

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HOM/BNT/BOT 621 Expository Preaching in the Prophets and Apocalypse
Spring 2010

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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. (*Libronix* or Hard Copy)
ISBN-10: 0801022622

Peterson, Eugene. *The Message ReMix*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2008. (*Libronix* or Hard Copy) ISBN 1-57683-434-4

Osborne, Grant. *Revelation. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2002. (*Libronix* or Hard Copy) ISBN-10: 0801022991

Dumbrell, William. *The End of the Beginning*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock 2001. (*Libronix* or Hard Copy) ISBN: 1579105564

Clowney, Edmund. *The Unfolding Mystery*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1988. (*Libronix* or Hard Copy) ISBN: 0875521746

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. 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 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 last day of class.
 - g. NOTE: It will benefit you to complete all the reading assignments as early in the semester as possible.
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 last day of class. Late work not accepted.
3. **HOM Students Only:**
- a. **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.
 - b. **Revelation Sermon.** Prepare and deliver one 12-minute expository message from Revelation. The sermon must be preached without notes (skeleton outlines only, as discussed in class). 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 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.
 - c. 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.

- d. 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.
- e. Each student will prepare copies of the homiletical outline for distribution to class on the day he/she preaches.
- f. 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.
- g. A typed, two-page, **self-critique** of the student's DVD of the sermon is to be e-mailed to the professor. Late work not accepted.

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 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.
 - 10% On-Time Reading
 - 40% Isaiah Sermon
 - 40% Revelation Sermon
 - 10% Class Participation

BOT/BNT Students:

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

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