Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential to the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu.

- NTS Mission Statement & Degree Program Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook, including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

Professor: Joseph Coleson, Ph.D.  
Email: jecoleson@nts.edu  
Office: (816) 268-5482  
Office Hours: By appointment

Catalog Description

A study of the historical period, the character, and the message of Isaiah, with special attention to the nature and concerns of the prophetic movement in ancient Israel and Judah.

Course Narrative & Rationale

The church historically has viewed the Bible as the word of God written, mediated through human agency. That is, we have seen the Bible as originating in both divine and human authorship. Isaiah is such a vital portion of the Christian Scriptures that it is titled by some, "The Gospel of the Old Testament" or, "The Gospel According to Isaiah."

Isaiah prophesied at a critical time for God's ancient people. Israel, the northern kingdom, was in process of losing their national existence; Judah, the southern kingdom, was in real danger of
losing theirs. Isaiah ministered to Judah, advising Judah's kings to trust God for national deliverance, to return to a pure faith in Yahweh, and to restore justice for all God's people. Isaiah was King Hezekiah's confidante in the crisis of 701 B.C., but Isaiah also saw that Judah would need hope beyond deliverance from the Assyrian crisis. Greater trials would come, but then God would restore Judah in a second Exodus, reflecting the glory of God throughout the world. Embedded in these oracles of hope are sublime sketches of the One who was to come.

Isaiah is a book of profound depth and insight, and of considerable emotional intensity in many of its parts. It is, as well, one of the longest books of the Bible, but Isaiah richly rewards those willing to expend time and effort to understand its patterns and message. Isaiah is a mine of hidden treasure; wealthy, indeed, is the one who explores its depths.

**Degree Program Objectives**

This course addresses particularly the following NTS Degree Program Objectives:

- **MDiv Objective 2:** Articulation of the knowledge of God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
- **MACFD Objective 1:** Appropriate and enhance the student’s ecclesial understanding of the Word of God, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and the fellowship of believers, sufficient to enable him or her to deepen a personal commitment to God and the Church and to inform a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry
- **MAICS Objective 4:** Graduates will articulate, communicate, and contextualize the essential affirmations of the Christian faith in a cross-cultural setting
- **MA(TS) General Academic Track Objective 1:** Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the major theological disciplines and their interrelationships
- **MA(TS) General Academic Track Objective 2:** Students will demonstrate the ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the world as informed, thinking, Christian persons
- **MA(TS) Research Track Objective 1:** Students will gain specialized knowledge in designated theological disciplines as a basis for further graduate studies
- **MA(TS) Research Track Objective 2:** Students will develop skill in academic research and writing as a basis for further graduate studies.

**Course Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recall and express, orally and in writing, the content of the book of Isaiah  
   (Accomplished by reading; class attendance/participation; written assignment 1)
2. Summarize the important positions regarding authorship, provenance, dating, occasion, and original audience(s) of Isaiah  
   (Accomplished by reading; class attendance/participation; written assignment 2)
3. Identify Isaiah’s major theological themes, and discuss their contributions to the life and thought of God’s people, both ancient and modern (Accomplished by reading; class attendance/participation; written assignments 1, 2)

4. Exegete, with developing skill and appropriate confidence, most of Isaiah’s pericopes, and employ them suitably in a variety of ministry settings (Accomplished by reading; class attendance/participation; written assignments 1, 2)

**Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies**

The following competencies will be enhanced through your participation in this course:

- **CN 1** Ability to identify the literary structure and the main story line of the Old Testament
- **CN 2** Ability to identify the books of the Old Testament by genre(s)
- **CN 3** Ability to identify the basic thrust of each major section of the Old Testament
- **CN 5** Ability to describe the historical context of the major sections of the Old Testament
- **CN 7** Ability to describe the major theological concepts of the Old Testament
- **CN 15** Ability to describe how the Bible came into being, up to contemporary translations
- **CN 16** Ability to identify the steps of historical, literary, and theological analysis used in exegesis
- **CN 17** Ability to exegete a passage of Scripture using the steps referred to above
- **CN 21** Ability to demonstrate understanding of the sources of theological reflection, its historical development, and its contemporary expressions
- **CN 22** Ability to articulate the distinctive characteristics of Wesleyan theology
- **CN 23** Ability to identify and explain the Doctrine of Holiness from a Wesleyan perspective
- **CP 1** Ability to communicate publicly through multiple methods (oral, written, media, etc.) with clarity and creativity for the sake of fostering meaning
- **CP 2** Ability to write clearly and in a grammatically correct manner in the modes of discourse used in the ministry
- **CP 10** Ability to synthesize, analyze, and reason logically for discernment, assessment, and problem solving, and to live with ambiguity
- **CP 11** Ability to analyze the validity of arguments and to identify their presuppositions and consequences
- **CP 22** Ability to prepare, organize, and deliver biblically sound sermons using appropriate techniques and skills in culturally appropriate ways (Variously accomplished by reading; class attendance/participation; assignments 1, 2).

**Required Texts**


Course Outline

Sept 11 – Syllabus; personal introductions; introduction to Isaiah; Isaiah 1-3
   18 – Isaiah 4-8, 10; first exegetical essay, on Isaiah 5:1-4, or on 5:5-7
   25 – Isaiah 12-18; second exegetical essay, from Isaiah 14

Oct  2 – Isaiah 19-24; third exegetical essay, on the geography of Isaiah 23
   9 – Isaiah 25-32; fourth exegetical essay, on one or two verses from Isaiah 26-32
  16 – Isaiah 33-39; fifth exegetical essay, on the wild creatures of Isaiah 34:8-17
  23 – No class session (Reading and Research Week)
  30 – Isaiah 40-44; sixth exegetical essay, on one or two verses from Isaiah 40:12-26

Nov  6 – Isaiah 45-49; seventh exegetical essay, on a Wesleyan understanding of Isaiah 45:7
  13 – Isaiah 50-55; eighth exegetical essay, on one verse from Isaiah 52:13--53:12
  20 – Isaiah 56-59; ninth exegetical essay, on one or two verses from Isaiah 58:6-14
  27 – Isaiah 60-64; tenth exegetical essay, on one or two verses from Isaiah 60-64

Dec  4 – Isaiah 9, 11, 65-66; eleventh exegetical essay, on one or two verses from Isaiah 65-66
  11 – In-class summaries and discussions of final exegetical papers

Course Written Assignments

1. Seven, 600-word exegetical (or other) essays constitute 70% of the course grade.
   Eleven essays will be assigned; for each student, the seven essays with the best letter grades
   will be factored into the course grade.
   (Course Outcomes: Numbers 1, 3, 4, variously)

2. A final exegetical paper constitutes 30% of the course grade.
   A 3,500-4,000-word exegetical paper is the culminating course assignment. The passage for
   exegesis is to be cleared with the professor by October 30. The paper is due December 11.
   (Course Outcomes: Primarily numbers 2, 3, 4)

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Hours</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>144</td>
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Submitting Assignments; Posting Grades

All assignments are to be submitted in the “Assignments” section(s) of our Moodle course.
All grades will be posted as letter grades in the “Grades” section of our Moodle course.
Grade descriptions are included in the NTS Student Handbook.
Form and Style Expectations
All written work is to exhibit best practices for graduate-level academic writing. The NTS faculty have adopted Turabian as the Seminary standard; each student should own a copy of the latest edition of Turabian, and should use it conscientiously. A convenient summary of some of the more common issues of concern is included in the course materials in Moodle.

Inclusive Language
NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people often have used language to imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in writing. All written work presented to meet requirements of this course will use gender-inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work
In justice to all students, no written work submitted late can earn an A grade. Weekly essays and the final exegetical paper are due at class time on their respective due dates.

Additional Costs
The professor does not anticipate additional costs for this course, beyond NTS tuition and fees, and the cost of textbooks.

Course Grading
Written work for the course is set forth in the section, “Course Written Assignments.” In addition, class attendance will affect the course grade, as noted below in the section, “Class Attendance.”

Reasonable Modifications
In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodation(s) should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs, and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial in the past.
**Class Attendance**

Class attendance is essential for realizing maximum benefit from this educational experience. If a student is absent for more than the equivalent of two full class sessions, the course grade will be lowered. Absences totaling more than the equivalent of three full class sessions may cause a student to fail the course. Prior notification of the professor for any absence is expected, when possible; the professor is to be notified of the reasons for/circumstances of all absences as soon as possible.

Attendance records must be reported for those obtaining Veterans Administration and/or Department of Education benefits. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the professor if attendance is to be reported.

**Course Calendar**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reading of “Introduction” in Oswalt, v 1 and v 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Exegetical essay from Isaiah 5; see assignment in Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Exegetical essay from Isaiah 14; see assignment in Moodle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Exegetical essay from Isaiah 23; see assignment in Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Exegetical essay from Isaiah 26-32; see assignment in Moodle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Exegetical essay from Isaiah 34:8-17; see assignment in Moodle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Reading and Research Week; no written assignment due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Exegetical essay from Isaiah 40:12-26; see assignment in Moodle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exegetical essay from Isaiah 45:7; see assignment in Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Exegetical essay from Isaiah 65-66; see assignment in Moodle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Course evaluations to be released by Dean’s Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Final exegetical paper due</td>
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