Genre and Form

- Features of genres
- Genres in the Bible
- NT epistles
- OT prophecy

Features of Genres

- Genre = type of writing.
- Set of conventions used to write it.
- Set of expectations called into play when someone encounters it.
- Conventions trigger a particular response.
- Culturally conditioned.

Genres in the Bible

- OT - narrative, law, prophecy, poetry, wisdom literature, apocalypse
- NT - gospel, history, epistle, prophecy, apocalypse
Our focus...

- OT ⇔ prophecy
  - Vision report; call narrative
  - Salvation oracle, judgment oracle, etc.
  - Poetry

- NT ⇔ epistle
  - Creed or hymn
  - Vice and virtue list
  - Domestic code

Epistles

If the NT epistles were written today...

Epistles

- Occasional documents
- Theology ⇔ ethics
- Task theology
- Pseudonymity

See handout 7.1 page 2.
Epistolary Structure

- Writer
- Recipient
- Greeting
- Prayer wish or thanksgiving
- Body
- Final greeting and farewell

See handout 7.1 page 2.

Types of Letters

- Parenetic or exhortational letter
- Letter of introduction or recommendation
- Apologetic letter of self-commendation
- Family letter
- Ambassadorial letter

See Klein 355-358.

Types of Rhetoric

- **Judicial** or forensic - convince audience that past action was right or wrong.
- **Deliberative** - persuade audience toward certain actions in the future.
- **Epidictic** - use praise or blame to affirm someone or something in the present.

See Klein 357.
Parts of a Rhetorical Address

• **Exordium** - state cause, gain sympathy
• **Narratio** - give facts and background
• **Propositio** - state the problem
• **Probatio** - support your position
• **Refutatio** - answer objections
• **Peroratio** - summarize and induce response

See Klein 357.

Sub-forms in Epistles

• **Diatribe** - question and answer format in which the writer answers potential objections.

Sub-forms in Epistles

• Diatribe
• **Domestic code** - responsibilities of members of the household
Sub-forms in Epistles

• Diatribe
• Domestic code
• **Virtue and vice list** - lists of examples of moral and immoral behavior

Sub-forms in Epistles

• Diatribe
• Domestic code
• Virtue and vice list
• **Slogan** - catch-phrase which Paul quotes and then responds to (1 Corinthians)

Sub-forms in Epistles

• Diatribe
• Domestic code
• Virtue and vice list
• Slogan
• **Creed** - confessional statement; brief statement of the essentials of the faith; may or may not have poetic form.
Sub-forms in Epistles

- Diatribe
- Domestic code
- Virtue and vice list
- Slogan
- Creed
- **Hymn** - song from worship; poetic form, figurative language; incl. Christ hymns.

OT Prophecy

If the Ten Commandments were issued today…

OT Prophecy

- **Definition**
  - *Nabi* (Heb.) = *from “to call”; someone who witnesses or testifies*
  - *Propheces* (Gk.) = *to speak for or before*
  - Prophecy is declaring God’s will to humanity through human speakers or writers (Klein 303).

See handout 6.1 page 2.
OT Prophecy

- Definition
- Includes both foretelling and forthtelling
  - Foretelling = predicting the future.
  - Forthtelling = speaking God’s word to people about their present situation.
- The majority of OT prophecy is forthtelling.
- Even foretelling is given in order to have a present effect.

See handout 6.1 page 2.

Narratives in Prophecy

- Type scene
- Call narrative
- Vision report

See Klein and handout 6.2.
Types of Oracles

- **Oracle** = a single unit of prophecy
- Messenger formula
- Judgment oracle
- Salvation oracle
- Woe speech
- Covenant lawsuit
- Symbolic actions (See handout 6.2.)

Interpretive Issues in Prophecy

- *Sensus plenior*
- Typology
- Conditionality
- Telescopic view

See handout 6.1 page 2.