



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

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OTL631—Isaiah Module  
Spring, 2010

## ***Essential Information***

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at [http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential\\_Information](http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information). Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

## ***Instructor Information***

Professor: Dwight D Swanson, Ph.D.

Office:

Office Hours: To be arranged

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Home:

## ***Catalog Description***

A study of the historical period, the character, and the message of Isaiah, with special attention to the nature and concerns of the prophetic movement in ancient Israel and Judah.

## ***Course Narrative & Rationale***

The Church of the Nazarene, together with all the Wesleyan/Holiness movement and most Christian denominations, views the Bible as a foundational document, informing all the life of the church. Isaiah, called by some, "The Gospel of the Old Testament" or, "The Gospel According to Isaiah," is a vital portion of the Scriptures.

Isaiah prophesied at a critical time for God's ancient people. Israel, the northern kingdom, was in process of losing their national existence; Judah, the southern kingdom, was in real danger of losing theirs. Isaiah ministered to Judah, advising Judah's kings to trust God for national deliverance, to return to a pure faith in Yahweh, and to restore justice for all God's people. Isaiah was King Hezekiah's close confidante through the crisis of 701 B.C. But Isaiah saw that Judah would need a hope beyond deliverance from the present Assyrian crisis. Greater trials would come, but then God would restore Judah in a second Exodus reflecting the glory of God throughout the world. Embedded in these oracles of hope are sublime sketches of the One who was to come.

Isaiah is a book of profound depth and insight, and of considerable emotional intensity in many of its parts. It is, as well, one of the longest books of the Bible. But Isaiah richly rewards those willing to expend time and effort to understand its patterns and

message. Isaiah is a mine of hidden treasure; wealthy, indeed, is the one who explores its depths.

## **Course Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, you will be able:

1. To appreciate the relation of the prophecy of Isaiah to its context/s. (Assignments 1, 2, 3)
2. To compare traditional, historical-critical and new literary approaches to the text (Assignments 1, 2, 3)
3. To develop exegetical tools which will assist in grasping the theological perspectives of Isaiah. (Assignment 4)
4. To work towards an ongoing understanding of the structure and themes of Isaiah through the process of inductive study. (Assignments 1, 2, 3)
5. To apply these tools to one's contemporary Church and life contexts. (Assignments 1, 2, 3, 4)

## **Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies**

While none of these will be realized completely, the following competencies will be enhanced, directly or indirectly, through your participation in this course:

- CN 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22
- CP 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 30
- CH 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14
- CX 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11

## **Required Texts & Course Materials**

- Brevard Childs, *Isaiah*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- David G Firth and H G M Williamson, eds., *Interpreting Isaiah: Issues and Approaches*, IVP Academic, 2009.

## **Recommended Texts & Course Materials**

- H G M Williamson, *The Book Called Isaiah: Deutero-Isaiah's Role in Composition and Redaction*, Oxford, 1994.
- NRSV

## **Course Outline**

- A. Introduction
  1. How does one read Isaiah?
  2. Isaiah as a prophet
- B. Commentary on Chs 1-5
- C. Studies in Isaiah (selected from):
  1. Righteousness and Justice
  2. Messianic Expectation
  3. The Holy One of Israel
  4. Isaiah and the Deuteronomic History
  5. New Exodus/New Creation
  6. Servant of the Lord
  7. The Problem of Idolatry
  8. Isaiah and the Nations
- D. Reception History of Isaiah

1. Second Temple period
2. Contemporary Appropriation of Isaiah

## Course Assignments & Requirements

### 1. Pre-session reading (25% of course grade)

Reading in preparation for the module consists of two parts:

- a. Isaiah. Read the whole of Isaiah (at least once), and produce an analysis of the structure of the book.
- b. Textbook readings and recommended readings. Read the whole of *Interpreting Isaiah*; and chapters 2 and 3 of *The Book Called Isaiah* (to be available in pdf on Moodle). A précis of chs 1, 4, and 8 of the textbook, and of the two chapters of Williamson, each consisting of no more than one typed page is to be written.

(Course Outcomes: Numbers 1, 2, 4)

### 2. Class group presentation (25%)

Each student will work as part of a group to present one of the themes above (Course Outline:C:1-8) to the class. The presentations are to offer an overview of the section under discussion, and highlight the development of the theme in the whole of Isaiah in light of this section, in light of scholarly opinion. (Course Outcomes: Numbers 1, 2, 4, 5)

### 3. Post-session essay (50% of course grade)

A 3,500-word exegetical paper is the culminating course assignment. The text to be examined will be related to the theme presented in class, and will be chosen as a key representation of that theme. (Course Outcomes: Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4)

## Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	pre-module hours	module hours	post-module hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions		36	
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	0		0
Reading	15	0	25
Writing	8	0	30
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	7	6	2
Exams & Quizzes	0	0	0
TOTAL	30	42	57

## Method for Submitting Assignments

1. Pre-session reports should be submitted via Moodle by Monday, January 10.
2. Presentation assignments will be arranged via Moodle. Students should offer a list of three themes of interest to them, in order of preference, and the assignment of groups will be made by December 11.
3. The final essay will be submitted via Moodle by March 11, 2011.

## Form and Style Expectations

Turabian style must be followed.

## **Inclusive Language**

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

## **Policy Regarding Late Work**

Grades will be reduced one letter grade for each week past the due date. Exceptional circumstances must be agreed in advance.

## **Course Grading**

1. Pre-session reading accounts for 25% of the course grade.
2. The class group presentation accounts for 25%. Evaluation is by peer review and 500 word summary of the material contributed by the individual student to the whole.
3. The essay accounts for 50% of the total grade.

A narrative account of the grading criteria will be posted on Moodle.

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies, which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

## **Course Calendar**

Tuesday, January 18:

A. Introduction

1. How does one read Isaiah?
2. Isaiah as a prophet

Wednesday/Thursday, January 19, 20:

B. Exegesis and Commentary on Chs 1-6

Friday, January 21:

Tutorials on class presentations

C. Studies in Isaiah:

1. Righteousness and Justice

Monday, January 24:

2. Messianic Expectation (Isa 7-12)
3. Israel and the Nations (Isa 13-27, esp 24-27)

Tuesday, January 25:

4. The Holy One of Israel (Isa 28-35)
5. Isaiah and the Deuteronomistic History (Isa 36-39)

Wednesday, January 26:

6. New Exodus/New Creation (Isa 40-48)
7. Servant of the Lord (Isa 40-50, 61)

Thursday, January 27:

8. The Problem of Idolatry (Isa 40-55)
9. Isaiah and the Nations (Isa 56-66)

Friday, January 28:

- D. Reception History of Isaiah
1. Second Temple period
  2. Contemporary Appropriation of Isaiah

## ***Bibliography***

### *Commentary Series*

#### *The Anchor Bible:*

- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Isaiah 1-39*, Doubleday, 2000.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah 40-55*, Doubleday, 2000.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah 56-66*, Doubleday, 2003.  
McKenzie, John L. *Second Isaiah*, Doubleday, 1968.

#### *Continental Commentaries*

- Wildberger, Hans. *Isaiah 1-12: A Commentary*, tr Thomas H Trapp, Fortress Press, 1991.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah 13-27*, Fortress Press, 1997.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah 28-39*, Fortress Press, 2002.

#### *Epworth Commentaries*

- Stacey, David. *Isaiah 1-39*, Epworth Press, London, 1993.

#### *International Critical Commentary*

- Williamson, H G M. *Isaiah 1-5*, T&T Clark, 2006.  
Goldingay, John. *Isaiah 40-55*, 2 vols, T&T Clark, 2007.

#### *International Theological Commentary:*

- Widyapranawa, S H. *The Lord Is Savior: Faith in National Crisis, A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah 1-39*, Eerdmans, 1990.  
Knight, G A F. *Servant Theology: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah 40-55*, Eerdmans, 1985.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *The New Israel: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah 56-66*, Eerdmans, 1985.

#### *Interpretation:*

- Hanson, Paul D. *Isaiah 40-66*, John Knox, Louisville, 1995.  
Seitz, Christopher R. *Isaiah 1-39*, John Knox, Louisville, 1993.

#### *New Century Bible:*

- Clements, R E. *Isaiah 1-39*, Eerdmans, 1980.  
Whybray, R N. *Isaiah 40-66*, Eerdmans, 1981.

#### *New International Commentary on the Old Testament:*

- Oswalt, John N. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, Eerdmans, 1986  
\_\_\_\_\_. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40-66*, Eerdmans, 1998.

*Old Testament Guides:*

Barton, J. *Isaiah 1-39*, Sheffield, 1995.  
Whybray, R N. *The Second Isaiah*, Sheffield, 1983.  
Emmerson, G I. *Isaiah 56-66*, Sheffield, 1992.

*Old Testament Library:*

Childs, B. *Isaiah*, Westminster John Knox, 2001.  
Kaiser, O. *Isaiah 1-12: A Commentary*, SCM Press, London, 1983<sup>2</sup>.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah 13-39: A Commentary*, SCM Press, London, 1974.  
Westermann, K. *Isaiah 40-66: A Commentary*, SCM Press London, 1969.

*Word Biblical Commentary:*

Watts, John D W. *Isaiah 1-33*, Word Books, Waco, 1985.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah 34-66*, Word Books, Waco, 2005<sup>2</sup>.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah* (Word Biblical Themes), Word Books, Dallas, 1989.

*Non-Series Commentaries:*

Balzer, Klaus. *Deutero-Isaiah: A Commentary on Isaiah 40-55*, Fortress, 1999.  
Goldingay, John. *The Message of Isaiah 40-55: A Literary-Theological Commentary*, T&T Clark, 2005.  
Miscall, Peter D. *Isaiah* (Readings: A New Biblical Commentary), Sheffield, 1993.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Reading Isaiah: Poetry and Vision*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.  
Motyer, Alec. *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, IVP, Leicester, 1993.  
Sweeney, Marvin A. *Isaiah 1-39 with an Introduction to Prophetic Literature* (The Forms of the Old Testament Literature 16), Eerdmans, 1996.

Bibliographical suggestions for each theme will be available on Moodle.