Seminari Theoloji Malaysia
Exegetical Methods
Semester 2, 2017
Instructors: Lim Kar Yong (NT) & Peter Lau (OT)

Course Description

The course examines some of the principles and processes of exegeting Biblical texts. There is no particular one way to do exegesis and not everyone will teach or do exegesis in the precise same manner. To help guide us, we will adopt two standard text books as our course books.

Second Year students are expected to go through this course first before embarking on the exegesis of set texts of the OT and NT.

The goals of this course are to :-

- introduce students to the fundamentals of biblical criticism especially textual, historical, form, lexical and literary criticisms.
- guide them through the necessary steps to do a proper exegesis on a biblical text.
- teach them how to use certain key tools and how to wrestle with the basic components of exegesis.
- utilize bible software and internet in their research and exegesis.

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to offer a synthesis of their work that is logical, comprehensible and relevant to both academic and homiletical interests. They are also expected to hone their skills by actually doing exegesis on two pieces of set texts, one from the OT and the other from the NT. Since exegesis and hermeneutics are intrinsically linked to each other, students will learn to bridge the historical-grammatical gaps between the Biblical texts and the present reader.

Course Requirements

3 hours a week for a 14-week duration. The first 7 weeks will be covered by Lim Kar Yong and the remaining 7 weeks by Peter Lau.

Each student is required to write:

a] An exegetical essay (approximately 2,500 words) on a given OT passage – please refer to handout
b] An exegetical essay (approximately 2,500 words) on a given NT passage – please refer to handout

There will be no written exam at the end of the course.

Dateline for assignments: For NT paper, the deadline is **August 18, 2017 Friday)**. Please note that no extension is allowed, except in emergency related to family bereavement or medical cases. Note that reasons such as heavy workload, preaching, camps, mission trips, and spiritual warfare **are not** valid reasons to be granted extension. Any delay in submitting the paper will automatically attract a penalty of 1/3 grade for every 24-hour period. For OT paper, please consult Peter Lau.

In addition, students are expected to prepare for lectures by keeping up with personal reading of the relevant chapters in Fee's and Stuart's books.

Text books :

The two textbooks used for this course are :

Stuart, D. *Old Testament Exegesis.* 4th ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2009.
Fee, G. *New Testament Exegesis.* 3rd ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Other Recommended Reading :

Carson, D. A. *Exegetical Fallacies*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
Fee, G and D. Stuart. *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth.* 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
Green J.B., ed. *Hearing the New Testament: Strategies for Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
Harrison, R.K., B. Waltke, D. Guthrie and G. Fee, *Biblical Criticism :Historical, Literary and Textual.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
Hayes, J.H. and C. R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook.* Philadelphia: John Knox, 1982.
Huey, F.B. & B. Corley. *A Student's Dictionary for Biblical and Theological Studies.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.
Kaiser, O & W.G. Kummel. *Exegetical Method: A Student's Handbook*. New York: Seabury, 1981.
Kaiser, W. *Towards an Exegetical Theology - Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
Ladd, G.E. *The New Testament and Criticism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1967.
Lee-Pollard, D and H. Wallace. *Method in Exegesis.* United Theological College, NSW, 1989.
Marshall, I.H. *New Testament Interpretation : Essays on Principles and Methods.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.
McKnight, S. *Introducing New Testament Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989.
Porter, Stanley, ed. *A Handbook to the Exegesis of the New Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 2002.
Soulen, R. *Handbook of Biblical Criticism.* Philadelphia: John Knox, 1976.
Stenger, W. *Introduction to New Testament Exegesis*. ET. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1993.

(Note : Students are expected to be able to search for and make use of these books related to the course. Read also the *Guides to Biblical Scholarship* for the different types of biblical criticisms.)

Other Books/Software Referred to during the Course :-

1. Greek New Testament (UBS or Aland)
2. Hebrew Old Testament (UBS or BHS)
3. Greek Concordance
4. Hebrew Concordance
5. Greek Lexicon (Moulton, Baumgartner-Kohler, Kubo, BDAG, etc)
6. Hebrew Lexicon (BDBG, Holladay, A Bilingual Dictionary of Hebrew and Aramaic OT, The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the OT)
7. Greek Grammar (Wenham, Machem, Moule, Mounce, Wallace)
8. Hebrew Grammar (Weingreen, Lambdin, Seow, Kelly)
9. Bible Dictionaries (IDB, NBD, ISBE, ABD, DBI)
10. Theological Dictionaries (TDNT, TDOT, NIDOTTE, NIDNTT, TWOT, EDNT)
11. Bible Atlases (Oxford, Macmilian etc)
12. A History of Israel (Bright, Miller and Hayes, Albert, Hermann etc.)
13. NT Critical Commentary Series (Hermenia, ICC, NICGT, WBC, NICNT etc.)
14. OT Critical Commentary Series (Hermenia, ICC, OTL, WBC, NICOT etc.)
15. Bibleworks/Logos/Accordance

Course Outline

1. Introduction

2. Guide for NT Exegesis
   - 2.1. General Historical Context
   - 2.2. Limit of Passage
   - 2.3. Establish Text
   - 2.4. Translation
   - 2.5. Sentence Structures and Syntactical Relationships
   - 2.6. Grammatical Analysis
   - 2.7. Lexical Analysis
   - 2.8. Historical-Cultural Context
   - 2.9. Form Analysis - Epistle, Gospel, Acts, Revelation
   - 2.10. Historical Context - Epistle, Acts, Revelation ; Pericope Analysis - Gospel
   - 2.11. Literary Context - Epistle, Acts, Revelation ; *Sitz im Leben* Analysis - Gospel
   - 2.12. Biblical and Theological Contexts
   - 2.13. Secondary Resources
   - 2.14. Own Translation

2.15. Application
2.16. Doing a Synthesis
2.17. Moving from Outline to Paper

3. Guide for OT Exegesis
   3.1. Text
   3.2. Translation
   3.3. Historical Context
   3.4. Literary Context
   3.5. Form Analysis
   3.6. Structural Analysis
   3.7. Grammatical Analysis
   3.8. Lexical Analysis
   3.9. Biblical Context
   3.10. Theological Content
   3.11. Secondary Resources
   3.12. Application
   3.13. Doing a Synthesis
   3.14. Moving from Outline to Paper

Schedule for NT

June 16 – Introduction/Observation
June 23 – Textual Criticism
June 30 – Textual Criticism
July 7 – Word Study
July 14 – Cultural-historical background
July 21 – Grammatical structure/analysis
July 28 – Piecing it all together