

*The Holy Bible: The Contemporary English Version*. American Bible Society, 1995.

## COURSE OUTLINE

The classes will proceed through the book of Isaiah discussing groups of chapters in most classes but going into depth on a few major passages. After Spring Break presentations of papers will be interspersed with the lecture and the course will conclude with a final exam.

## METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, reading, research and writing assignments.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance is expected; the seminary allows two (2) class absences. Please talk to the professor about your absences.

1. Be prepared to discuss the passages and readings assigned for each class.
2. Read the book of Isaiah in one sitting for the second class.
3. Read the introductions to Motyer, Horton, and the NICOT commentary by Oswalt (see Reference section of the library) by the second class.
4. Read the best scholarly interpretations of what Isaiah 7:14 meant to Isaiah and Ahaz and how that relates to how Matthew understood it in his use of it in Matthew 1:22-23. Write an essay of 4-6 pages (see writing instructions provided in class) summarizing the major views and giving your conclusion on the issue. Include a list of all sources consulted. You must read on reserve the articles by Kaiser, Motyer, and Reymond, as well as the sections in the commentaries by Horton, Oswalt, Grogan, Watts, and Young. Be ready to discuss this in class on Wednesday, January 24 and turn in the paper.
5. Read through the book of handouts, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Motyer's, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Horton's commentaries, by the end of the course, and compare the Contemporary English Version to the version you normally use as the course proceeds through Isaiah.
6. Read the major theories on the unity of Isaiah and write a page of notes (not to be turned in) explaining the evidence for and against unity and giving your conclusion on it. Be sure to be able to summarize your view of the perspective difference in chapters 40-66 versus 1-39, and of the prophecy predicting Cyrus. **Turn in a list all the sources you consulted** which must include: three of the best commentaries (besides the textbooks), Allis' The Unity of Isaiah, (key sections and points), Archer's Survey of OT Introduction, Stanley Horton's dissertation conclusions, and LaSor, Hubbard, Bush, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. pp. 281-288. Accountability for this will be required at the last class.
7. Turn in on **Feb. 7** your diagram of your passage (at least 4 verses) or one of your passages for a theme study for the exegetical project below. This will be explained in class and is in the handouts. The professor will provide feedback on the passage.
8. Turn in on April 18 or present on a date agreed upon with the professor, as described below, an exegetical research and application project on a passage of your choice, or a theme, from Isaiah, approved by the professor. If a single passage is chosen it should be at

least 4 verses long and be some kind of literary unit. This is to be a careful, Biblical-theological, study of a passage with strong application for God's people today. It does not have to be in the form of a traditional research paper but it must demonstrate good interpretive method including evidence of the following:

- A. Understanding the language of the text(s) through comparing translations and doing some word studies, which include at least the use of the Hebrew English Concordance for the NIV or the (New) Englishman's Hebrew Concordance (coded to Strong's) for the KJV and the New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis (NIDOTTE).
- A. Understanding the significance of the historical and cultural references in the passage(s) through background studies, including Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, and scholarly, exegetical commentaries.
- B. Understanding the literary intent of the passage(s) by outlining the flow of thought and studying the literary devices used by the writer. **NOTE: TURN IN** a flow of thought **diagram** (instructions to be explained in class) on your passage, or one of your key passages (of at least 4 verses) for your theme, on the date for approval of projects, **February 7**.
- D. Understanding the theology intended through analyzing the theological and thematic terms and ideas used in context of the book and the whole Old Testament, and determining the underlying principles intended as the message of the inspired writer. Here again the best commentaries should be consulted (the \* ones in bibliography below are required and choose 2 additional ones), as well as Old Testament theologies, including House, and Kaiser. Read Oswalt "Isaiah, Theology of" in the 4<sup>th</sup> volume of NIDOTTE, and any other related theological studies. Be sure to research journal articles and read at least one to qualify for an A grade.

There are three choices for method of presentation below, all of which must conclude with a simple sermon outline applying the results to people today, with a proposition and all the points answering a transitional question on the proposition, and coming from the passage(s). All three choices also require a **full bibliography** of all sources consulted (not just cited). Articles in multi-author books (like NIDOTTE) must follow 11.26 in Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

#### CHOICES:

- 1) Present in class, in 20 minutes, the highlights of a detailed 2-3 page outline of the results of your study, at a time agreed upon with the professor (ideally the day the passage comes up in the course). The outline must be turned in by noon the day before the presentation for photocopying by the department and preview by the professor.

- 1) Present the above outline to the professor in his office, turned in the day before.
- 2) Turn in a 9-12 page paper Wednesday, April 18.
9. Write a final exam over the book of Isaiah from the material discussed in class, including a basic outline of the major sections and an essay on the major theological themes and concepts, Wednesday, April 22.
10. Late work will be penalized **1 point per day** late using a 12 point scale (12=A, 1=F).

### **WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED TO ROGER COTTON**

All work for me must be typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins and the right margin NOT justified, and be proof-read. Your writing should demonstrate good, formal, clear, writing style (see handouts and Strunk and White or *Getting the Words Right*). For questions about format see Turabian 6th edition. If you need to cite a source you may choose which one of the three citation methods in Turabian you prefer to use: foot notes, end notes, or parenthetical. For assignments with specific readings, no bibliography is needed unless you want the professor to know about additional reading you did. If the source has been assigned, just put the last name in parentheses with the page number. The length may exceed the limit by a page or so. If you do not have it finished when it is discussed in class you shouldn't listen to the discussion. Put the following information at the top of the first page or on a title page: Name, assignment, course, my name, date. Do not put anything but the page numbers at the top of the other pages. No title page is needed for work under 4 pages. Do not use a cover, just staple it.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Reading assignments and class participation	8%
Essay on Isaiah 7:14 interpretations	18 %
Reading on the Unity of Isaiah theories	5 %
Researched presentation on a passage or a theme in Isaiah	39 %
Final Exam	30 %

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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\*Grogan, Geoffrey W. "Isaiah." In The Expositor's Bible Commentary, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, 6:3-354. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.

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### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Roger D. Cotton, November 2006.