



加拿大恩道華人神學院
CANADIAN CHINESE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AT AMBROSE SEMINARY

Calgary, May 16-18, Jun 13-15, 2013

Interpreting Scripture for Preaching and Teaching (PR 601-CL)

釋經講道與教導

Instructor: Dr. Francis Tam (FTam@ambrose.edu)

Course Description

This course trains students in the methods of exegesis of the various genres of the Bible for purposes of preaching and teaching. Students will develop and test their skills in the preparation of portions of scripture for these purposes. This course is taught in Mandarin.

Dates

Credit & audit students attend two extended weekends: May 16-18 & Jun 13-15, 2013 (Thurs. 6:30-9:30 pm; Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm; Sat. 8:30am-6:30pm).

Location

Ambrose University College, 150 Ambrose Circle SW, Calgary, AB

Instructor

Francis Tam (DMin), currently Executive Secretary of the Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association, coordinates the ministries of the 75 Chinese Alliance churches in Canada. Formerly a professional engineer and an elected church elder, Dr. Tam served as a church planter and senior pastor in Ontario. Other than teaching in Canada, Dr. Tam also serves as an adjunct professor for Taiwan Alliance Theological College in Taipei. Being passionate in training future church leaders, Dr. Tam is one of the Founding Directors of the Association of Canadian Chinese Theological Education. Dr. Tam received his Doctor of Ministry degree in Preaching from Trinity International University in Chicago.

Required Textbooks:

1. Klein, William W., Blomberg, Craig L., and Hubbard, Robert L. Jr. 1993, 2004. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

(Chinese translation: 基道釋經手冊)

Recommended Textbooks

1. Greidanus, Sidney. 1988. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eermands.
2. Osborne, Grant R. 1991. *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.
(Chinese translation available)

Course Objectives

Students will learn to do practical exegesis, forming basic preaching and teaching structures based on that exegesis. This learning will form the basis for future courses in preaching and teaching. Students will emerge from the course with greater confidence and sophistication as well as greater humility regarding the task of interpreting scripture.

Course Outline

1. The Meaning and Task of Biblical Interpretation 釋經的意義與任務
2. Historical & Contemporary Survey of Biblical Interpretation Theory 概覽古今釋經學說
3. The Principles and Practice of Biblical Interpretation 釋經學的基本原則與應用
4. Understanding Old Testament Genre 認識舊約文體
5. Understanding New Testament Genre 認識新約文體
6. Preaching & Teaching the Old Testament 宣講及教導舊約
7. Preaching & Teaching the New Testament 宣講及教導新約
8. Class Practicum 課堂實習

Evaluation

1. Class participation – students are expected to attend all sessions and be prepared for class exercises and discussions. (10%)
2. First weekend class presentation – students will prepare a 10-15 minutes bible message on a topic of their choice. (10%)
3. Students will complete four course papers (5-7 pages each) for the following four topics. (4x15%)
 - *Interpreting Biblical Narrative*
 - *Interpreting Biblical Prophecy*
 - *Interpreting Biblical Gospel*
 - *Interpreting Biblical Epistle*

Using a chosen passage, the papers will prepare students to produce preaching and teaching outlines.

4. In lieu of a final exam, students will present a 30 minutes class practicum. (20%)
The topic is to be approved by the instructor. Suggested formats are:
 - *Leading a Bible study group session*
 - *Teaching a Sunday school lesson*
 - *Preaching a Sunday worship sermon*
 - *Presenting an exegetical paper*

Students should prepare to provide handouts to the class for their presentation.

Assignment Due Dates

1. Bible message is due on May 18, 2013.
2. One course paper and the class practicum are due on Jun 15, 2013.
3. The other three course papers are due on July 31, 2013.
4. Assignments may be submitted in either English or Chinese.
5. Grade point will be penalized for any late assignment.
6. Course papers must be emailed to the instructor prior to the due date.

Course Grades

The available letters for this course grades are as follows:

Letter Grade Percentage

A+	93-100%	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter
A	85-92%	
A-	80-84%	
B+	77-79%	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter complete
B	73-76%	
B-	70-72%	
C+	67-69%	Satisfactory - basic understanding of subject matter
C	63-66%	
C-	60-62%	
D+	55-59%	Minimal pass - marginal performance
D	50-54%	
F	below 50%	Failure - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Important Notes/Dates

Besides class time, one of the other ways I will communicate with you is through your campus student email. Please check this periodically or forward this email account to your main email account.

The last day to enter a week-long course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial and academic penalty (**drop**): 4 PM of the first day of classes. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. If you wish to drop a class, please drop by the Registrar's Office or send an email to registrar@ambrose.edu.

Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the "audit" up to the "drop" date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. If you wish to change to audit, please drop by the Registrar's Office or send an email to registrar@ambrose.edu.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (**withdraw**): 1 pm on the fourth (4th) day of your class. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor. Requests for course extensions beyond the semester must be submitted to the Registrar's Office one month before the final assignment is due. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent,

deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.