

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Degree Completion Program**  
**BOTD 641 PREACHING THEMES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**  
**(3 credits)**

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of dominant theological themes of the Old Testament. Special attention will be given to basic Old Testament exegetical and hermeneutical principles with a goal of utilizing them in the pulpit.

**OBJECTIVES**

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

1. Understand hermeneutical and exegetical concerns related to differing Old Testament genres.
2. Be able to identify a logical unit of material in Old Testament narrative.
3. Construct an expository sermon from legal material in the Old Testament.
4. Construct an expository sermon from Psalms.
5. Construct an expository sermon from wisdom literature.
6. Utilize various expository techniques in presenting Old Testament themes.
7. Recognize dominant theological themes in the Old Testament.
8. Preach dominant theological themes in the Old Testament.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required:**

Dyrness, William. *Themes in Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1977.

Kaiser, Walter Jr. *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament: A Guide for the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Mathewson, Steven D. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Robinson, Haddon W. and Torrey W. Robinson. *It's All in How you Tell it: Preaching First-Person Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

**BASIC OUTLINE**

**SESSION 1**

Goals of the session and the assignments below: To read and review Kaiser's book, *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament*. This session is intended to review sound exegetical and hermeneutical concerns as they relate to diverse Old Testament genre.

**Read:** 1) *Preaching and Teaching from the Old Testament* (204 pp)  
2) *It's All in How you Tell it* (1-76).

**Turn In:** A 3-4 page summary of pertinent points of Kaiser's book. (See Course Requirements).

**In Class:**

1. Why preach the Old Testament?
2. Hermeneutics and Exegesis
3. Hermeneutical concerns
  - Narrative
  - Law
  - Poetry/Wisdom
  - Prophetic Oracle

### **Session Objectives**

Upon completion of this session, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the need for sound exegesis of the Old Testament.
2. Understand the need for hermeneutical process.
3. Understand the critical issues in regard to exegesis and hermeneutics and how they relate to various Old Testament genres.
4. Understand the concept of expository preaching.
5. Understand the steps to constructing an expository sermon.

### **SESSION 2**

Goals: 1) To discuss expository preaching methods, and 2) to discuss expository concerns for preaching dominant theological themes of the Pentateuch for the purposes of proclamation.

- Read:**
1. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative (1-160)*.
  2. Dyrness, 25-98.
  3. Research material applicable to your chosen passage.

**Turn In:** A 4-page, double-spaced, reaction paper focusing on the books by Mathewson and Robinson. (See Course Requirements).

### **In Class:**

1. Expository Preaching Methods
  - “Three Points and a Poem”
  - Topical
  - Running Commentary
  - First person dramatization
2. Preaching Themes of the Pentateuch
  - Election
  - Promise
  - Covenant and Law
  - Holiness
3. Small group activities – brainstorming on effective expository methods for selected themes and passages.

### **Session Objectives**

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Identify a logical unit of material in Old Testament narrative.
2. To construct an expository sermon from Pentateuchal narrative.
3. Construct an expository sermon from legal material in the Old Testament.
4. Incorporate broad and specific theological themes of the Pentateuch into your sermons.

5. Discuss different approaches to expository preaching.

### **SESSION 3**

Goals: 1) To discuss expository methods related to the historical narratives, and 2) to discover broad theological themes in the historical narratives for the purposes of proclamation.

**Read:** 1. Dyrness, 99-160.

2. Research material applicable to your chosen passage.

**Turn In:** A sermon based on the expository principles as outlined by Mathewson, of any narrative passage in the Pentateuch or Historical books. (See Course Requirements)

**In Class:**

1. Review of Mathewson's book.
2. Preaching Themes of the Historical Narrative
  - The Land
  - Deliverance and Judgment
  - Theocracy and Monarchy
  - Davidic Covenant
3. Small group activities – brainstorming on effective expository methods for selected themes and passages.

### **Session Objectives**

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Identify a logical unit of material in Old Testament narrative.
2. To construct an expository sermon from the historical narrative.
3. Incorporate broad and specific theological themes of the historical narrative into your sermons.

### **SESSION 4**

Goals: 1) To discuss expository methods related to the Prophets, and 2) to discover broad theological themes in the Prophets for the purposes of proclamation.

**Read:** 1. Dyrness, 161-200.

2. Hufham, William L. "Preaching the Prophets : a Suggested Methodology." *Military Chaplains' Review* 15 (Wint 1986): 31-41.

3. Research material applicable to your chosen passage.

**Turn In:** A first-person expository sermon from the Prophetic books. (See Course Requirements)

**In Class:**

1. Discussion of hermeneutical and exegetical concerns.
2. Preaching Themes of the Prophets
  - Judgment and Salvation
  - Idolatry and Syncretism
  - Day of Yahweh
  - Sovereignty
  - Messiah

3. Small group activities – brainstorming on effective expository methods for selected themes and passages.

### **Session Objectives**

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Review exegetical and hermeneutical concerns related to the Prophets.
2. To construct an expository sermon from the Prophets.
3. Incorporate broad and specific theological themes of the Prophets into your sermons.

### **SESSION 5**

Goals: 1) To discuss expository methods related to the historical narratives, and 2) to discover broad theological themes in the historical narratives for the purposes of proclamation.

**Read:** 1. Dyrness, 201-242.

2. McEachern, A. H. "Preaching from the Psalms." *Review and Expositor* 81 (1984): 457-60.

3. Research material applicable to your chosen passage.

**Turn In:** Exegesis paper or Sermon Manuscript. (See Course Requirements)

### **In Class:**

1. Review of Article
2. Preaching themes of Poetry and Wisdom
  - Wisdom
    - Job and Theodicy
    - Futility
    - Wisdom
  - Psalms
    - Lament
    - Thanksgiving
    - Royal
3. Student Sermons

### **Session Objectives**

Upon completion of this session, you should be able to:

1. Review exegetical and hermeneutical concerns related to the Psalms.
2. To construct an expository sermon from Poetry and Wisdom material.
3. Incorporate broad and specific theological themes of the Poetry and Wisdom material into your sermons.

Late work may be penalized.

### **METHODOLOGY**

1. Lecture will serve as the primary structure for topics presented in class.
2. Lecture is intended to foster rich discussion.
3. Small group discussion will be used for various issues.
4. Students will be afforded the opportunity for short sermons.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. A 3-4 page, double spaced, summary of pertinent points of Kaiser's book. The student should focus on important exegetical concerns for each of the genres that are dealt with in the book.

It may be good to divide the discussion by his chapter divisions. The student might concentrate on concerns that were not considered by that student before he or she read the book.

All work 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 Strunk and White). 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. If the source has been assigned, just put the last name in parentheses with the page number. For assignments with specific readings, no bibliography is needed unless you want the professor to know about additional reading you did. 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.

2. A 4-page, double spaced, reaction paper focusing on the books by Mathewson and Robinson. Try to devote two pages to each of these books. You may include summary of the material, but interact with the material giving your appraisal of suggested expository techniques.
3. A sermon based on the expository principles as outlined by Mathewson, of any narrative passage in the Pentateuch or Historical books. The sermon is to be expository in nature and should highlight theological principles as discussed in House's book. Although it may be difficult, attempt to limit the sermon to no more than 6 pages.
4. A first-person expository sermon from the Prophetic books. Follow the guidelines laid out in Robinson's book. The sermon is to be expository in nature and should highlight theological principles as discussed in House's book. Make the manuscript long enough to deliver in approximately 15 minutes (5-6 pages, double spaced).
5. An expository sermon manuscript from Psalms or Job. The expository method will be left up to the student. However, **this sermon will be delivered in class on the final evening**. The sermon may be no longer than 15 minutes; any deviation will affect the grade of the project.

## OR

An exegesis paper of 8-10 pages will be required on a passage of your choice from Jeremiah 40-52. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Turabian should be used as a manual for style. You are free to use the reference style of choice, as long as it is sanctioned by Turabian. You should use a minimum of ten sources and include a bibliography. Grading of this paper will be as follows: 1) 70% content, 2) 10% scholarship, 3) 10% grammar, and 4) 10% style. The paper must meet the following criteria:

### **Criteria for Exegesis Papers:**

Your paper must demonstrate an:

- A. Understanding the language of the text(s) through comparing translations and doing some word studies, which include the use of (New) Englishman's Hebrew Concordance (coded to Strong's) or Kohlenberger, John R., III, and James W. Swanson. The Hebrew English Concordance To The Old Testament With The New

International Version or a computer program that searches on the Hebrew words, and the New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis.

- B. Understanding the significance of the historical and cultural references in the passage(s) through background studies, including scholarly, exegetical commentaries.
- C. Understanding the literary intent of the passage.
- 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.

For a paper, the style should conform to Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> ed. with your choice of citation method: footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references (see Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> ed. chap. 10). However, for a sermon outline or other project, few citations are expected. Most of those needed will be for explanations to the professor, not to the sermon audience. A list of all sources consulted is needed for proper evaluation of your research. All signed articles from multi-author works, such as NIDOTTE and encyclopedias, should be listed by author and title of the article rather than the book, (see Turabian 11.26).

**Criteria for Sermon:**

Detailed explanations of significant exegetical decisions behind the sermon need to be written out just as they will be referred to in the sermon. If certain reasons will not be discussed publicly to avoid unnecessary confusion, then they need to be put in some kind of note to the professor, set off from the rest of the material. You need to demonstrate the thoroughness and soundness of your exegetical work to the professor if not always to the audience. Be sure to include what the text meant to the readers/hearers of Exodus as well as the principles you see that you want your people to apply to their lives today. You may include brief descriptions of the illustrations you plan to use but it is not necessary.

Write a careful conclusion summarizing how you have established your proposition or answered your question and then suggesting specific applications for our lives today. Be sure to end with something that will effectively impress the message on the hearers' hearts. Late work may be penalized.

- 6. A grade will be assessed for participation. Participation will be based on attendance and how much you are “engaged” in the class experience. Discussion is encouraged. Please talk to the professor about any absences
- 7. A grade will also be given for completion of reading assignments.

**GRADING PROCEDURE**

Summary of Kaiser	10%
Reaction Paper	10%
Narrative Sermon	15%
First Person Sermon	15%
Exegesis/Sermon	35%
Reading	10%
Participation	5%

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### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Prepared by Mark Jenkins, Ph.D., March, 2008.