

## Isaiah

**Class:** Fall semester (Sept. 29-30; Oct. 13-14; Nov. 3-4; Dec. 1-2)

Friday 7:00-10:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Instructor:** Dr. Eric J. Tully

**e-mail:** etully@tiu.edu

**Office phone:** (847) 317-8115

**Office hours:** Tuesday, 3:00-4:30 p.m., Thursday 3:00-4:30, or by appointment

- If you want to talk during regular office hours, use the TIU system to select a time slot. We can then talk over the phone, Skype, or Google Hangouts
- If you need to talk outside of regular office hours, simply send me an e-mail and we will find a time that works.

### Course Description:

A study of the book of Isaiah designed to acquaint the student with the literary, historical, and theological content of this prophetic book. Attention will be given to literary form and structure, particular interpretive issues, message, and relevance of this book for the people of God today.

### Course Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of the background, techniques, and literary genre of Old Testament prophecy.
- To be familiar with the literary structure and contents of the book of Isaiah
- To relate the parts of Isaiah to the whole and to understand the message of the book
- To understand the place of the book in the progress of revelation
- To learn to apply the teaching and message of the book to our contemporary context today

### Required Textbooks:

Bible – This can be the translation of your choosing. Please do not use a paraphrase such as the Living Bible or the Message. I recommend: ESV, NIV, NASB, or NRSV.

Motyer, J. A. *The Prophecy of Isaiah : An Introduction & Commentary*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1993. [ISBN: 978-0830815937]

Oswalt, John. *Isaiah: The NIV Application Commentary: From Biblical Text- to Contemporary Life*. The NIV Application Commentary Series. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003. [ISBN: 978-0310206132]

### Recommended Resources:

Beyer, Bryan. *Encountering the Book of Isaiah : A Historical and Theological Survey*. Encountering Biblical Studies. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2007.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Isaiah 1-39*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

———. *Isaiah 40-55*. New York: Doubleday, 2002.

———. *Isaiah 56-66 : A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. The Anchor Bible. 1st ed. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Oswalt, John. *The Book of Isaiah. Chapters 1-39*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1986.

———. *The Book of Isaiah. Chapters 40-66*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 1998.

Smith, Gary. *Interpreting the Prophetic Books: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Academic, 2014.

### **The means to achieve our course objectives (and grade distribution):**

1. Participation and Engagement (10%)
  - a. The best learning environments are those where the students are actively engaged: asking questions of the professor and each other, making observations, and demonstrating that they are prepared for class. The grade in this category will be based on full participation in our in-class sessions.
  - b. Attendance will also be a factor since it is impossible to be involved in the class discussion if you miss class time.
  
2. Exegetical Notebook (30%)
  - a. The assignments in the course schedule (see below) should be completed in order.
  - b. You should begin by carefully reading the biblical text of Isaiah, before you read the commentaries on each respective section. As you read the text of Isaiah each week, keep notes in an “exegetical notebook” to be turned in for this class assignment.
  - c. As you slowly and carefully read the text, interrogate it. Bombard it with questions! Try to look at the text from different perspectives. In your “notebook” record the following:
    - i. Observations – for example: What do you notice in the text? What is striking? What kinds of things do you notice for the first time? What is the prophet saying? What point is he trying to make to his audience? *How* is he making that point? How would you expect that his audience would respond? What is Isaiah *not* saying? What are you learning about God and about yourself?
    - ii. Questions – for example: What is unclear in the text? What words do you not know? What historical references do you not understand or might need some clarification? What figures of speech, analogies, metaphors, or symbolism is difficult to understand? Are there any other problems in the text that might need some further investigation? (Note – you do not necessarily have to answer all of these questions; just asking them is a good first step. But as you have time you might look up the most important issues in the resources you have.)

- iii. Personal response – You might note your own personal response to the text. I don't want the notebook to be a journal, but personal responses are appropriate as well.
  - d. Although I call this assignment an exegetical notebook, it should be kept electronically. There is an example template on the last page of this syllabus and I will put an electronic version on our class Moodle page. You can download and use that template if you wish, or you can design your own. An electronic format works well because you can continue to add information and keep it as an ongoing resource for the future. You can also add notes as you do the reading in the commentaries (see below) and as we discuss the text in our class time together.
  - e. I will check your progress during our first weekend of class (chapters 1-6) to make sure you are on the right track. This will allow me to make suggestions before you move further into the book. Please send me an electronic copy of your notes on the first six chapters by **Friday, September 29**.
  - f. At the end of the course, you will send me the file of your exegetical notebook. It will be graded based on your engagement with the text, completion, and following directions.
3. Reading (30%): In preparation for our weekends in class together, complete the assigned reading in the biblical text, commentaries, or other supplementary texts. Do the reading according to the schedule and in the order that I specify. I will provide a reading report form on Moodle for you to use to track and submit your completed reading. **Note:** Some reading is due *before* the first weekend that we meet together.
4. Short papers (30% = 10% each): These short papers will give you experience in a particular element of exegesis. They will also provide material for our discussions in class for that day. Note: The following papers will be double spaced, in 12-point font, and will not exceed the page limits. I will provide further instructions in class. You will submit these papers to me via the link on Moodle. In addition, bring a hardcopy to class so that we can discuss them together.
- a. Short Paper #1 – Isaiah 24-27 Meaning and place in structure of the book **[3-4 pp.]**
  - b. Short Paper #2 – Theme: YHWH vs. the Idols in chs. 40-55 **[4-5 pp.]**
  - c. Short Paper #3 – Exegesis of Isaiah 56:1-8 (literary context, interpretive problems, background, meaning/main point, application and relevance) **[5-7 pp.]**

**Grading scale:**

		<b>B+</b>	87-89	<b>C+</b>	77-79	<b>D+</b>	67-69
<b>A</b>	94-100	<b>B</b>	84-86	<b>C</b>	74-76	<b>D</b>	64-66
<b>A-</b>	90-93	<b>B-</b>	80-83	<b>C-</b>	70-73	<b>D-</b>	60-63

**Policy for late work:**

Late assignments will be penalized 5% for each day late (weekends count only as one day). The maximum penalty for a late assignment will be 30%. If you have extenuating circumstances, please talk to me *before* the assignment is due or as soon as possible.

**A note on plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is taking the words or ideas of another and presenting them as your own without properly crediting the source. Thus, plagiarism is stealing and a breach of ethics and academic integrity. Any student who breaks the standard of academic integrity by plagiarism will receive a zero (0%) on that particular paper or exam and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Further, this may result in failure of the course, expulsion from the institution, or revocation of a degree already granted by TIU. All students should carefully review the *Catalog*, *Student Guide*, *Academic Handbook*, and *Style and Format Guide* for further information.

**Schedule:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Assignments due (in order):</b>
Aug 28-Sept. 1			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read Smith, "Prophet," <i>ISBE</i> 1986: 986-1004</li> <li>2. Read Intro to Motyer, pp. 13-34</li> <li>3. Read Intro to Oswalt, pp. 17-66</li> <li>4. Read the book of Isaiah through one time</li> </ol>
Sept 4-8			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 1</li> <li>2. Read Motyer, pp. 35-52</li> <li>3. Read Oswalt, pp. 71-87</li> </ol>
Sept 11-15			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 2-3</li> <li>2. Read Motyer, pp. 52-63</li> <li>3. Read Oswalt, pp. 88-105</li> </ol>
Sept 18-22			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 4-5</li> <li>2. Read Motyer, pp. 63-73</li> <li>3. Read Oswalt, pp. 106-123</li> </ol>
Sept 25-28			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 6</li> <li>2. Read Motyer, pp. 74-80</li> <li>3. Read Oswalt, pp. 124-133</li> </ol>
<b>Friday September 29</b>	<b>p.m.</b>	Introduction to the course Prophecy in the OT Introduction to Isaiah	1. Exegetical notebook check (Isaiah 1-6)
<b>Saturday September 30</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	Poetry in the OT	
	<b>p.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 1-6	
Oct 2-6			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 7, 8, 11, 23</li> <li>2. Read Motyer, pp. 80-275</li> <li>3. Read Oswalt, pp. 134-395</li> </ol>

Oct 9-12			1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 36 2. Read Motyer, pp. 276-297 3. Read Oswalt, pp. 396-439 <b>* Short Paper #1: Isaiah 24-27</b>
<b>Friday October 13</b>	<b>p.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 7-39	
<b>Saturday October 14</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 7-39	
	<b>p.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 7-39	
Oct 16-20			1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 40, 41, 45 2. Read Motyer, pp. 298-371 3. Read Oswalt, pp. 440-526
Oct 23-27			1. Exegetical notebook on Isa 47, 52, 53, 55 2. Read Motyer, pp. 371-458 3. Read Oswalt, pp. 527-604
Oct 30-Nov 2			<b>* Short Paper #2: YHWH vs. Idols in Isa 40-55</b>
<b>Friday November 3</b>	<b>p.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 40-55	
<b>Saturday November 4</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 40-55	
	<b>p.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 40-55	
Nov 6-10			1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 56, 58 2. Read Motyer, pp. 459-488 3. Read Oswalt, pp. 605-638
Nov 13-17			1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 60, 61, 63 2. Read Motyer, pp. 489-522 3. Read Oswalt, pp. 639-677
Nov 20-24			1. Exegetical notebook on Isaiah 65, 66 2. Read Motyer, pp. 522-544 3. Read Oswalt, pp. 678-703
Nov 27-30			<b>* Short Paper #3: Exegesis of Isaiah 56:1-8</b> <b>* Read the book of Isaiah through one time</b>
<b>Friday December 1</b>	<b>p.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 56-66	
<b>Saturday December 2</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 56-66	
	<b>p.m.</b>	Analysis of Isaiah 56-66	

### Select Bibliography

#### Prophets in the ANE and in the Old Testament

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *A History of Prophecy in Israel*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

Chisholm, Robert B. *Handbook on the Prophets : Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2002.

Hayes, John Haralson. "Form-Critical Study of the Prophets; the Forms of Prophetic Speech." In *An Introduction to Old Testament Study*. 143-49, 273-77. Nashville: Abingdon, 1979.

Hoffner, Harry A., Jr. "Ancient Views of Prophecy and Fulfillment : Mesopotamia and Asia Minor." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 30, no. 3 (1987): 257-65.

Holladay, John S. "Assyrian Statecraft and the Prophets of Israel." *Harvard Theological Review* 63, no. 1 (1970): 29-51.

Loewe, Michael, and Carmen Blacker. *Oracles and Divination*. Boulder: Shambhala, 1981.

Malamat, Abraham. "A Forerunner of Biblical Prophecy: The Mari Documents." In *Ancient Israelite Religion*, edited by Jr. Patrick D. Miller, Paul D. Hanson and S. Dean McBride. 33-52. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

Pritchard, James B. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts: Relating to the Old Testament*. 3d ed. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1969.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *The Prophetic Literature*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2005.

VanGemeren, Willem. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word: An Introduction to the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing, 1996.

### Biblical Poetry

Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1990.

Berlin, Adele. "On Reading Biblical Poetry: The Role of Metaphor." *Vetus Testamentum Sup* 19 (1990): 25-36.

Fokkelman, J. *Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Futato, Mark David, and David M. Howard. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2007.

Miller, Patrick D. "The Theological Significance of Biblical Poetry." In *Israelite Religion and Biblical Theology : Collected Essays*. 233-49. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

### Introduction to Isaiah

Brownlee, William H. *The Meaning of the Qumran Scrolls for the Bible*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1964.

Driver, S. R. *An Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1961.

Harrison, R. K. "The Book of Isaiah." In *Introduction to the Old Testament*. 764-800. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

Schultz, Richard. "Isaiah, Isaiahs, and Current Scholarship." In *Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith? A Critical Appraisal of Modern and Postmodern Approaches to Scripture*, edited by James K. Hoffmeier and Dennis R. Magary. 243-262. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012.

Williamson, H. G. M. *The book called Isaiah : Deutero-Isaiah's role in composition and redaction*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994.

### Commentaries on Isaiah

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Isaiah 1-39*. New York: Doubleday, 2000. **[critical; technical]**

———. *Isaiah 40-55*. New York: Doubleday, 2002. **[critical; technical]**

———. *Isaiah 56-66 : a new translation with introduction and commentary*. The Anchor Bible. 1st ed. New York: Doubleday, 2003. **[critical; technical]**

Childs, Brevard S. *Isaiah*. The Old Testament library. 1st ed. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. **[critical; semitechnical]**

Goldingay, John. *Isaiah*. New International Biblical Commentary Old Testament Series. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2001. **[moderate; nontechnical]**

———. *The message of Isaiah 40-55 : a Literary-Theological Commentary*. London ; New York: T&T Clark, 2005. **[moderate; nontechnical]**

Goldingay, John, and David F. Payne. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Isaiah 40-55*. The International Critical Commentary on the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. London ; New York: T&T Clark, 2006. **[moderate; technical]**

Motyer, J. A. *The Prophecy of Isaiah: an Introduction & Commentary*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1993. **[conservative; nontechnical]**

North, Christopher R. *The Second Isaiah*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1964. **[critical; semitechnical]**

Oswalt, John. *The Book of Isaiah. Chapters 1-39*. The New international commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1986. **[conservative; semitechnical]**

———. *The book of Isaiah. Chapters 40-66*. The new international commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 1998. **[conservative; semitechnical]**

———. *Isaiah : the NIV application commentary : from biblical text- to contemporary life*. The NIV application commentary series. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2003. **[conservative; nontechnical]**

Smith, Gary V. *Isaiah 1-39*. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2007. **[conservative; nontechnical]**

———. *Isaiah 40-66*. The New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2009. **[conservative; nontechnical]**

Watts, John D. W. *Isaiah 1-33*. Word Biblical commentary. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1985. **[conservative; technical]**

———. *Isaiah 34-66*. Word Biblical commentary. Waco, Tex.: Word Books, 1987. **[conservative; technical]**

Wildberger, Hans. *Isaiah : A Continental Commentary*. Continental Commentaries. 3 vols Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991. **[critical; technical]**

Williamson, H. G. M. *A critical and exegetical commentary on Isaiah 1-27*. The international critical commentary on the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. London ; New York: T & T Clark, 2006. **[critical; technical]**



Isaiah Exegetical Notebook [Template]

Ref	Text	Questions	Observations & Personal Reflections
1:1	The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.	<p>&gt; What exactly is a “vision”? A dream? Something visual? Or is this just terminology for having a prophetic experience?</p> <p>&gt; What does the name “Isaiah” mean in Hebrew? Is that significant at all?</p> <p>&gt; Since Jerusalem was the capitol of Judah, why does it mention both places?</p> <p>&gt; What is the timeframe of these kings? How long of a period was Isaiah’s ministry? Is there any historical/theological significance that Isaiah was called during the reign of these kings at this time?</p>	<p>&gt; Isaiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah. This is during the divided kingdom period in Israel’s history</p> <p>&gt; this is an authorship attribution – this claims that the text that follows came from Isaiah and is his message from God to the people</p>
1:2	<sup>2</sup> Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.		
1:3	<sup>3</sup> The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."		
1:4	<sup>4</sup> Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.		
1:5	<sup>5</sup> Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.		