

Exposition of Isaiah (OT 613)
4:15–10:00 p.m., May 5–9, 2008

5/5/08
r. youngblood

BETHEL SEMINARY SAN DIEGO

SYLLABUS

Course Description:

The course will provide a thorough study of the book of Isaiah, who is generally considered to be the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. The book will be carefully examined section by section and mined for its theological riches.

Course Objectives:

- To give you a knowledge of the contents of the book of Isaiah in relation to other books of the Old Testament and, to a lesser degree, in relation to extrabiblical examples of similar writings in the ancient Near East;
- To show, whenever applicable, New Testament connections with the book of Isaiah so that you will gain an appreciation of it as an integral part of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and
- To equip you with an understanding of the book of Isaiah adequate for the ministry of God's Word to the world.

Course Format:

Lecture will be the main method of instruction, although overhead transparencies and other visuals will be used as appropriate. Needless to say, time will always be allotted for student discussion and questions.

Course Assignments:

1. Read the Old Testament book of Isaiah in **two** different versions (English or otherwise), preferably on the basis of the course schedule set forth below.

Read the following commentaries: Bryan E. Beyer, *Encountering the Book of Isaiah*; J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*; and Ronald F. Youngblood, *The Book of Isaiah* (preferably on the basis of the course schedule set forth below).

Report your Bible **and** textbook reading on the form attached to the end of the syllabus. If you haven't yet done any reading in either Isaiah itself or the textbooks, try your best to read the appropriate sections of all reading assignments **prior to the day on which the various passages are discussed in class.**

Reading report **due date: June 13, 2008.**

Grade value: **35%** of your final grade.

2. Write a personal critique on any **two** of the textbooks of your choice. Your critiques (each a 1500-word minimum, double-spaced typescript, 10- or 12-point font) should reflect (not necessarily in the following order):

- an analysis of the book's contents;
- a summary of the author's presuppositions;
- personal reactions, whether positive or negative, to the book as a whole, including specific comments about its relevance to Christian life, experience and ministry.

Each of your critiques should be a **personal** evaluation that deals with such issues as what is good or bad about the book, topics that were too expanded or compressed or uninteresting, changes you would make if you were asked to revise the book, matters that are not relevant to the author's purpose as stated in the preface, etc.

If you would prefer **not** to write the two critiques and would rather write a term paper (2500-word minimum, double-spaced typescript, 10- or 12-point font) on an Isaiah-related subject of your choice, see me about it so that we can settle on a mutually agreeable topic. If you wish to have a graded copy, hand in a Xerox copy along with your original; the copy will then be graded and returned to you.

Critiques **due date: June 13.**

Grade value: **30%** of your final grade (15% per critique).

Term paper **due date: June 13.**

Grade value: **30%** of your final grade.

3. Submit **three** detailed preaching/teaching outlines (including possible illustrations) based on one or more passages from the book of Isaiah. Pay careful attention to near and remote context, key words and themes, theological emphases, etc. Make sure each outline derives from your own exegesis of the text, not from someone else's ideas or from your own preunderstandings. Each outline must be 500 words minimum (including possible illustrations), double-spaced typescript, 10- or 12-point font.

Due date: June 13.

Grade value: **25%** of your final grade.

4. Attend all classes and come prepared to discuss the following:

- 5/05 Introduction and Orientation; Introduction to Ancient Near Eastern Prophecy; Introduction to Isaiah
- 5/06 Book I: Isaiah 1-12
- 5/07 Books II-IV: Isaiah 13-33
- 5/08 Books V-VIIa: Isaiah 34-48
- 5/09 Books VIIb-c: Isaiah 49-66

Grade value: **10%** of your final grade.

5. There will be no written examinations in connection with this course.
6. Enjoy!
7. Rejoice and be glad!

Course work is due on the date assigned at the beginning of the class period. Any papers will be graded down one full grade for each week or part of a week that it is late. There will be no extensions for work in this class except for extenuating circumstances, family emergencies or medical reasons.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All written material submitted must be the original work of the student. Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at Bethel Seminary and may result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from the institution. Please become familiar with the particular academic violations outlined on page 88-89 of the 2007-2008 official catalog. (2007/2008 Student Handbook pg. 23).

DISABILITIES::

Any student who because of a disability may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor or the Access Coordinator for the Bethel Office of Disability Services by the end of the second week of the quarter to discuss reasonable accommodations. (2007/2008 Student Handbook pg. 20)