Heb622: Hebrew Exegesis --Psalms & Isaiah (Theological issues & themes)
Dr. Greg W. Parsons (BMA Theological Seminary)

I. Objectives: (1) Refine the steps for doing Hebrew exegesis especially in Hebrew poetry, prophetic narrative and oracular prose (2) Gain confidence in ability to work and to think through interpretive and critical issues in the text of the Psalter and Isaiah (including potentially Messianic passages, and key theological problems such as imprecatory Psalms & God's vengeance in Isaiah cf. chap 63?). and (3) gain a greater appreciation for the importance of background study for interpreting the Old Testament (emphasis on possible use of polemic in Psalms and Isaiah).

II. Tentative Required Textbooks


3) + one of the following required: use of LOGOS or BibleWorks (or if not accessible, utilize Joseph Owens, Analytical Key to the OT....)

 Highly recommended (also see all books with asterisk in bibliography pp. 4-5)
*Allen P. Ross, Psalms 3 vols. (see below)
Isaiah John Oswalt (2 vols) and Gary V. Smith (2 vols.)

III. Class Schedule (2015)

Week 1 [Jan. 20] Tues. afternoon 2:15 to 5:15. Brief Introduction to course with review of exegetical steps (emphasis on word study method) . + Brief reorientation to Hebrew poetry, the Book of Psalms &. possible Intro. to Psalm types.. Brief Hermeneutical and homiletical guidelines for the Psalms. Assignment: Translate Psalm 96 (13 vv); Read Futato17-18, 23 -53; 117-125; 139-182?? and also Greg W. Parsons, "Guidelines for Understanding and Proclaiming the Psalms" Bibliotheca Sacra 147 (April 1990):169-187 and Bernhard Anderson, chap. 10 (201-211). Possibly read at least two(2) Psalms from each of the seventeen (17) main types listed in Anderson, Appendix A (pp.235-38; or 213-217) preferably in a modern English translation such as the NIV, NASB, HCSB, ESV or NKJV.

1This syllabus is tentative and may revised by the professor as needed. [revised 1-16-2015]
2Contact information for Dr. Greg W. Parsons: E-mail: greg.parsons@bmats.edu phone: 903-586-2501, ext. 212; Home phone: 903-586-3504.
Class 2 [Jan. 27] Introduction to polemical motif: to show the supremacy and exaltation of YHWH over the impotent nature gods of the ancient Near East (particularly Baal). 

Reading:

*Start notes on polemic in Psalms and Isaiah due later on (4-14)

Class 3 [2-03]: Nature psalms translate Ps. 19 (=14 vv.) and read 104 in English (35 vv)

Class 4 [2-10]: Orientation to Messianic psalms: translate Ps 110 [=7vv] + read Psalms 18 and 45 in English. Royal Psalms and Messianic Psalms. Introduction to principles for interpreting Messianic Psalms. Assignment also read Bullock chaps. 10-11 (177-197) as well as Futato, 80-95a + review 174-182 & selected commentaries on all assigned Psalms for class study.

?Start word study on הָמִּלְתּ in Isa 7+?

Class 5 [2-17]: Textual problems emphasis: Translate at least Ps. 22:1-22 (=partial & Engl v. 21) + English vv.22 to end. Textual criticism emphasis (see Qumran scroll/LXX do assignment on v. 17 --see addendum below or handout) Read Futato, 125b-131.

Class 6 [2-24] Theological problems: 1 translate Ps 58 (all 12vv.) + Read Psalms 7, 69 and 109 in English with possible exegetical questions concerning theological problems: Imprecatory psalms & lament: Can we pray as the psalmists prayed? and also read OT context (covenant Gen 12:1-3 and covenant curses ---Deut 28/Levit 26?).


2) Probably also translate Ps 82 (all 8vv.) + read David Penchansky Twilight of the Gods, 32-40+ and also Michael Heiser article(s) "Divine Council" in Lexham Bible Dictionary, etc.+. possible exegetical questions on theoretical problem + Jesus usage in John 10 (compare views, etc.)?

Class 7 [3-03] INTRODUCTION TO ISAIAH; higher criticism and textual criticism. Read Gary Smith vol 1:44-68a & vol 2:25-54 + E. Merrill, M. Rooker & M. Grisanti, The World and the Word, 367-370; (check Qumran digital Isaiah) http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah + translate Isa 6 [= all 13vv] and be prepared to examine Qumran and other textual data.

3-10 1st Spring Break NO CLASS

Class 8 [3-17] *Word study due on נְשָׂת esp. in Isa 7:14. Translate Isaiah 7:1-17(+read 7:18 thru chap 8 in English? + read Merrill, Rooker & Grisanti, World and Word, 376-377; + read portions in 3 exegetical commentaries in conjunction with *exegetical assignment on 7:14-17+ (to be turned in).
Class 9 [3-24]  **Translate Isaiah [Heb.] 8:23--9:6** (=7vv.)  (Read also English of chap 9-10)?  
**Turn in exegetical questions on Isa. 9:5-6**

Class 10 [3-31]:  Study of Isaiah 40:1-31  **Translate 40:1-26.**  + English vv. 27-31

Class 11 [4-07]:  **Translate Isa. 41:21-29 + chap 42:1-9**  + read English rest of chap 42 &  
**Do exegetical assignments on Isa 42:5-9**

Class 12:  [4-14]  **Paper on polemic due.**  + **Translate Isa 44:6-20 + 44:24-28 (~20 vv)**

**4-21  2nd Spring Break:  BMAA meeting.  NO CLASS**

Class 13;  [4-28]  **Translate Isa 49:1-13** for class and **also translate Isa 52:13--53:12.**


Class 15  [5-12]  **Final week:**  **Exegetical paper due on Isaiah 53??**  [Isa 52:13--53:12 or maybe only a portion??] or maybe?? Is. 61 (or maybe 63???) allow minimal use of 3 commentaries (as last step)

**IV. Tentative Grading:**

1)  **Mini-word study** on הָלּוֹו almah (~10 %)

2)  **Exegetical paper on Isa 53** (or other??)  (35%) *(see below)*

3)  **Exegetical questions and translation--at least 4 to be turned in (~30 to 33% esp. if add imprecatory/theological questions)**

   Each student must complete the 4 or more exegetical assignments (see schedule). The average grade on these assignments will count 30 to 33% of the course grade. Each assignment will consist of two parts: (1) Translation of the selection with ~three brief footnotes (no more than one to two paragraphs per note) addressing the most important text-critical, morphological, semantic, and syntactical issues in the selection. In these notes be sure to include appropriate citations from *HALOT, BDB, GKC (Gesenius-Kautzsch-Cowley), IBHS (Walke-O’Connor), Williams Hebrew Syntax; J-M (Joüon-Muraoka), and/or any other reference tools, including commentaries.** (2) Answering the exegetical questions for each passage. Be sure to interact with at least three exegetical commentaries from the list above and the notes in the NET Bible.  [see separate handout or perhaps Moodle posting]  [You will be graded on the accuracy and quality of your translations and comments, as well as your choice of problems. All assignments are due at the **beginning** of the class session on which they are assigned.

4)  **attendance** (2%)  

5)  **miscellaneous reading and weekly translation (10 to 13%)**
6) Polemical paper (~10% to 13%). Paper on polemic in Psalms and Isaiah due Class #12 (April 14) compare and contrast Psalter with ANE and also Isaiah with A.N.E. (similarities & differences of each) ~8 to 10 pages cf Penchansky, Twilight of the Gods, chap. 5 (41-47),

V. Preliminary Bibliography

Introduction:

*C. Hassell Bullock, Encounter the Book of Psalms (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001). (LOGOS has for $29.99) Kindle available
*Futato, Mark (see below...)

Useful Commentaries
the following commentaries may help when completing the written assignments:

On Psalms:
*Craigie, Peter C. Psalms 1-50, WBC. Waco, TX: Word, 1983 WBC vol 2:51-100
by Marvin Tate WordBC & vol 3:101-150 by Leslie Allen on 101-150

Some Useful Texts on Psalms:
*Schmutzer, Andrew J., and David M. Howard, Jr, eds. The Psalms: Language for All Seasons of the Soul. Chicago: Moody, 2013. (ebook available)
ADD; The Dead Sea Psalms Scrolls and the Book of Psalms By Peter W. Flint (1997)

On Isaiah:

Exegetical commentaries

Expositional Commentaries
*Wolf, Herbert. *Interpreting Isaiah: the Suffering & Glory of the Messiah* Zondervan, 1985


Other Helpful Resource materials for OT studies