

Syllabus

The Book of Isaiah in Modern Biblical Studies, 10 credits

Course code	BV404	Valid from	Autumn 2019
Area	Biblical studies	Created	2018-03-01
Level	Advanced level	Last changed	2021-01-22

Admission requirements

- Courses in Theology and Religious Studies consisting of a minimum of 120 credits, of which 15 credits must be in Biblical Hebrew.
- Proficiency in English.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, the students will be expected to:

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the book of Isaiah, with regards to its formation, theology, and reception history;
- show in-depth understanding of the contours of research on the book of Isaiah during the last decades;
- understand different research methodologies and assess how they affect the study of the Old Testament in general and the book of Isaiah in particular.

Competence and skills

At the end of the course, the students will be expected to:

- demonstrate increased ability to interpret selected Hebrew texts from Isaiah in a methodologically astute manner and in close dialogue with up-to-date scholarly research;
- present their results in an independent manner;
- Show increased ability to analyse and translate Hebrew, with focus on grammar and vocabulary.

Judgement and approach

At the end of the course, the students will be expected to:

- understand and evaluate different interpretations based on historical, linguistical, literary, and hermeneutical criteria;
- understand and evaluate the ways in which the book of Isaiah has been employed in different faith traditions,
- discuss in a critical manner the ways in which we today can (or should not) use the book of Isaiah to inform on contemporary issues.

Content

The course strives to deepen the students' understanding of a wide range of historical, text-historical, narrative, and ideological methodologies that contemporary scholars use when studying the Bible. The book of Isaiah is ideal for this purpose, given its sustained significance in Jewish and Christian traditions.

Course work

Throughout the course, the students will analyse selected texts in the book of Isaiah from exegetical and hermeneutical perspectives, either in the original language or in translation. This study will be carried out in close dialogue with a wide range of scholarly secondary literature. Both aspects of the course aim to familiarise the students with different research methods and ideological perspectives that are involved in the interpretation of biblical texts.

Examination

Weekly text seminars of selected texts. (4 credits)

Individual exegetical work of a text of choice from the book of Isaiah, carried out in a methodologically astute manner and in sustained dialogue with primary and secondary sources. (4 credits)

Method Essay (2 credits)

Grade Scale

The course will use the following grades: Pass with Distinction, Pass, and Fail.

Course evaluation

A course evaluation will be done at the end of or after the course. The result of this evaluation will be accessible for the students. Since this is the first time the course is held, no changes have been made in the course outline.

Literature (around 700 of choice)

Tiemeyer, Lena-Sofia (ed.). 2020. *The Oxford Handbook of Isaiah*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hays, Christopher B. (ed.). *Cambridge Companion to Isaiah*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

Commentaries (around 300 pages of choice)

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. 2000-2002. *Isaiah: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. 3 vols. *Isaiah 1–39; Isaiah 40–55; Isaiah 56–66*. AB 19, 19A, 19B. New York: Doubleday.

Childs, Brevard. *Isaiah*. 2000. OTL. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox.

Conrad, Edgar W. *Reading Isaiah*. 1991. OBT 27. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress.

Goldingay, John. 2005. *The Message of Isaiah 40–55: A Literary-Theological Commentary*. London and New York: T&T Clark.

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

Goldingay, John. 2014. *Isaiah 56–66. A Critical and Exegetical Commentary*. ICC. London: T&T Clark.

Koole, Jan L. 1997. *Isaiah III*. HCOT 11. Leuven: Peeters.

Muilenburg, James. 1956. "The Book of Isaiah: Isaiah Chapters 40–66." In *The Interpreter's Bible*, edited by George A. Buttrick et al., 381–773. New York: Abingdon.

Oswalt, John N. 1998. *The Book of Isaiah: Chapters 40–66*. NICOT. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Roberts, J. J. M. 2015. *First Isaiah: A Commentary*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress.

Sawyer, John F. A. 2018. *Isaiah through the Centuries*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.

Seitz, Christopher R. 2011. *Isaiah 1–39*. Interpretation. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox.

Sweeney, Marvin A. 1996. *Isaiah 1–39*. FOTL 16. Grand Rapids, MI / Cambridge: Eerdmans.

Tull, Patricia K. 2010. *Isaiah 1–39*. SHBC. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys.

Westermann, Claus. 1969. *Isaiah 40–66: A Commentary*. Transl. David M. G. Stalker. OTL. London: SCM Press.

Wildberger, Hans. 1997. *Isaiah 13–27*. Transl. Thomas H. Trapp. CC. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress.

Williamson, H. G. M. 2006. *Isaiah 1–5: A Critical and Exegetical Commentary*. ICC. London: T&T Clark.

Williamson, H. G. M. 2018. *Isaiah 6–12: A Critical and Exegetical Commentary*. ICC. London: T&T Clark.

Reference Literature

- Berges, Ulrich F. 2012. *The Book of Isaiah: Its Composition and Final Form*. Transl. Millard C. Lind. HBM 46. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix.
- Clements, Ronald E. 2011. *Jerusalem and the Nations: Studies in the Book of Isaiah*. HBM 16. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press.
- Couey, J. Blake. 2015. *Reading the Poetry of First Isaiah: The Most Perfect Model of the Prophetic Poetry*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Darr, Katheryn P. 1994. *Isaiah's Vision and the Family of God*. Literary Currents in Biblical Interpretation. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox.
- Evans, Paul S. 2009. *The Invasion of Sennacherib in the Book of Kings: A Source-Critical and Rhetorical Study of 2 Kings 18–19*. VTS 125. Leiden: Brill.
- Hays, Christopher B. 2011. *Death in the Iron Age II and in First Isaiah*. FAT 79. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
- Hays, Christopher B. 2019. *The Origins of Isaiah 24–27: Josiah's Festival Scroll for the Fall of Assyria*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Heffelfinger, Katie M. 2011. *I am Large, I Contain Multitudes: Lyric Cohesion and Conflict in Second Isaiah*. BIS 105. Leiden: Brill.
- Kahn, Dan'el. 2020. *Sennacherib's Campaign against Judah : A Source Analysis of Isaiah 36–37*. Society for Old Testament Study Monographs. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Low, Maggie. 2013. *Mother Zion in Deutero-Isaiah: A Metaphor for Zion Theology*. StBibLit 155. New York: Peter Lang.
- Melugin, Roy F., and Marvin A. Sweeney, eds. 1996. *New Visions of Isaiah*. JSOTS 214. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press.
- Poulsen, Frederik. 2019. *The Black Hole in Isaiah: A Study of Exile as a Literary Theme*. FAT 125. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
- Seitz, Christopher R. 1991. *Zion's Final Destiny: The Development of the Book of Isaiah*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress.
- Sommer, Benjamin. 1998. *A Prophet Reads Scripture: Allusions in Isaiah 40–66*. Contraversions. Stanford, CA: Stanford University.
- Stromberg, Jacob. 2011. *Isaiah After Exile: The Author of Third Isaiah as Reader and Redactor of the Book*. OTM. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stromberg, Jacob. 2011. *An Introduction to the Study of Isaiah*. T&T Clark Approaches to Biblical Studies. London and New York: T&T Clark International.
- Tiemeyer, Lena-Sofia. 2006. *Priestly Rites and Prophetic Rage: Postexilic Prophetic Critique of the Priesthood*. FAT II/19. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
- Tiemeyer, Lena-Sofia. 2011. *For the Comfort of Zion: The Geographical and Theological Location of Isaiah 40–55*. VTS 139. Leiden: Brill.
- Wiley, Patricia Tull. 1997. *Remember the Former Things: The Recollection of Previous Texts in Second Isaiah*. SBLDS 161. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press.
- Williamson, H. G. M. 1994. *The Book Called Isaiah: Deutero-Isaiah's Role in Composition and Redaction*. Oxford: Clarendon.