

CODE: THO 6379	TITLE: Issues in Eastern Christian Hermeneutics and Exegesis: The Book of Isaiah and its interpretation through the ages.
CREDITS: 3 cr.	
TERM: Fall 2014	PROFESSOR: Andrew T. Onuferko

DESCRIPTION	The Book of the Prophet Isaiah is one of the more fascinating and complex books of the Old Testament. For the Early Christian Community it proved to be a fruitful source of material for its theological reflection on the Church, the Mother of God, and especially the person and mission of Jesus Christ. This course will provide a review of the spectrum of hermeneutical principles in the Church, and analyse their presence in the interpretation of the book of Isaiah, moving from the tradition of reading Isaiah within the Holy Scriptures, to Patristic, liturgical and modern readings of the prophetic book, with particular emphasis on the Eastern Christian Tradition. In particular, this course will offer an opportunity for cross-fertilisation, given its interdisciplinary nature, combining the interests of both the Eastern Christian and Biblical concentrations.
OBJECTIVES	The broader objective of this course is to develop and refine hermeneutical tools for the interpretation of Scripture in a way that integrates the contribution of modern biblical scholarship with the hermeneutical Tradition of the Church through the ages.
WORKLOAD	Weekly readings of approximately 30-50 pages Written Assignments: - Theological Word Study on particular term in Isaiah (5-7 pages) - Lectionary study: the use of Isaiah in a particular liturgical tradition (readings compiled in table format, 2 pages of interpretation) Hermeneutical-exegetical exercise on a particular verse or pericope from Isaiah quoted in the N.T. (11-12 pages)
EVALUATION	EVALUATION: Class participation: 15% Written assignments 60% Final oral exam: 25%
REQUIRED TEXTS	Brevard S. CHILDS, <i>The Struggle to Understand Isaiah as Christian Scripture</i> . Grand Rapids, MI – Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans, 2004). PONTIFICAL BIBLICAL COMMISSION, <i>The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible</i> . Rome, May 24, 2001. PONTIFICAL BIBLICAL COMMISSION, "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church" in <i>Origins</i> (January 6, 1994). John F.A. SAWYER, <i>The Fifth Gospel. Isaiah in the History of Christianity</i> . Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
RECOMMENDED TEXTS	Duane A. GARRETT, <i>An Analysis of the Hermeneutics of John Chrysostom's Commentary on Isaiah 1-8 with an English Translation</i> . Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1992. Johanna MANLEY, <i>Isaiah Through the Ages</i> . Menlo Park, CA: Monastery Books, 1995. Theodore G. STYLIANOPOULOS, <i>The New Testament. An Orthodox Perspective, vol. 1: Scripture, Tradition, Hermeneutics</i> . Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1997. Paul Nadim TARAZI, <i>The Old Testament: An Introduction, 2: Prophetic Traditions</i> . Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1994. Selected commentaries on <i>Isaiah</i> .