

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**HOM/BOT 621 Expository Preaching in the Prophets and Apocalypse**  
**Fall 2008**

Doug Oss, Ph.D.  
[doss@agts.edu](mailto:doss@agts.edu)  
Office: 417.268.1064

**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 engage
  - d. RELEVANT to the listener's life-transformation needs
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.

Dumbrell, William. *The End of the Beginning*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.

Clowney, Edmund. *The Unfolding Mystery*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **I. Overview of the Expository Method (Robinson and Oss)**

### **II. Hermeneutics and Exposition**

- a. Genres of Prophecy and Apocalyptic
  - Structure
  - Literary Conventions
  - Expositional Methods
- b. Exposition of 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**

### **IV. Round Two Preaching**

## **METHODOLOGY**

1. The course utilizes lectures, discussion, readings, written assignments, and student preaching (with critiques and video for self-evaluation).
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, using Isaiah as the model. The student will prepare one sermon (outlines only) from Isaiah.

3. The second part of the course takes a similar approach but with an extended analysis of the book of Revelation. The student will prepare a sermon series as well as preach two messages from the book of Revelation.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading.**
  - a. Read<sup>1</sup> Robinson in its entirety during the method overview sessions.
  - 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.
  - c. Read Osborne's "Introduction to Revelation" and use the commentary portion during your study of Revelation.
  - d. Read all of Dumbrell and Clowney.
  - e. Read the biblical texts of Revelation and Isaiah five times each.
  - f. Submit a *signed statement of reading completion* by the scheduled final exam for this class.
  - g. NOTE: It will benefit you to complete all the reading assignments as early in the semester as possible.
2. **Sermon Series Development.** Develop a series of 3-5 sermons based on your assigned portion in the book of Revelation. Submit a full-sentence preaching outline developed to the third level (e.g., I. A. 1. a.) for each sermon in the series. These outlines should be polished for delivery and include title and central proposition. As well, submit a one page (double-spaced) summary of the series, including the series title. Choose two sermons from this series for your preaching in rounds I and II. This assignment will become part of a larger class project so that each student will take away from class the rudiments of a series through the entire book of Revelation.
3. **Isaiah Sermon.** Prepare one sermon from Isaiah. The student should submit full-sentence, detailed exegetical, theological, and homiletical outlines with titles and central propositions. These should be submitted as three separate outlines. The exegetical outline should include a "works consulted" list. The homiletical outline should be in its final form for delivery. No manuscript required.
4. **Two Sermons.** Prepare and deliver two 15-minute expository messages from Revelation. The first sermon must be preached without notes (skeleton outlines only, as discussed in class). The second sermon may be preached in the student's choice of presentation styles (with, *but not dependent on*, notes or manuscript, or 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. Please do not spring anything on the media workers at the last minute. Give the media assistants at

---

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

least 48 hours notice, and have everything ready to plug and play. The media assistants will not be able to assist you with formatting, etc.

- a. A **full-sentence sermon outline** is due to the professor one week before the student preaches.  
\* Late work receives a full letter grade deduction.
- b. A **full manuscript** (roughly 6 pages, double-spaced) 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 should 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) copied for distribution to 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 will review his/her DVD of the sermon 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.

##### **5. Class Participation (including Peer Review).**

- a. Attend class faithfully.
- b. Students are required to participate in class discussion, thoughtful peer critiques, and with logistics (e.g., media set-up, etc.).

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Preaching is both an art and a science. Therefore, evaluation is both objective and 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*, as Robinson says.

The preached sermon grade is based on my 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, impact for life transformation).

- Additionally, deadlines and specifications for each assignment accrue to the student's overall grade.

## **GRADING**

1. 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.

### **2. Percentages for each assignment.**

#### **A. Preaching (2 @ 25% each)**

##### *Round One Sermon from Revelation*

1. Full-sentence Sermon Outline
2. Full Manuscript
3. One-page Homiletical Outline
4. In-Class Delivery
5. Self-Critique

##### *Round Two Sermon from Revelation*

1. Full-Sentence Sermon Outline
2. Full Manuscript
3. One-page Homiletical Outline
4. In-Class Delivery
5. Self-Critique

NOTE: Grades for written work will also include evaluation of the quality of your writing (e.g., grammar, spelling, cogency, etc.).

#### **B. Sermon Series (15%)**

1. Biblical Content
2. Creativity, Interest and Impact

#### **C. Isaiah Sermon (10%)**

1. Exegetical outline
2. Theological outline
3. Homiletical outline

#### **D. Readings (15%)**

1. Readings in *The Message* and Biblical Text
2. Osborn, *Revelation Commentary*
3. Dumbrell and Clowney

#### **E. Participation (10%)**

1. Faithful attendance
2. Peer critiques, logistics, discussion