



AMBROSE  
SEMINARY

**Ambrose Seminary - Calgary**  
**Sept 30-Oct 2 & Nov 4-6, 2010**

***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 30-Oct 2 & Nov 4-6, 2010 (Thurs 7-10 pm; Fri 7-10 pm; Sat 9 am – 5 pm).

Location

Ambrose University College, Calgary, AB

Instructor

Rev. Dr. Francis Tam currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association. Rev. Tam cares and connects with about 90 Chinese Alliance churches, promotes local church planting, develops overseas mission work, participates in founding the Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Tyndale Seminary and at Ambrose Seminary. Rev. Tam graduated from the Technical University of Nova Scotia in Chemical Engineering and had practiced as a Professional Engineer for twelve years. Under God's calling, he obtained his Master of Divinity degree from Ontario Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity International University in Chicago. After serving many years as church deacon and elder, Rev. Tam served as a church planting pastor in Ottawa and a senior pastor in Toronto. Rev. & Mrs. Tam now reside in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Their daughter serves as a lay pastor in Calgary, married and has a baby boy; and their son teaches in an International Christian School in Korea, married and has a baby girl.

## Recommended 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 available)
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. 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. One course paper and the class practicum are due on Nov 6, 2010.
2. The other three course papers are due on Dec 17, 2010.
3. Assignments may be submitted in either English or Chinese.
4. Grade point will be penalized for any late assignment.
5. Course papers must be mailed or emailed to the instructor prior to the due date of Dec 17, 2010.

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

6. 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.
7. Extension for the completion of course work is 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.