



# **SYLLABUS**

**OBST 661 (SYLLABUS IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE)** 

**ISAIAH** 

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OFFICE LOCATION: SEMINARY, CARTER BUILDING, #237

# I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a detailed analysis of the first 39 chapters of Isaiah with an expanded outline and discussion of the three major divisions of chapters 40 - 66. Emphasis is given to the messianic portions of the book, the sovereignty God, and the concept of the Day of the Lord.

# II. RATIONALE

Understanding the message and theology of Isaiah is essential to understanding the message of prophetic literature and the theology of the Old Testament as a whole. The fact that Isaiah is one of the most quoted Old Testament books in the New Testament is reflective of its theological importance to the Christian faith.

# III. PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

# IV. MATERIALS LIST

Bible: Version of your choice

Bock, Darrell L. and Mitch Glaser (eds). *The Gospel According to Isaiah 53: Encountering the Suffering Servant in Jewish and Christian Theology.* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2012). ISBN: 10: 082542593X

Oswalt, John. *Isaiah*. NIVAC. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002). ISBN: 10: 0310206138 (not his two-volume commentary on Isaiah in the NICOT)

Sandy, D. Brent. *Plowshares and Pruning Hooks: Rethinking the Language of Biblical Prophecy and Apocalyptic.* (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 2002): ISBN: 10: 083082653X

# V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will be able to:

- A. Explain the historical background of Isaiah
- B. Analyze introductory and background issues related to the books of Isaiah (particularly the authorship issue)
- C. Summarize the message of Isaiah and identify key passages in the book
- D. Analyze major interpretive issues in Isaiah
- E. Apply literary insights regarding prophetic literature to the study of prophetic texts
- F. Integrate the theological message of Isaiah into the larger message of the Bible as a whole (with a view toward reading, interpreting, and teaching these books as Christian Scripture).

# VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. **Reading:** The student is to read the book of Isaiah and the assigned sections from the textbooks in accordance with the class schedule. Other readings from journal articles and other outside sources will be assigned at different times in the course. Students will report on their readings on the three exams given in the course. Readings are to be completed for each segment of the course and cannot be made up at a later date in the course. Supports Course Objectives A, B, C, D, E, and F.
- B. **Exams:** There are two exams for this course. The exams are not cumulative and will cover the materials in the three sections of the course. The exams will include multiple choice, True-False, short answer, and essay questions. Supports Course Objectives A, B, C, D, E, and F.
- C. **Isaiah Overview Reading and Reflection:** The student is to do an overview reading (scan through the entire book in 2 hours and then write a 4-5 page summary of the message of the book, citing and referencing key passages that particularly contribute to your understanding of the book. In addition, the student is to include an additional page with 7-10 questions concerning the book that have surfaced from your overview of the book. This paper is not a research paper and I do not want interaction with other sources. I want an explanation of how you understand the book after doing an initial reading of the text. Supports Course Objective C.

- D. **Two Interpretive Research Papers**: The student is to complete two 10-12 page research papers (using Turabian form) on two of the four selected topics:
  - a. What is the identity of the promised child (Immanuel) in Isaiah 7:14?
  - b. Is the fall of Satan in view in Isaiah 14? Why or why not?
  - c. Who is the Servant of the Lord in Isaiah 40-66 and what is his role/functio

These papers are due on the dates indicated in the course syllabus. The student must use a minimum of 8 sources in researching this paper and should use good reference works appropriate for graduate-level study (unless using online full-text journal articles, there should be no more than 1 internet source for any paper). See course bibliography for suggested sources for the study of Isaiah. Supports Course Objectives D, E, and F.

All written work must reflect a Master's Level use of the English language and should conform to a near-thesis standard. The following minimum standards must be met:

1" margins, top, bottom, and sides. Page numbers must be included. 12-point standard font Indent paragraphs 5 spaces or 0.6 inch No extra-line feed between paragraphs Section headings in italics Staple all papers—no paperclips, folders, or fanfold

# VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Weight or Points

Reading	100 points
Exam 1	150 points
Exam 2	150 points
Isaiah Overview Paper	100 points
Interpretive Research Paper 1	250 points
Interpretive Research Paper 2	250 points

Total: 1000 points

# B. Scale (in points):

980-1000	A+
960-979	A
940-959	A-
910-939	B+
880-909	В
850-879	B-
810-849	C+
780-809	С
750-779	C-
719-749	D+
680-709	D
650-679	D-
BELOW 650	F

#### VIII. POLICIES

#### A. ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Students are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. Excused absences include illnesses with medical excuse and approved LU activities. Students who miss more than two unexcused class sessions will receive a 5% reduction in their final grade for each class missed. Students with six or more unexcused absences will automatically receive a failing grade for the class.

#### B. OTHER POLICIES

#### 1. Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is strictly prohibited. See The Graduate Catalog for specific definitions, penalties, and processes for reporting.

# 2. Drop/Add Policy

Consult the Graduate Catalog for drop/add policies.

3. Dress Code (applies to classes meeting on campus)
Students are expected to maintain a neat, professional appearance while in class.
Consult your department for additional guidelines.

# 4. Late work

All work is due at the beginning of the class on the date assigned. Late work will be penalized 7 points for each day or part of a day that it is turned in late.

# 5. Computers and cell phones in class

Computers and cell phones are not allowed in the classroom for this course. If you have a documented medical reason for why you need a computer to take notes, you can discuss with me on an individual basis.

6. Classroom participation

Students are expected to bring Bible and notes to all class sessions and to actively engage and participate in the classroom discussion. The professor reserves the right to adjust grades positively or negatively based on classroom participation and engagement.

# IX. CALENDAR

Fall 2013:

Class 1: Syllabus and Course Introduction

Class 2: Introduction to Prophecy (Part 1)

Class 3: Introduction to Prophecy (Part 2)

Class 4: Historical Background of Isaiah

Class 5: Authorship and Unity of Isaiah/ Overview of Book (Overview

Reading and Reflection Paper Due)

Class 6: Isaiah 6 (The Call of Isaiah)

Class 7: Isaiah 1

Class 8: Isaiah 2

Class 9: Isaiah 3-5

Class 10: Isaiah 7-8 (Part 1) (Identity of Immanuel Paper due)

Class 11: Isaiah 7-8 (Part 2)

Class 12: Isaiah 9-12 (The Promise of Messiah)

Class 13: Isaiah 13-23 Overview of the OAN)

Class 14: Isaiah 13-14 (The Lucifer Issue) Fall of Satan Research Paper

due

Class 15: Isaiah 24-27

Class 16: EXAM 1

Class 17: Isaiah 28-30

Class 19: Isaiah 31-35

Class 20: Isaiah 36-39

Class 21: Isaiah 40-66: Second Exodus and Return from Exile

Class 22: Isaiah 40-44

Class 23: Isaiah 45-48

Class 24: Isaiah 49-55 (Servant of the Lord, Part 1) (Servant of the Lord

Research Paper Due)

Class 25: Isaiah 49-55 (Servant of the Lord, Part 2)

Class 26: Isaiah 56-58

Class 27: Isaiah 59-62

Class 28: Isaiah 63-66

Class 29 Theology of Isaiah (Part 1)

Class 30: Theology of Isaiah (Part 2)

**Exam Week:** Final Exam according to exam schedule

# X. STUDENTS WITH A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY

may contact the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in DH 2016 to make arrangements for academic accommodations. For all disability testing accommodation requests (i.e. quieter environment, extended time, oral testing, etc.) the Tutoring/Testing Center is the officially designated place for all tests administered outside of the regular classroom.

# XI. SELECTED COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

# **Books and Commentaries**

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