



**SYLLABUS FOR BIBL 3201 TN01 – ISAIAH
Mark Ziese**

3 Hours, Spring 2019
 Meets Tues and Thurs, 10:00-11:15 am, RHX 216
 For class website, go to <https://mark-ziese.squarespace.com/isaiah>
 For gradebook, announcements and paper submission only, go to: <https://sakai.lampschools.org/portal>
 (login and select BIBL 3201)

I. PROFESSOR INFORMATION

Mark Ziese, Professor of Old Testament
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 Office Location: PW 258
 Office hours: Daily. Email for an appointment.
 Website: <http://www.markziese.com/>

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course emphasizes the message, setting, and structure of the book, as well as the connections between Isaiah and wider biblical themes. Prerequisites: BIBL 1101, BIBL 1201, BIBL 2130, BIBL 2201, and THEO 2100.

III. RELATION OF THE COURSE TO THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

The mission statement of the university states that “Johnson educates students for Christian ministries and other strategic vocations framed by the Great Commission in order to extend the kingdom of God among all nations.” This course supports and fulfills the university’s mission by offering a Christian reading of OT texts describing the struggle of the People of God to accept their identity and vocation for the sake of themselves and the nations.

IV. RELATION OF THE COURSE TO THE PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Program Purpose: The Johnson University Bible & Theology Major provides students with the knowledge and skills they need to interpret and apply the Bible. It promotes their own spiritual growth and equips them to teach and lead others.	
Program Goals and Objectives	Competency Level: Introduced, Practiced, Demonstrated
Goal 1: Students will be able to recall facts about the Bible’s content and context.	
Objective 1.1: Demonstrate a working knowledge of the content, background, and themes of Old and New Testament books.	D
Objective 1.2: Recall significant Bible events and characters, their locations in the biblical record, and their connection to the overarching narrative of the Bible.	P

	Objective 1.3: Recall the details of authorship, date, occasion, and style of Bible books.	D
	Objective 1.4: Define basic theological terminologies, concepts, and movements.	P
Goal 2: Students will be able to interpret the meaning of biblical passages using credible Bible study tools and resources.		
	Objective 2.1: Identify and utilize standard research tools and resources, both print and electronic, for Bible study and interpretation.	I
	Objective 2.2: Implement procedures appropriate for sound biblical interpretation.	P
Goal 3: Students will be able to interact critically with biblical scholarship.		
	Objective 3.1: Demonstrate familiarity with a broad sample of biblical scholarship.	I
	Objective 3.2: Demonstrate familiarity with the major issues and debates in biblical studies.	I
	Objective 3.3: Utilize a basic vocabulary and method for Bible study and critical theological reflection based on current academic practice.	I
Goal 4: Students will be able to apply the teachings of the Bible to personal and vocational contexts.		
	Objective 4.1: Apply biblical truth to specific life situations and personal experiences.	P
	Objective 4.2: Illustrate the connection between biblical truths and principles and their vocation.	P
	Objective 4.3: Draw culturally relevant implications of the meaning of the biblical text.	D
	Objective 4.4: Provide a critical evaluation of contemporary western cultures in the light of the Bible.	D

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, learners will be able to:

A. FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE (i.e., knowledge of terminology and of specific details and elements)

1. Locate and describe the position of *Isaiah* and *the major prophets* in the English and Hebrew canons of Scripture
2. Identify the terms/phrases/sites listed on each exam review sheet and acknowledge their significance for the course

B. CONCEPTUAL KNOWLEDGE (i.e., knowledge of classifications and categories, principles and generalizations, and theories, models, and structures)

3. Realize the interpretive centrality of Isaiah for many New Testament perspectives
4. Recognize the earmarks of prose narrative and poetic verse in the Old Testament
5. Understand that the poetry of Isaiah is metaphorical and multivalent in nature
6. describe the book of Isaiah as a display of social grief and amazing hope

C. PROCEDURAL KNOWLEDGE (i.e., knowledge of skills, techniques, and methods)

7. explain basic strategies for moving from the original meaning of a text to the theological significance of a text for today
8. give voice to the practice of “prophetic imagination” today

D. METACOGNITIVE KNOWLEDGE (i.e., knowledge about strategies for learning, cognitive tasks, and one’s own learning processes)

9. exhibit awe and patience when faced with the unfolding plan of God

10. experience a charge to a ministry of voicing social grief and displaying amazing hope

VI. COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A. TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

The classroom experience of this course is lecture based. Learners are expected to take notes, process this information and synthesize it with assigned reading and personal experience. Daily worksheets, writing projects, and periodic exams provide measures for the assessment of course objectives.

B. ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is expected that learners come to class on time and ready to participate. Two unexcused absences = no penalty. Additional unexcused absences up to six may reduce grade by 3%. Learners who accrue seven absences (excused + unexcused) may be dropped from the course without notice. Those who come late or leave early will be charged with a tardy. Three tardies = one absence.

Excused absences include absences caused by the University such as sports trips, field trips, working for the University, announced weather delays, and so on. The university mandates some excused absences and the instructor decides the rest (illness, family emergencies, etc.). Send me a request via email if you seek an excused absence.

Other teaching responsibilities will take me out of the classroom from time to time. When this happens, lectures will be recorded as youtube videos and posted on the class website. There will be no classroom meeting on these occasions. Learners should regard posted videos as they would a regular class session. The published schedule (again, available on the class website) will announce these dates. Paper worksheets for missed sessions will be due at the time of the next classroom meeting.

C. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Johnson University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 by providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and believe accommodations would assist you in this course, please talk with me at the beginning of the semester. After the meeting, I will direct you to the Special Services Office for appropriate assistance. An online form is available on the website that will let you request a consultation with Special Services. If the Special Services Office has already provided you with a Reasonable Accommodation Form, discuss it with me to be sure it is carried out for your work in this course.

D. ACADEMIC HONESTY

Character formation is an essential aspect of preparation for Christian service. One of the foundational issues of the character of a Christian servant is that of honesty. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form in this class. Learners caught participating in any form of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the assignment or be dismissed from the course with a grade of "F." See the Student Life Handbook for additional information concerning academic dishonesty and its consequences.

E. LATE WORK AND MAKEUPS

In the case of an absence, daily worksheets must be turned in by the learner at the first opportunity. Worksheets deemed "late" without approved excuse will receive a grade no higher than a check-minus. Make-up exams will only be permitted if the learner schedules a time in advance with the professor and has a valid reason to be absent on test day.

F. EXTRA CREDIT

No extra credit is offered. Regular class attendance, timely completion of worksheets, participation in class, and diligent work and preparation will be honored by a deserving grade.

G. CLASS COURTESY

The code of common sense and the grace of collegiality should guide each learner in the effort to maintain an classroom environment conducive to learning. As examples, the following behaviors are assumed:

Do not speak when someone else is speaking. Adhere to the dress code outlined in the *Student Handbook*. Do not leave the classroom once the class session begins unless you have previously notified me. Do not sleep or read in class. Mute cell phones before class begins. Do not use electronic devices (laptop, iPod, cell phone, etc.) in a way that will distract you and others from the class discussion.

Failure to honor common sense and the grace of collegiality may prompt a verbal warning, the possibility of a reduction of the learner's participation score, or, in extreme circumstances, expulsion from the course.

VII. TEXTBOOKS

Required Textbook:

John N. Oswalt, *The NIV Application Commentary: Isaiah*. Zondervan, 2003.

Other assigned reading as posted on the class website.

VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

NOTE ON CREDIT HOUR POLICY: The policy of Johnson University is that at least 37.5 hours of learning activities (including time in class) must be completed for each credit hour earned. This policy is consistent with traditional practice in U.S. higher education and with regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education. Consequently, *this 3-hour class should require at least 112.5 hours of learning activities*. The estimated time to complete each learning activity is provided below. The estimated total time to complete learning activities in this class is 112.5 hours.

A. SESSION WORKSHEETS — 30% of the course grade (1.5% per worksheet). *This assignment fulfills the following course objectives: A1, A2, B3, B4, B5, B6, C7, C8, D9, D10. Estimated time to complete this assignment = 42.5 hours.*

Over the course of the semester an English translation of the book of Isaiah will be read in its entirety. Correspondingly, the commentary of John Oswalt on Isaiah will also be digested. Other select readings may be assigned. To give focus (and accountability) to this reading work, worksheets are prepared for each class session. These are published on the class website. It is the responsibility of each learner to download each worksheet, *print out a hard copy*, fill it out *by hand* in conjunction with the reading assignment (typed or printed worksheets will not be accepted), carry the completed worksheet to class and turn in at the beginning of the session in which it is due (according to the class schedule).

Handwriting must be legible throughout the worksheet. First name, last name, date, and mailbox number must be at the top of each worksheet. Papers with illegible writing or papers not fully identified will be trashed without further inquiry and a grade of zero will be assigned to the learner for the worksheet.

Each completed worksheet will receive one of three grades. A checkmark *should be expected* for good work. Only in exceptional cases are other grades given. These other grades include a checkmark-minus (for work deemed inadequate or late) or a zero.

It is acceptable to complete session worksheets in dialogue with other learners, provided all learners contribute to the process and every learner voices his/her own conclusions in his/her own way on the worksheet. If a patterns of corresponding answers between two or more worksheets is detected, learners will be given a warning. If this pattern continues, this set of papers will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

See rubric used for grading session worksheets on the class website.

B. CLASS PAPER PROSPECTUS — 6% of the course grade. *This assignment fulfills the following course objectives: varies-hinges upon learner's choice of topic. Estimated time to complete = 5 hours.*

A prospectus (or proposal) for the class paper (see below) must be written. The purpose of this assignment to to assist in the exploration of possible paper ideas, to provide early feedback on the class paper topic, and give the learner a “jump start” on the work of writing the class paper.

The following elements are expected to be a part of the prospectus. (1) a single paragraph description of the subject/topic/text of study; (2) a single paragraph describing why this subject/topic/text is relevant and of interest; (3) a single paragraph describing the shape of the study (outline or logical flow); and (4) a preliminary bibliography of no less than six sources.

No word length for the prospectus is assigned, however, it is expected that the elements described above are adequately—but briefly—covered.

The due date for this prospectus may be found on the class schedule. It is expected that the prospectus be turned in via our class Sakai site. Early submissions are welcomed and encouraged.

See due date and rubric for grading the prospectus on the class website.

C. CLASS PAPER — 17% of the course grade. *This assignment fulfills the following course objectives: varies-hinges upon learner's choice of topic. Estimated time to complete = 15 hours.*

A research appear dealing with a single text or idea drawn from the book of Isaiah or its study will demonstrate engagement with the text and other materials from the course. No specific topic is prescribed. Study of a literary theme, a specific text, a theological idea or word, a historical/archaeological background item are possible ideas. Ultimately, it is expected that the class paper will be of personal interest and demonstrate the responsible pursuit of subject that fits within the scope of the course. The due date for this assignment is published on the class schedule.

This paper will be approximately 2,500 words in length (8-9 pages) and written according to college standards.

See due date and rubric for grading the paper on the class website.

D. CLASS PRESENTATION — 7% of the course grade. This assignment fulfills the following cause objectives: *varies-hinges upon learner's choice of topic.* Estimated time to complete = 7 hours.

Each learner will design, research, produce, and present a special project for this course. The project must be grounded in the study of Isaiah. It may be a presentation of the idea developed in the class paper or it may be something entirely different.

Artistic presentations are as welcome as academic ones. Learners may rewrite a text in contemporary poetic verse, compose a piece of music, capture a text in a painting or sculpture, prepare a sermon/lesson/devotion, or write a short story or drama that demonstrates connectivity with a psalm.

Each project will be presented to the entire class as announced in the course schedule. Presentation time will be limited according to the number of learners in the class (not more than a few minutes each) and the nature of the project. Presentations should explain the project, its personal meaning, and its connectivity to the text of Isaiah. Partners may help with presentations.

See rubric for grading the presentation on the class website.

Dates for presentations will be assigned and announced on the class website.

E. EXAMS -- 33% of the course grade (11% per exam). *This assignment will fulfill the following course objectives: A1, A2, B3, B4, B5, C6, C7, D8, D9. Estimated time to complete = 3 hours.*

Three exams will be offered over the course of the semester. These will test the learners grasp of facts, assess the learners grip of assigned reading, and measure the learners ability to apply course concepts. These tests may be multiple-choice, short answer, or essay in design. Some memory work, as detailed in session previews and worksheets, may also be a part of the exams. Dates for exams are published on the class schedule.

F. ATTENDANCE -- 7% of the course grade. *This assignment fulfills the following course objectives: A1, A2, B3, B4, B5, C6, C7, D8, D9, D10. Estimated time to complete = 40 hours.*

Each learner must be punctual in attendance, be prepared for each class meeting, and be a regular participant in classroom dynamics. Details concerning JU's absence policy is explained under Course Policies and Procedures above (VI). Apart from "simply being here," it is expected that learners demonstrate attentiveness in class and participate regularly in class activities. This participation grade will be assigned on the basis of attendance records and in-class observation by the instructor. Good and regular participation will result in a satisfactory grade for the assignment (B). Grades of superior (A), somewhat inadequate (C, D), or wholly inadequate (F) are reserved for exceptional cases.

G. GRADING SCALE

100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-84	B
83-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-74	C
73-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-64	D
63-60	D-
59-below	F

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

The schedule for the semester is posted on the course website. If adjustments to that schedule become necessary, a new schedule will be posted. Check the dates at the top of the schedule to be sure you have the most up-to-date version. Adjustments to the schedule will be announced in the classroom.

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY

See the course website.

XI. DISCLAIMER

The schedule, policies, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances or by mutual agreement between the instructor and the learners. The instructor will clearly communicate any changes in advance.