

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**HOM/BNT 622 Expository Preaching in the Psalms and Wisdom Literature**

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Fall, 2009  
Wednesdays, 8:00-10:45 AM, Room 116 & Chapel  
Office Hours: T, W, Th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM<sup>1</sup>

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A detailed expositional study of Psalms and Proverbs, this course focuses on interpretive and expositional methods for Hebrew poetry and wisdom literature, with specific application to the text and message of Psalms and Proverbs. Homiletical methods and elements of sermoncraft are reviewed and special attention is given to preaching from these genres with the goal of creating to create a sermon series.

**OBJECTIVES**

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

1. Describe the historical and cultural backgrounds of poetic and wisdom literature;
2. Explain distinctive biblical-theological themes in Psalms/Proverbs;
3. Exegete and interpret Psalms/Proverbs;
4. Develop expository sermons from Psalms/Proverbs;
5. Design sermons and series that are organizationally coherent;
6. Craft sermons of interest and impact;
7. Deliver effective narrative sermons on poetry and wisdom literature;
8. Provide constructive input to preachers who request it; and
9. Receive, evaluate, and apply, when it is beneficial, input from preaching peers.

**TEXTBOOKS**

*The Bible* in a contemporary, literal or dynamic-equivalence translation.

Longman, Tremper. *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1988.

\_\_\_\_\_. *How to Read the Proverbs*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press,  
2002.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Proverbs (Baker Commentary)*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic,  
2006.

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<sup>1</sup> Please schedule appointments at least 24 hours in advance for as many 15-minute segments as you need. Knock when you arrive for an appointment.

You may use my office hours to discuss matters related to class or just to talk about life.

Peterson, Eugene. *The Message* (Bible Translation). Colorado Springs, NavPress, any edition (only to read pertinent introductions, not necessary to purchase).

Wood, George O. *A Psalm In Your Heart (Library Edition)*. Springfield, Gospel Publishing House, 2008.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**<sup>2</sup>

Introduction to Course

1. Introduction to Literary Corpus: Psalms/Proverbs
2. General Homiletical Methods  
& Lab Session
  - **Round 1 (Expository Sermon):**  
Practice, Delivery, and Coaching
3. Special Hermeneutics: Introduction to Poetry & Wisdom Literature  
& Lab Session
  - **Round 2 (Preaching a Psalm):**  
Practice, Delivery, and Coaching
4. Special Homiletical Methods: Narrative Preaching  
& Lab Session
  - **Round 3 (Preaching from Proverbs):**  
Practice, Delivery, and Coaching
5. **Submission of perfected Sermon Series**  
& Record of Readings

## **METHODOLOGY**

1. During class sessions, this course utilizes
  - a. lectures and discussion,
  - b. laboratory practice on exegesis and homiletics,
  - c. practice delivery and peer review, and
  - d. delivery and brief discussion of student sermons.
2. Outside of class, students
  - a. read on methods of interpreting and preaching on poetry and wisdom literature, (including composing one psalm and a proverb of their own),
  - b. research their sermons' texts,
  - c. design and write their own messages,
  - d. review and edit one peer's manuscript, outline, and series per round,
  - e. evaluate and reflect on their own preaching,
  - e. receive one-on-one coaching in the professor's office, and
  - f. refine a three-part sermon series.

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<sup>2</sup> See DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE for session dates and assignment due dates.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Assignment Submissions

- a. Submit all assignments to the faculty work study, via email by the due date. They will print, date-stamp the time each arrived, and place them in the student's respective folder in the professor's office.
- b. Label all submissions as specified in the footnote below.<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Due Dates<sup>4</sup>

- a. Late assignments receive **no credit**.  
(Assignments are accepted early, however, and with much pleasure!)
- b. Incomplete grades are **not given**.

### 3. Readings

Read (and confirm in writing on the RECORD OF READING FORM) **1,000 pages** during the semester. About half of the reading should be on **Psalms and Proverbs**; about half should be on **hermeneutics and homiletics**, i.e., on interpreting and preaching poetry and wisdom literature. Reading model messages from Psalms or Proverbs may be counted in the latter category.

This assignment is graded on quantity; 1,000 pages = 100%.

- a. In Peterson's, *The Message*, read all the general introductions ("Preface to the Reader," "Introduction to *The Message*," and "Introduction to the Old Testament") as well as "Introduction to Psalms," and "Introduction to Proverbs."
- b. Read (with eyes or ears) the biblical text of the Psalms at least once this semester, and Proverbs at least three times (reading one chapter a day each of the three full months of this semester).
- c. Read the introductions to Psalms and Proverbs in the required commentaries.
- d. Research the biblical texts from which your sermon series originates.
- e. Read Longman's, *How to Read Psalms*; and *How to Read Proverbs*.
- f. Read your choice of selections from the BIBLIOGRAPHY ON BIBLICAL POETRY AND WISDOM LITERATURE.
- g. Watching and/or listening to model messages is also beneficial and can count as reading. Twenty-minute sermons count as 10 pages; 30-minutes as 15 pages; and 40 (or more) as 20 pages. Consult the list of model messages or clear with the professor those you'd like to listen to for reading credit.

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<sup>3</sup> In the subject line of assignment submission emails type this course's abbreviation: "XP," followed by the word, "Assignments," i.e., "**XP Assignments**."

Attach each assignment as a separate Word document named as follows:

"[Student's Last Name, First Initial] – [Assignment Code, i.e., Number and Letter],"

e.g., "**Doe, J – 1A**" [= Round 1: Sermon Manuscript]; or "**Magdalene, M – 3F**"

[= Round 3: Plan for Improvement].

Assignment codes (numbers and letters) are found on both the RECORD OF SCORES and the CRITERIA AND RUBRICS FOR GRADING.

Make sure that every assignment includes **your name, box number, title, and date submitted**; that it **follows the requirements**; and that it **matches the sample**.

<sup>4</sup> See DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE for focus of class sessions and due dates of individual assignments.

In the event of a serious emergency, contact the professor in advance of a due date. An extension may be granted, but with a penalty of one-letter or more.

#### 4. Preaching

- a. You will have the opportunity to preach all three of your sermons in class this semester. Both **an outline and a full manuscript are due by noon, the Friday before** you preach each round (emailed to the Workstudy).  
The outline and manuscript scores are based on their arrival time.  
The Friday due date is for the students benefit—to give them the weekend to memorize the manuscript, word for word, and to memorize the outline, thought for thought.
- b. When you preach in class, you should not be dependent on notes or manuscript. At that time your sermons will be **graded on content and delivery**.<sup>5</sup>  
Bring copies of your outline for each class member (to be distributed *after* you preach), so they can evaluate how well you communicated your outline.
- c. After you preach, watch your DVD, fully complete a **Feedback Form** on yourself (both sides). For full credit, all boxes must have comments and scores.  
Then, drawing from what you saw and what you have read, write (in formal English) a two-page **Plan for Improvement** on your next sermon and those that follow.  
Discuss what your goals had been for the message, what you think you did well, and what and how you'd like to improve next time. This assignment is graded on content and writing. Be sure to integrate insights from your reading on content and homiletical methods—they're worth 5 points! Every writing error reduces the score by 1 point.

#### 5. Edition and Peer Review

- a. The week before you preach for the whole class and professor you will have the opportunity to practice preach to your small group and be reviewed. Make the most of this valuable two-way learning experience!
- b. Email your small group partner (who will change each round) **your outline and manuscript by noon, the Friday before you practice preach**. He or she will edit and return them to you at the practice preaching session.
- c. **Collect** from the student whose sermon outline and manuscript you edited, their **Peer Review Evaluation Form**. **Submit** this form to the work study or the professor.  
Editors are graded by the value of their work to their peer.  
It is your responsibility to secure evidence of your investment in order to get (the 25 points per each review) credit towards your grade!
- d. Following this practice session, perfect your outline and manuscript and polish your delivery.

#### 6. Sermon Series<sup>6</sup>

- a. The final project should be **formatted exactly like** the SAMPLE SERMON SERIES. It is a model of all the assignment requirements! This assignment is graded on homiletical content, interest and impact, and form and writing.
- b. This 15-page summary of your three-part series of sermons from Psalms-Proverbs should contain an expository sermon as its first sermon, a sermon on a psalm as its second, and sermon from Proverbs as its third. Each sermon should use a different homiletical approach/development technique.

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<sup>5</sup> See SERMON FEEDBACK FORM for grading criteria and scoring per item.

<sup>6</sup> See SAMPLE SERMON SERIES as a model of the requirements.

- c. Include a title page (in Turabian form, with student's box number), a table of contents (including series title, sermon titles, text references, etc.), a bibliography, an appendix (if appropriate, e.g., with other items used such as visual aids, PPT, etc.), and a 12-page content summary, 4-pages on each message.
- d. Begin the first message with an introduction to the series. Drawing from the manuscripts of your preached sermons, script (word for word) each sermon's introduction, transitions, illustrations, applications, and invitation. Outline other content (thought for thought), capturing the most important facts.
- e. You may format scripted portions in single-spacing.

### GRADING PROCEDURE

See CRITERIA AND RUBRICS FOR GRADING.

### GRADING SCALE

#### 100-point Percent Scale

100 %	=	A+
93-99	=	<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

1000 points	=	A+
930-999 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>

**RECORD OF SCORES**

**PREACHING ASSIGNMENTS  
(3 @ 20%, i.e., 200 points each)**

*Round One Sermon*

1A. Sermon Manuscript	_____ /10	Due: _____
1B. Sermon Outline	_____ /5	“
1C. Sermon Content	_____ /100	Preaching Date _____
1D. In-Class Delivery	_____ /50	
1E. Feedback Form on Self	_____ /10	Due/Coaching Date: _____
1F. Plan for Improvement	_____ /25	“
<b>ROUND 1 SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>===== /200</b>	

*Round Two Sermon*

2A. Sermon Manuscript	_____ /10	Due: _____
2B. Sermon Outline	_____ /5	“
2C. Sermon Content	_____ /100	Preaching Date _____
2D. In-Class Delivery	_____ /50	
2E. Feedback Form on Self	_____ /10	Due/Coaching Date: _____
2F. Plan for Improvement	_____ /25	“
<b>ROUND 2 SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>===== /200</b>	

*Round Three Sermon*

3A. Sermon Manuscript	_____ /10	Due: _____
3B. Sermon Outline	_____ /5	“
3C. Sermon Content	_____ /100	Preaching Date _____
3D. In-Class Delivery	_____ /50	
3E. Feedback Form on Self	_____ /10	Due/Coaching Date: _____
3F. Plan for Improvement	_____ /25	“
<b>ROUND 3 SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>===== /200</b>	

**PREACHING SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ /600 points      60%**

**PEER EDITING & REVIEW WORK (4 @ 2.5%, i.e., 100 points total)**

4A. A Peer's Round 1 MS & Outline	_____ /25	Due/Practice Preaching: _____
4B. A Peer's Round 2 MS & Outline	_____ /25	Due/Practice Preaching: _____
4C. A Peer's Round 3 MS & Outline	_____ /25	Due/Practice Preaching: _____
4D. A Peer's Sermon Series	_____ /25	Due: _____

**EDITING SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ /100 points      10%**

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

5A. Homiletical Content	_____ /100	Due: _____
5B. Creativity, Interest, and Impact	_____ /50	
5C. Form and Writing	_____ /50	

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

**RECORD OF READING (1 @ 10%, i.e., 100 points total)**

6. Based on Quantity (1,000 pages required)	Due: _____
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**READINGS SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ /100 points      10%**

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

**FINAL GRADE \_\_\_\_\_**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY ON BIBLICAL POETRY AND WISDOM LITERATURE.  
for BOT/HOM 622 Expository Preaching in Psalms and Wisdom Literature**

**Required Textbooks and Recommended Reading**

Arthurs, Jeffery D. and Haddon Robinson. *Preaching with Variety: How to Re-create the Dynamics of Biblical Genres*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2007.  
(238 pages, Amazon - \$10.87 as of July 2009)

Cornelius, Izak et al. *The Minor Prophets, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, November, 2009 (available for pre-order).  
(598 pages, Amazon - \$31.49 as of July 2009)

Koptak, Paul. *NIV Application Commentary Proverbs*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.  
(720 pages, Amazon - \$19.79 as of July 2009)

**Longman, Tremper. *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988.**  
(166 pages, Amazon - \$10.88 as of July 2009)

\_\_\_\_\_. *How to Read the Proverbs*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.  
(180 pages, Amazon - \$10.20 as of July 2009)

\_\_\_\_\_. *Proverbs (Baker Commentary)*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.  
(608 pages, Amazon - \$32.84 as of July 2009)

\_\_\_\_\_ et al. *Expositor's Bible Commentary Proverbs – Isaiah*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.  
(864 pages, Amazon - \$34.19 as of July 2009)

\_\_\_\_\_ et al. *Expositor's Bible Commentary Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.  
(1024 pages, Amazon - \$34.99 as of July 2009)

Walton, John H. *Old Testament Today: A Journey from Original Meaning to Contemporary Significance*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.  
(412 pages, Amazon - \$34.83 as of July 2009)

Wilson, Gerald H. *NIV Application Commentary Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.  
(1024 pages, Amazon- \$21.77 as of July 2009)