

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM620/BOT 620 Exposition of Genesis

Doug Oss, Ph.D.
doss@agts.edu
Office: 417.268.1000

Fall 2009

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A detailed expositional study of the book of Genesis. The course will focus on exegetical and interpretive methods for OT narrative, with specific application to the text and message of Genesis. In addition to narrative-by-narrative analysis, special attention will be given to preaching from Genesis, and to the role of biblical theology in preaching.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the historical and cultural background of Genesis.
2. Explain distinctive biblical-theological themes in Genesis.
3. Understand the unique characteristics of narrative as a genre.
4. Exegete and interpret passages in OT narrative, and specifically Genesis.
5. Demonstrate competence in biblical-theological method.
6. Develop and preach messages from Genesis (and other epistles) that are TRUE to the biblical text, CLEAR and well organized, INTERESTING to listen to, and RELEVANT to the listener's needs.
7. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application.

TEXTBOOKS

Clowney, Edmund P. *Preaching and Biblical Theology*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002.

_____. *The Unfolding Mystery*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.

Dumbrell, William J. *Covenant and Creation*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1984.

_____. *The End of the Beginning*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.

Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Overview of the Structure of Genesis
 - a. Genesis in Canonical Form and Context
 - b. Creation
 - c. Noah
 - d. Abraham
 - e. Jacob
- II. Narrative Genre
 - a. Structure
 - b. Literary Conventions
 - c. Expositional Methods
- III. Exposition of Genesis
 - a. Introduction
 - i. Author, Date, Audience, Origin, etc.
 - ii. Purpose (in the light of biblical theology)
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. Unique Theological Contributions
 - ii. Biblical-Theological Motifs
 - 1. Historical-Grammatical Exegesis
 - 2. Redemptive-Historical Synthesis
- IV. Two Rounds of Preaching
 - a. Student Sermons
 - b. Related Assignments

METHODOLOGY

1. The course will utilize lectures, discussion, readings, written assignments, and student preaching (with critiques and video review).
2. The first part of the course will focus primarily on lectures and discussion of the text of Genesis, including hermeneutical methods.
3. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student sermons.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Reading.** Read Dumbrell (pp. 11-79 in *C&C*, and *End*, all); Clowney (*Preaching and BT*, all; *Unfolding Mystery*, all); and Ross as necessary for exposition and preaching. Submit a statement of completion by the last day of class, **December 2, 2009**.
2. **BOT Students Only: Exegetical paper.** Write a 15-20 page exegetical paper on a passage in 1st Corinthians (see the paper guide). An electronic document of this

assignment is due to the professor by e-mail no later than **December 2, 2009**. Late work not accepted.

3. **HOM Students Only:**

A. **First Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver **without notes** a 12-minute expository message based a Genesis passage. **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.

1. Electronic documents of the exegetical, theological, and homiletical full-sentence outlines (carried to the third level of subordination, e.g., I.A.1.a) are due to the professor by e-mail **one week before** the student preaches. Late work not accepted.
2. An electronic document of the full manuscript (roughly 4-6 pages) of the sermon is due to the professor by e-mail **one week before** the student preaches. This manuscript should reflect the actual content of the message. It should read like a sermon and not like an academic research paper. Late work not accepted.
3. Each student will prepare copies of the homiletical outline for distribution to class on the day he/she preaches.
4. The student is required to preach in class on the date assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one letter grade for that assignment. Exceeding the 12-minute time limit will result in at least a full letter grade deduction.
5. A typed, two-page, **self-critique** of the student’s DVD of the sermon is to be e-mailed to the professor no later than **Nov. 18, 2009**. Late work not accepted.

Preaching Round 1

Class Preaching Date	Outlines & Manuscript Due	Self-Critique Due
10/14/2009	10/07/2009	11/18/2009
10/28/2009	10/21/2009	11/18/2009
11/04/2009	10/28/2009	11/18/2009

B. **Second Sermon.** Each student will prepare and deliver **without notes** a 12-minute expository message based on a Genesis passage.

1. Electronic documents of the exegetical, theological, and homiletical full-sentence outlines (carried to the third level of subordination, e.g., I.A.1.a) are due to the professor by e-mail **one week before** the student preaches. Late work not accepted.

2. An electronic document of the full manuscript (roughly 4-6 pages) of the sermon is due to the professor by e-mail **one week before** the student preaches. This manuscript should reflect the actual content of the message. It should read like a sermon and not like an academic research paper. Late work not accepted.
3. Each student will prepare copies of the homiletical outline for distribution to class on the day he/she preaches.
4. The student is required to preach in class on the date assigned. Failure to do so will result in a grade penalty of one letter grade for that assignment. Exceeding the 12-minute time limit will result in at least a full letter grade deduction.
5. A typed, two-page, **self-critique** of the student's DVD of the sermon is to be e-mailed to the professor no later than **Dec. 11, 2009**. Late work not accepted.

Preaching Round 2

Class Preaching Date	Outlines & Manuscript Due	Self-Critique Due
11/18/2009	11/11/2009	12/11/2009
11/25/2009	11/18/2009	12/11/2009
12/02/2009	11/25/2009	12/11/2009

4. Class Participation.

- A. Students are expected to participate in discussion, thoughtful peer critiques, and with logistics (e.g., video camera operation).
- B. Faithful attendance.
- C. Professor reserves the right to adjust grade for outstanding participation.

GRADING PROCEDURE

1. Preaching is an art and therefore evaluation is partly empirical but also partly subjective. The "sermon" grade will be based on my subjective evaluation and the level achieved in (1) Accuracy (to text and to audience), (2) Clarity (of homiletical proposition throughout), (3) Interest (compelling delivery), and (4) Relevance (concrete images; developmental questions).
2. The final grade will be based on the following percentages:

HOM Students:

40% Sermon (and related assignments); or Exegetical Paper.

40% Sermon Series

20% Reading, Class Participation

BNT Students:

80% Exegetical Paper.

20% Reading, Class Participation

3. 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.

Bibliography printed separately for distribution to class.