

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**HOM/BOT 621 Expository Preaching in the Prophets and Apocalypse**

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Spring, 2007  
Thursdays, 1:30-3:45 PM

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines Old Testament prophetic books and the Apocalypse, as well as the skills and methods necessary for developing expository messages from the OT/NT prophetic material. Special attention will be given to salient prophetic motifs such as, Messianic prophecies, justice, idolatry, exile, restoration and creation/new creation. Also, genre-specific hermeneutical issues will be examined. The specific biblical material studied may vary from semester to semester. Prereq: HOM 529 and HOM 633.

**OBJECTIVES**

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

1. Describe the historical and cultural background of one OT prophetic book and the book of Revelation.
2. Explain distinctive biblical-theological themes in one OT prophetic book and the book of Revelation.
3. Understand the unique characteristics of prophecy and apocalyptic as genres.
4. Exegete and interpret passages in biblical prophetic and apocalyptic literature, and specifically the book of Revelation.
5. Demonstrate competence in biblical-theological method.
6. Develop and preach messages from the OT prophets and Revelation with the following characteristics:
  - a. TRUE to the biblical text
  - b. CLEAR and well organized
  - c. INTERESTING to listen to,
  - d. RELEVANT to the listener's needs, and
  - e. EFFECTIVE in terms of life transformation.
7. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics:
  - a. Observation
  - b. Interpretation
  - c. Correlation, and
  - d. Application.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Robinson, Haddon W. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.

Peterson, Eugene. *The Message*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002.

Osborne, Grant. *Revelation. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2002.

## **COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE**

\* **NOTE** – Spring Study Week: February 25 – March 3 (thus no class on March 1)  
Chapel: Thursday, January 18, 1:30-2:45 PM  
Day of Renewal: all day Thursday, January 25 (thus no class)  
There is no Final Examination in this class.

**I. Overview of the Expository Method (January 11 and 18)**  
(*a la* Robinson) [Read *Biblical Preaching* before February 1.]

**II. Hermeneutics and Exposition (February 1)**

[Read the specified Introductions in Peterson and chapters in the OT prophets before February 8.]

- a. Genres of Prophecy and Apocalyptic
  - Structure
  - Literary Conventions
  - Expositional Methods
- b. Exposition of the Prophets and the Apocalypse
  - Matters of Introduction
    - i. Author, Date, Audience, Provenance, Circumstances, etc.
    - ii. Theme and Purpose (both historically and in the light of biblical theology)
    - iii. Outline (helpful for use in book overview and passage context)
      - Matters of Interpretation
        - i. Unique Theological Contributions
        - ii. Biblical-Theological Motifs
          - (a) Historical-Grammatical Exegesis
          - (b) Redemptive-Historical Motifs

**III. Round One: Preaching the Prophets (February 8, 15, 22, and March 8)**

[Read approximately 100 pages in Osborne each of the next 8 weeks to complete its 800 pages prior to Round 2 Preaching in the Apocalypse.]

**IV. Review of the Expository Method (March 15)**

(*a la* Gill)

- **Hermeneutical-Homiletical Practice in Revelation (March 22)**

**V. Round Two: Preaching on the Apocalypse (March 29, April 5, 12, 19, and 26)**

## METHODOLOGY

1. The course utilizes lectures, discussion, readings, written assignments, and student preaching (with critiques and video review).
2. The first part of the course is an overview of the expository method with a brief look at the OT prophets, including hermeneutical methods, looking at one prophetic book in class and the student's choice of another prophetic book for individual sermon.
3. The second part of the course takes a similar approach but with an extended application to the Apocalypse, the student preparing a sermon series as well as preaching one message from the book of Revelation.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & DUE DATES

1. **Reading.**
  - a. Read<sup>1</sup> Robinson in its entirety during the method overview sessions.  
*\*Complete this reading before February 1.*
  - b. Read Peterson's "Preface to the Reader," "Introduction to The Message," "Introduction to the Prophets," and the "Introduction" to each of the Major and Minor Prophets prior to Preaching Round 1 on the genre overview .  
*\*Complete this reading before February 8.*
  - c. Read Osborne's "Introduction to Revelation" during the genre overview sessions and the remainder of the text *prior to the Round Two sermons.*
  - e. Read the biblical texts of Revelation and the one Minor Prophet or 10 chapters of the one Major Prophet from which the student chooses to preach *in preparation for those preaching assignments.*
  - d. Read at least 100 pages of outside reading on the prophets and Revelation (combined total) *in preparation of sermon assignments.*  
*\*Submit a signed statement of reading completion and annotated bibliography of outside reading by the last day of class. Find the form provided for this purpose and see a sample on Moodle.*
2. **Sermon Series Summary.** Write a series of 3-5 sermons based on the book of Revelation. Submit a 10-12 paged, single and open spaced, summary of the series including a title, a scripted introduction, conclusion and illustrations if any, and an annotated preaching outline developed to the third level (e.g., I. A. 1. a.) for each sermon in the series. Any additional preaching resources the student has prepared for the series (beyond the 10-12 page limit) will be accepted without penalty. The Bibliography (also required for academic assignments) may also exceed the page limit. The student chooses one of these messages to be preached in Round Two.
3. **Two Sermons.** Prepare and deliver two 15-minute expository messages: one based on a prophetic book and one from Revelation. The first sermon must be preached without notes.<sup>2</sup> The second sermon may be preached in the student's choice of presentation styles (with, *but not dependent on*, notes or manuscript, or

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<sup>1</sup> Or carefully reviewed, if this text was previously read for another preaching course.

without either).

The student may use creativity to engage the audience and strengthen the impact of the expository message including costumes, props, token gifts, handouts, PowerPoint, participation, etc. Since logistical issues are entirely the student's responsibility, advance practice and early arrival are essential to an effective delivery when involving such enhancements.

- a. An **annotated sermon outline** (like those in the sermon series summary assignment) is due to the professor's office by noon the day before the student preaches.  
\* Late work receives a full letter grade deduction.
  - b. A **full manuscript** (roughly 10 pages) of the sermon is also due to the professor's office by noon the day before the student preaches. This manuscript should reflect the actual (word for word) content of the message, and she be composed in *spoken not written* English (i.e., it should read like a sermon and not like an academic research paper).  
\* Late work receives a full letter grade deduction.
  - c. A **one-page homiletical outline** (with homiletical proposition) of the entire passage (i.e., encompassing all the verses) the student chooses *copied in a sufficient number for all class members and professor. The student will distribute* this outline to the class and professor at the time the sermon is delivered.  
\* Late work receives a full letter grade deduction.
  - d. The student is required to **preach in class** on the two dates assigned.  
\* Failure to do so results in a grade penalty of one letter grade for that assignment.  
\* Exceeding the time limit also results in a full letter grade deduction.
  - e. The student is also required to provide a videotape for recording the two sermons. 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**.  
\* Late work receives a full letter grade deduction.
- 4. Class Participation (including Peer Review).**
- a. As per the AGTS attendance policy, more than two absences results in failure of the course.
  - b. Students are required to participate in class discussion, thoughtful peer critiques, and with logistics (e.g., video camera operation).

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<sup>2</sup> Dr. Doug Oss explains that 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.

## GRADING PROCEDURE

Preaching is both an art and a science. Therefore, evaluation is partly objective and partly subjective. Assignment *specifications* can be judged through empirical assessment; but good preaching is more than “following the rules” of hermeneutics, homiletics, and communication.

The best preaching *conveys God’s heart in a manner that influences life change.*

On the practical side: it captures listeners’ attention at the outset, keeps it while informing and enlightening them, and won’t let them go until it challenges an appropriate response. This kind of preaching feeds the flock of God—and models and inspires God’s people to feed themselves—it grows them in grace, and disciples the church to be *doers* of the Word not hearers only.

On the spiritual side: for preachers to have *influence with integrity*, the Word they preach must first transform *them*. Preachers must study the passage into their own heart; respond to its call personally with repentance and rectitude; and pray its truths on fire. They must seek God for the application of their passage to the needs of their audience; craft an engaging and relevant message; and then deliver it with the powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit. They must plan for the appropriate response of listeners, leading them not only to a point of decision, but coaching them into life transformation. And, in a pastoral-type setting where the same people are listening week after week, the preacher must be much more than a speaker—he or she is responsible to *follows up and follows through*, continuing to carry the burden of the message toward its accomplishment

The preached sermon grade is based on my subjective evaluation of the level achieved in (1) Accuracy (to text and to audience), (2) Clarity (of homiletical proposition throughout), (3) Interest (compelling delivery and creativity), (4) Relevance (applicability; concrete images; developmental questions), and (5) Effect (influence toward life transformation).

- Additionally, any failure to meet assignment specifications accrue corresponding point reductions.

## GRADING SCALE

### 100-point Percent Scale

98-100 %	= A+
93-97	= <b>A</b>
<u>90-92</u>	= A-
87-89	= B+
83-86	= <b>B</b>
<u>80-82</u>	= B-
77-79	= C+
73-76	= <b>C</b>
<u>70-72</u>	= C-
67-69	= D+
63-66	= <b>D</b>
<u>60-62</u>	= D-
0-59	= <b>F</b>

### 1000-point Semester Total

980-1000 points	= A+
930-979 points	= <b>A</b>
<u>900-929 points</u>	= A-
870-899 points	= B+
830-869 points	= <b>B</b>
<u>800-829 points</u>	= B-
770-779 points	= C+
730-769 points	= <b>C</b>
<u>700-729 points</u>	= C-
670-699 points	= D+
630-669 points	= <b>D</b>
<u>600-629 points</u>	= D-
0-599 points	= <b>F</b>

**RELATIVE WEIGHT OF ASSIGNMENTS AND RECORD OF SCORES**

**I. PREACHING ASSIGNMENTS (2 @ 25%, i.e., 250 points each)**

*Round One Sermon on the Prophets*

A. Annotated Sermon Outline <sup>3</sup>	_____	/25
B. Full Manuscript <sup>3</sup>	_____	/50
C. One-page Homiletical Outline <sup>4</sup>	_____	/25
D. In-Class Delivery	_____	/100
C. Self-Critique <sup>5</sup>	_____	/50
ROUND 1 SUBTOTAL	=====	/250

*Round One Sermon on the Apocalypse*

A. Annotated Sermon Outline <sup>3</sup>	_____	/25
B. Full Manuscript <sup>3</sup>	_____	/50
C. One-page Homiletical Outline <sup>4</sup>	_____	/25
D. In-Class Delivery	_____	/100
C. Self-Critique <sup>5</sup>	_____	/50
ROUND 2 SUBTOTAL	=====	/250

**PREACHING SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_/500 points<sup>6</sup>50%**

**II. SERMON SERIES (1 @ 20%, i.e., 200 points total)**

A. Biblical Content	_____	/100
B. Creativity, Interest and Impact	_____	/50
C. Form and Writing	_____	/50

**SERIES SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_/250 points 25%**

**III. READINGS (@ 20%, i.e., 200 points total)**

- A. Readings in *The Message* and Biblical Text (-100 pages)
- B. Osborn, *Revelation* Commentary (~800 pages)
- C. Outside Reading (100 pages)

**SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_/200<sup>7</sup> points 20%**

**IV. PARTICIPATION (@ 20%, i.e., 200 points at mid-term)**

**SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_/200 points 20%**

**TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/1000 points 100%**

<sup>3</sup> Due one day before sermon is preached.

<sup>4</sup> Copied in sufficient number for the student to distribute to class members and professor.

<sup>5</sup> Due one week after the sermon is preached.

<sup>6</sup> Deductions accrue for errors in form or writing (up to 25 points per sermon), for language that excludes or humor that devalues (10 points per occurrence), or for lateness (25 points a week, i.e., per class session).

<sup>7</sup> Deductions accrue for missing bibliography (25 points) or annotations (15 points), errors in form or writing (up to 10 points), or lateness (10 points per day of Finals Week).