



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

This syllabus is subject to change, but the basic requirements and assignments will not be added to.

OT 773

The Book of Isaiah*

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Tuesdays, 9:00am – 5:00pm

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Due West, SC 29639

I. Course Description: The course analyzes the prophetic messages in the Book of Isaiah dealing with the critical problems associated with this book, its historical background, and its application to the life of the Christian Church today. *Prerequisite: In order to receive exegesis credit for this course, students must have successfully completed BI 502 Principles of Exegesis and BI 503 Introduction to the Biblical Languages (or Hebrew I & II) prior to taking this class. Exegesis/Elective. Three hours.*

II. Course Goals

A. General Mission of Erskine Seminary

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for ministry in the Christian Church.” Towards this mission, the Book of Isaiah will be taught. This includes how to read Isaiah in its ancient Near Eastern cultural setting, the distinctive message of the books, its contribution to the Bible as a whole admitting the light of the NT that points to Christ, and the prophets as seen in the context of the whole counsel of God that includes its relevant and practical value to believers today.

B. Goals of this Course

1. This course will expose the student to the historical background to the Book of Isaiah. Many of the scholarly issues surrounding the book should become clear, and the various approaches to the book should become familiar to the student.

* Note: A colorful syllabus cover can be downloaded from the moodle site. This is worth 1% of extra credit; 2% if printed on photo-quality paper.

2. The importance of Isaiah in the formation of our contemporary theology, character, and wisdom will be placed before the student.

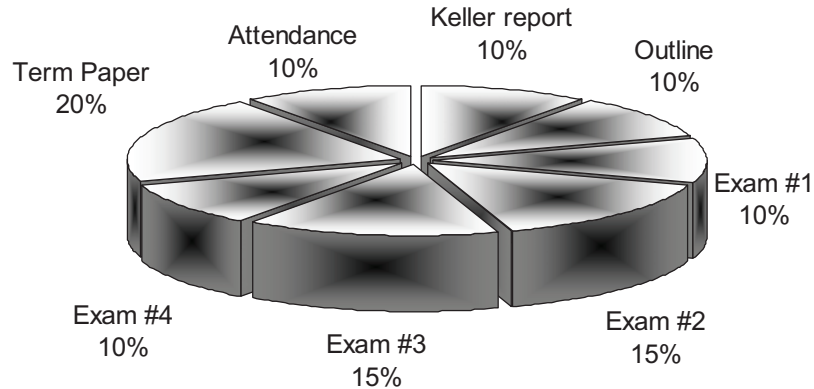
III. Required Reading

- A. The Book of Isaiah in the Bible
- B. Oswalt, John. *Isaiah*. The NIV Application Commentary. Selected portions.
- C. Timothy Keller, *Ministries of Mercy*. Zondervan, 1989.
- D. Two unpublished essays
 - 1. Schwab, "Paul's Use of Deut 30:11 – 14 in Rom 10:5 – 10," 1994.
 - 2. Schwab, "The Old Greek Isaiah 40:1 – 11 and its Use by the Gospel Writers," 1995.
- E. Grubbs and Drumm, "What Does Theology Have to Do with the Bible? A Call for the Expansion of the Doctrine of Inspiration." *JETS* 53 (2010): 65 – 79.

IV. Exams and Assignments

- A. Exams 50% total
 - 1. Exam #1 (10%) will cover material presented in class or assigned to be read up to the exam date.
 - 2. Exam #2 (15%) will cover material presented in class or assigned to be read up from the last exam to the exam date.
 - 3. Exam #3 (15%) will cover material presented in class or assigned to be read from the last exam to the exam date.
 - 4. Exam #4 (10%) will cover material not covered by the previous exams.
- B. Exegesis Paper 20%
 - 1. There is an exegesis Paper due soon after the last day of class.
 - 2. The paper will be on a portion of Isaiah.
 - 3. 1% will be deducted from your grade for every day this assignment is turned in late.
- C. Outline and list 10%
- D. Keller Report 10%
- E. Class Attendance and Participation 10%
 - 1. 10% of your grade will be class participation, attendance, and punctuality with handouts
 - 2. You will be held responsible for all material presented in class.
 - 3. If you miss more than 3 class periods, you will be given a failing mark for the course.

Requirements



V. Grading

A. The seminary's grading policy is as follows.

Grade	Value	GPA	Grade	Value	GPA
A	95-100	4.0	C-	78-79	1.7
A-	93-94	3.7	D+	76-77	1.3
B+	91-92	3.3	D	72-75	1.0
B	88-90	3.0	D-	70-71	0.7
B-	86-87	2.7	E	66-69	0.0
C+	84-85	2.3	F	0-65	0.0
C	80-83	2.0	I	Incomplete	

B. The actual assignment of a letter grade will take into consideration the performance of the class as a whole (i.e. you may be graded on a curve).

C. E-mailed assignments will be graded, but I will not print them. Therefore, no comments or feedback will be given, so it is no fair complaining about your grade if you e-mail it. ***Please put your name, the course, and the assignment in the subject line.***

D. To tape a lecture the student must acquire my signature on the proper form. Before I sign it, please write this out on the form, *"I agree that the recordings are for me alone. I will not make them available to church courts, e-mail them, or give them away. I will give them upon request to Dr. Schwab for copies."*

VI. Seminary Policies

A. Incompletes: The grade of 'Incomplete' can be assigned as a final grade only when two conditions are met: 1) the student has completed the majority of the requirements for the course; 2) the student has been providentially hindered from completing the remaining requirements for the course. An 'Incomplete' granted for this course will automatically become an 'F' unless requirements are fulfilled by the completion date.

B. Withdrawals and Drop/Add: Once you have completed, signed, and submitted your registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a binding contract, and your billing will be based on this registration. If you decide not to take this class, a "drop/add" form must be completed, including securing the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. Erskine will make no exceptions to this policy.

C. Writing: The style guide adopted by the seminary is that of Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. The seminary encourages making use of inclusive language. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalog stands as an example of recommended usage.

D. Attendance: the student is required to attend all classes. If the student misses more than 3 classes, an F will automatically be assigned.

E. Portfolio: The exegesis paper can be used in your Professional Assessment portfolio as a graduation requirement for all students who began seminary in the Fall of 2002 or afterwards. It is the student's responsibility to turn in a clean, corrected copy of their paper to the seminary office for inclusion in your portfolio. Failure to do so will delay your graduation. Portfolio requirements are listed on the back of the academic worksheet of all degree programs.

F. Language about God and Humanity. Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church's historic creeds refer to Him with masculine language. The Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

G. Conduct in Theological Discussions: There are no favorites at Erskine. Publicly rejecting this ethos with the result of making fellow students feel unwelcome will be considered unethical behavior, and is grounds for course failure on the level of cheating and plagiarism. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

H. Required Textbooks. Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. Check out <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html> for links to familiar vendors. ETS SBA gets a small percentage from purchases through this portal. Please also check out the Erskine Campus Bookstore, which carries and orders required texts.

I. Plagiarism. This course does include a research paper. Give credit at all times to your sources. Do your own work, say things in your own words. Any deviation from this should conform to the catalog's plagiarism policy.

J. Office hours: I can always be reached by email.

VII. Bibliography—see the moodle site

VIII. Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
6/7		Read the Book of Isaiah.
6/28		First Exam. Outline of Isaiah with analysis of captivity and remnant restoration. Keller 9 – 79 Oswalt 17 – 64, then pick 100 pages of commentary on Isaiah 1 – 39 and read it.
7/19		Second Exam. Keller 80 – 153 Read the 2 Schwab essays. Oswalt 440 - 572
8/9		Third Exam. Keller Paper Due. Keller 154– 233. Oswalt 573 – 703 Fourth exam, open book.
8/29	No class	Final paper due. Make sure you interact with Oswalt on your paper.