

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM640/BNT 641 Exposition of 1st Corinthians

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Spring 2009

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A detailed expositional study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. The course will focus on exegetical and interpretive methods for NT epistolary literature, with specific application to the text and message of 1st Corinthians. In addition to verse-by-verse analysis, special attention will be given to preaching from 1st Corinthians.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the historical and cultural setting of 1st Corinthians.
2. Explain characteristic theological themes in 1st Corinthians.
3. Understand the unique characteristics of the "epistle" as a genre.
4. Exegete and interpret passages in the NT epistles, and particularly 1st Corinthians.
5. Develop and preach messages from 1st Corinthians (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.
6. Integrate his/her knowledge and skill in the four basic categories of "text-to-life" hermeneutics: Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, and Application.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Fee, Gordon. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

_____. *God's Empowering Presence*. Peabody: Hendricksen, 1994.

Recommended:

Grudem, Wayne. Ed. *Are Miraculous gifts for Today?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Overview of Paul's Thought
 - a. Christ: the Center
 - b. Paul's Use of the OT
 - c. Jew-Gentile Debate
 - d. Grace and Law
 - e. Spirit and Flesh
 - f. Creation-New Creation
- II. Epistle Genre
 - a. Structure
 - b. Literary Conventions
 - c. Expository Methods
- III. 1st Corinthians
 - a. Introduction
 - i. Author, Date, Audience, Origin, Destination
 - ii. Particular Task
 - iii. Structure
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. Unique Theological Contributions
 - ii. Biblical-Theological Analysis
 1. Historical-Grammatical Exegesis
 2. Redemptive-Historical Synthesis
- IV. Round 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 1st Corinthians.
3. The remainder of the course will be devoted to student sermons.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CHAPELS

February 18, 2009 (10:30-11:45 a.m.)

March 11, 2009 (10:30-11:45 a.m.)

1. **Reading.** Read Fee, *1st Corinthians* and *Empowering Presence* as we advance through the epistle. Reading must be completed and a reading statement sent by e-mail to the professor no later than **April 15, 2009**.
2. **BNT 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 **April 15, 2009**. Late work not accepted.

3. **HOM Students Only:**

- a. **Sermon Series Development.** Develop a series of **3-5 sermons** based on your assigned portion in the book of 1st Corinthians. 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. An electronic document of this assignment is due to the professor by e-mail no later than **April 15, 2009**. Late work not accepted.
- i. 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.
 - ii. Submit a one page (double-spaced) summary of the series, including the series title.
 - iii. Choose one sermon from this series to preach in class.
- b. **Sermon.** Prepare and deliver **from memory** a 12-minute expository message. (There are two primary reasons for learning to preach from memory. First, preaching from memory demands a higher level of internalization, focus and clarity [unity, order, progress of thought, and precision with words]. Second, speaking from memory promotes a stronger connection with the listeners, which in turn maximizes the goal of preaching which is life change and growth in following Christ.)
- i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Each student will prepare copies of the homiletical outline for distribution to class on the day he/she preaches.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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 **one week after** the student preaches in class. Late work not accepted.

Class Preaching Date	Outlines & Manuscript Due	Self-Critique Due
04/01/2009	03/25/2009	04/08/2009
04/08/2009	04/01/2009	04/15/2009
04/15/2009	04/08/2009	04/22/2009

4. Class Participation.

- a. Students are expected to participate in discussion, thoughtful peer critiques.
- 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:

- 10% On-Time Reading
- 40% Sermon (and related assignments); or Exegetical Paper.
- 40% Sermon Series
- 10% Class Participation

BNT Students:

- 10% On-Time Reading
- 80% Exegetical Paper.
- 10% 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

**All work must be submitted electronically to professor by e-mail. Late work not accepted.