Course Profile

Course # and Title: RHS 602B Isaiah OT GBS (Adv. Exeg.)
Instructor: Klaus-Peter Adam and TBD
Semester/Year: Spring 2019 Monday, 1-4pm; Translation 12-1pm.

Course Rationale and Description
This course is a Graduate Biblical seminar. It can be also taken as an advanced exegesis course in the M.Div. curriculum. It addresses texts from the book of Isaiah. We will focus on Isaiah 1-39.

Course Learning Outcomes (Learners will be able to):
This course introduces into the most elaborate prophetic tradition of the Old Testament. Participants will enhance their knowledge about the Bible (M.Div. MATS learning outcome #2; Th.M. #2; Ph.D. #1,3.) They will deepen their understanding of the religious heritage (M.Div. MATS learning outcome # 3; Th.M. #1; Ph.D. #2) and of the various cultural contexts of the editions of the book of Isaiah from the 8th to the 3rd century BCE. We will assess how biblical prophecy developed from the classical time of the prophets in the 8th century BCE through the Babylonian and to the Persian period and will discover the diversity of tones and of the voices in biblical prophecy, as well as the transformations of the situations of their authors. We will develop and practice methodological skills in Old Testament interpretation (Learning outcome M.Div. MATS # 2, # 3; Th.M. #2; Ph.D. #2,3.) We will also learn how to relate the biblical prophecy of doom to other prophetic movements in the Ancient world and in modern societies and consider questions around the oral-written interface, i.e., around the theme of transformation of oral prophetic words into compositions (Learning outcome M.Div. MATS # 3; Th.M. #4; Ph.D. #2.) The course will include aspects of the reception of Isaiah’s prophecy in Christian culture, and in contextual (gender, queer, feminist, post-holocaust, latinx, African American, womanist) approaches to scripture. It also identifies themes and strategies when preaching texts from Isaiah in today’s ministry settings (Learning outcome M. Div. MATS # 4; Ph.D. # 6.) This course will provide the biblical basis needed for preaching and will empower M.Div. students to better understand their ministry as servants of the people of God in light of biblical prophecy (Learning outcome M. Div. #6; Th.M. #5; Ph.D. #5.)

Strategies for Learning:
1) Attendance: Class discussion will be both an integral part of this course and a significant part of the final grade. Students need to make every effort to attend each class. If a student misses two sessions, this class can only be counted on a Pass/Fail basis.
2) Weekly translation 1 hour; weekly readings of the biblical texts (Hebrew/Greek) and the secondary sources, contributions to class discussions.
3) Book report.
4) In-depth exegetical paper on a biblical text; class presentation. M.Div. students may choose to instead write a four-part bible study plus a sermon.

Assessment:
1) Thoughtful oral feedback during classroom discussions.
2) Oral feedback during small group work in class.
3) Written evaluation of the style, the structure, and the descriptive accuracy of the book report, namely the content and the methodological approach of the book.
4) Written criticisms and evaluation of drafts on exegetical paper.
5) Criticism of the methodology and the content and further advice on bibliography for the exegetical paper.
6) Individual academic mentoring for students with particular interests, for instance, students with interest in Biblical Archaeology, biblical hermeneutics, methodology.

**Tentative bibliography:**

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<tr>
<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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Additional information:
M.Div. students who have not taken Greek or Hebrew are welcome, please notify the instructor.

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