



AMBROSE
SEMINARY • TORONTO

Ambrose Seminary - Toronto
Sept. 11-13 & Oct. 11-13, 2007

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

釋經講道與教導

Instructor: Dr. Francis Tam (execsec@ccaca.org)

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 Cantonese.

Dates

Credit & audit students attend two extended weekends: Sept 11-13 & Oct 11-13, 2007 (Thurs 7-10:30 pm; Fri 7-10:30 pm; Sat 9 am – 6 pm).

Location

Ambrose Seminary - Toronto, 30 Carrier Drive, Suite 204, Toronto, ON

Instructor

Francis Tam (DMin), currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association and the Executive Committee Coordinator of the Chinese Alliance World Fellowship. Formerly a professional engineer and an elected church elder, Dr. Tam served as a church planter and senior pastor in Ontario. Being passionate in training future church leaders, Dr. Tam also serves as an adjunct faculty for Taiwan Alliance Theological College and Canadian Chinese School of Theology. Dr. Tam is one of the Founding Directors of the Association of Canadian Chinese Theological Education. Dr. Tam received his Master of Divinity degree in Chinese Ministry from Ontario Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry degree in Preaching from Trinity International University in Chicago.

Recommended Textbooks

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

2. Greidanus, Sidney. 1988. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eermands.
3. 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. Understanding Bible Genre 認識聖經文體
4. The Principles and Practice of Biblical Interpretation 釋經學的基本原則與應用
5. Preaching & Teaching the Old Testament 宣講及教導舊約
6. Preaching & Teaching the New Testament 宣講及教導新約
7. Class Practicum 課堂實習

Evaluation

1. Class participation – students are expected to attend all sessions and be prepared for class discussions. (10%)
2. 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.

3. In lieu of a final exam, students will present a 30 minutes class practicum. The topic is to be approved by the instructor. Suggested formats are: (30%)

- *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. One course paper and the class practicum are due during the week of Oct 11-13, 2007.
2. The other three course papers are due on December 20, 2007.
3. For students who expect to graduate from CTS the following spring, please discuss with instructor re course paper due date.
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 mailed or emailed to the instructor prior to the due date of December 20, 2007.

Assignment Mailing Address: Dr. Francis Tam
 24 Farnham Drive
 Richmond Hill, Ontario
 L4B 4B5

7. Students must provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope (of sufficient size and postage) to enable us to return the graded assignments. It is recommended that the student enclose this with their completed assignments when they are mailed to the instructor.
8. Extensions for the completion of course work are not available from the instructor. Only those students who encounter a serious and unforeseen emergency that prevents the completion of course work may submit a request, in writing, to the Office of the Academic Dean at least two weeks prior to the due date.

Contact Information: CTS Academic Office
 #630, 833 – 4th Avenue SW
 Calgary, Alberta
 T2P 3T5
 403-410-2917

 CTS Registrar's Office
 403-410-2905

Academic Policy Statements

Add/Drop Policy

Students wishing to add a course should refer to the current academic calendar for the last day to officially enter the class. Students intending to withdraw from a course must complete the relevant Registration Revision form. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are contained in the Calendar of Events in the academic calendar.

Course Extension or Alternative Exam Requests

Students may not turn in coursework after the date of the scheduled final examination for the course unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for

final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination times must be submitted to the Registrar's office two weeks prior to examination week) noted as the "Last Day for Alternative Exam or Course Extension Requests" on the academic calendar). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy.

The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic honesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.