

## SYLLABUS: THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Hebrew Studies 514 & 652

Spring, 2011

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### 1. Course description

*Overview:* An in-depth study of selections from Isa 40-66 in the light of philology, text criticism, rhetoric, poetic structures and devices, redaction criticism, and ideology.

*Methodological Focus:* The composition of the book of Isaiah. Our primary guide will be H.G.M. Williamson, *The Book Called Isaiah*, but other readings on this topic will also be assigned.

### 2. Readings in Isaiah

a. In class: 40:1-31; 41:21-43:13; 49:1-26; 52:13-53:12; 56:1-8; 61:1-11; 66:15-24.

b. Additional translation for exams (regardless how much we cover in class)

Midterm: Chapters 40-53

Final: Chapters 54-66

3. Each student will select and prepare a literary unit for oral reading in class. Practice your passage so that you can give a correct and meaningful oral rendition.

4. Exams: midterm (March 10) and final (May 10, in 1351 Van Hise)

5. All students (514 & 652) will read and discuss:

Carr, David M. "Reading Isaiah from Beginning (Isaiah 1) to End (Isaiah 65-66): Multiple Modern Possibilities." In *New Visions of Isaiah*, edited by Roy F. Melugin and Marvin A. Sweeney, 188-218. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006.

Haran, Menahem. "The Literary Structure and Chronological Framework of the Prophecies in Is. xl-xlvi," *SVT* 9 (1963), 127-155.

Leonard, Jeffery M. "Identifying Inner-Biblical Allusions: Psalm 78 as a Test Case." *JBL* 127 (2008): 241-265.

Orlinski, Harry M. "The So-Called 'Suffering Servant' in Isaiah 53." *Cincinnati*, 1964, 3-49.

Seitz, Christopher R. "The Divine Council: Temporal Transition and New Prophecy in the Book of Isaiah." *JBL* 109:2 (1990): 229-247.

Sweeney, Marvin. Chapter 2 of *Isaiah 1-4 and the Post-Exilic Understanding of the Isaianic Tradition* (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1988).

Williamson, H. G. M. *The Book Called Isaiah*. Oxford, 1994, reprinted in 2010.

6. Those registered for 652 will also read and discuss the following:

a. Allusion and Intertextuality

Sommer, Benjamin D. "Literary Theory and the Study of Inner-biblical Allusion and Exegesis." In *A Prophet Reads Scripture: Allusion in Isaiah 40-66*, pp. 6-31. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 1998.

Tull Willey, Patricia. "'The Former Things I Declared Long Ago': An Intertextual Approach to Second Isaiah." In *Remember the Former Things: The Recollection of Previous Texts in Second Isaiah*, pp. 57-104. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997.

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b. DI and Lamentations

Tull Willey, Patricia. “‘Awake, Awake, Put on Your Strength’: Isaiah 51:9-52:12.” In *Remember the Former Things: The Recollection of Previous Texts in Second Isaiah*, pp. 105-174. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997

c. DI and Jeremiah

Sommer, Benjamin D. “Deutero-Isaiah’s Use of Jeremiah.” In *A Prophet Reads Scripture: Allusion in Isaiah 40-66*, pp. 32-72. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 1998.

d. TI’s allusions

Nurmela, Risto. “Similarities between Isaiah 56-66 and Other Biblical Writings.” In *The Mouth of the Lord Has Spoken: Inner-Biblical Allusions in the Second and Third Isaiah*, pp. 85-137. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 2006.

e. TI’s authorship

Smith, Paul A. “The Work of the Prophet Trito-Isaiah.” In *Rhetoric and Redaction in Trito-Isaiah: The Structure, Growth and Authorship of Isaiah 56-66*, pp. 22-49. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1995.

7. Each student registered for 652 will write a research paper (ca. 12pp., double-spaced, with appropriate documentation of primary and secondary sources) on a topic germane to the course. While this paper is not as broad in scope as a seminar paper (in particular, it is a textual study), I expect the same attention to bibliography, argumentation, and writing that you would invest in a seminar paper. Papers will be due Tuesday, March 29, at class time (one grade level will be deducted for each day a paper is late). I will return papers by Thursday, April 14, to allow you opportunity to make corrections and turn in a revised copy (along with the original) by Tuesday, April 28.

A list of possible topics follows, but I will also entertain suggestions offered within the first three weeks of the term.

- a. Zion/Jerusalem in Isaiah 40-66
- b. The role(s) of the nations in Isaiah 40-66
- c. The placement and role of Isaiah 60-62 within 56-66
- d. The servant and servants in Isaiah 40-66
- e. Isaiah 65-66: a capstone to the book?
- f. The social location of *wOrbfd@:-)e Mydlr"xjha* (Isaiah 66)
- g. *Mym* as a *Leitmotif* in Isaiah 40-55
- h. Feminine imagery for *hw* in Isaiah 40-55

8. Students registered for 514 will write, instead of #7, an analysis of a poetic unit (ca. 12 pages), focusing on metaphor, but noting also philological issues, types of parallelism and how they function, and how the poem develops its theme(s). The paper will be due on Thursday, April 7.

The following texts would be felicitous choices: Isaiah 41:8-13; 43:16-21; 46:8-13; 49:22-26; 51:17-23. You may choose another text, subject to my approval. You may

not use a text scheduled for class study.

514 students will also read Kovecses, Zoltan. *Metaphor: A Practical Introduction*. Oxford, 2010.

9. Office hours: I will be available the hour following class and by appointment. You can also reach me at my e-mail address: rltroxel@wisc.edu

**N.B. A change in the schedule** for the week of April 25. Prof. John J. Collins, who will give the lecture following the annual graduate dinner (April 27) will speak in class on the 28<sup>th</sup>. In order to allow for a tea/coffee time after his talk, we will hold the third hour of class that week on Tuesday, April 26, from 9:45-10:35.

### Select Bibliography

#### *Primary Texts*

Brock, S. P. *Vetus Testamentum Syriace: Isaiah* (Leiden Peshitta) (Brill, 1993).

BHS or (better) Goshen—Gottstein, M. H. ed., *The Hebrew University Bible: The Book of Isaiah*, volume 2 (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1981).

Ziegler, J., ed., *Isaias*. Göttingen Septuagint, vol. 14 (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 1983).

#### *Commentaries* (all are available in the grad reading room)

J. Blenkinsopp, *Isaiah 40-55* (Yale, 2002).

\_\_\_\_\_, *Isaiah 56-66* (Yale, 2003).

J. Goldingay and D. Payne, *Isaiah 40-55*, two volumes (T&T Clark, 2006)

C. R. North, *The Second Isaiah* (Clarendon, 1964)

C. Westermann, *Isaiah 40-66 OTL* (Westminster, 1969)

J. L. McKenzie, *Second Isaiah AB* (Doubleday, 1967)