



**OTEN 5325 OT Exegesis (Eng.): Hosea/Amos**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Biblical Studies Division**  
**Fall 2017**  
**Thurs 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.**

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership.

### **Curriculum Competencies**

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competency addressed in this course is biblical exposition.

## Course Description

English exegesis courses consist of thorough study of selected texts, through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis, comparison of various English versions, consideration of pertinent historical and cultural issues, along with consultation of comprehensive commentaries. The course will emphasize proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying it in teaching and preaching.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the historical settings, theological themes, and interpretive issues of the books of Hosea and Amos.
2. Value the contribution of Hosea and Amos to the theological background of preaching in the local church.
3. Explicate certain historical, thematic, and literary issues found in Hosea and Amos.
4. Write an exegetical paper on a selected passage in Hosea or Amos.
5. Develop a teaching/preaching outline based on the exegetical paper.

## Required Readings

Students are expected to complete all assigned reading prior to the start of each class period. Failure to do so will result in the loss of participation points for that class period. The following are required texts for this class:

The Bible in a modern English version (e.g., ESV, RSV, NASB, NIV, HCSB).

Garrett, Duane. *Hosea, Joel*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997.

Smith, Billy K and Frank Page. *Amos, Obadiah, Jonah*. New American Commentary. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Smith, Gary V. *Hosea, Amos, Micah*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

## Course Teaching Methodology

This course is primarily lecture-driven, though students are required to participate via regular interaction with the lecture materials as well as individual presentations and other learning assignments.

## Course Requirements

Textbook Reading and Class Participation: All reading/assignments should be completed prior to the start of each class period so that students may actively participate in all class discussions. See the course schedule for the weekly required readings. Reading the texts are extremely important as class discussions will not cover all of the assigned readings but are designed to supplement the reading and provide opportunities for the student to process what s/he has read. *Students that do not participate in classroom discussions will lose points for class participation.*

Book Review: Students will submit a 2-3 pp, single spaced book review of one of the following books. Reviews should include a brief summary of the book (1-1.5 pp) as well as a critical evaluation of the book (1-1.5 pp). Students should also provide two discussion questions based on the reading of the book but not clearly answered (i.e., questions the book left unanswered).

Barstad, Hans. *The Religious Polemics of Amos*. VTSupp 34. Leiden: Brill, 1984.

Hasel, Gerhard. *Understanding the Book of Amos*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

Möller, Karl. *A Prophet in Debate: The Rhetoric of Persuasion in the Book of Amos*. JSOTSupp 372. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 2003.

Nissinen, Martti, ed. *Prophecy in its Ancient Near Eastern Context: Mesopotamian, Biblical, and Arabian Perspectives*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 200.

Premnath, D. N. *Eighth Century Prophets: A Social Analysis*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2003.

Three (3) Historical/Thematic papers and presentations: Students will work in teams to produce three (3) brief papers (3-4 pp, single spaced) discussing certain historical/thematic issues surrounding the books of Hosea and Amos. These papers should be well-researched with a minimum of 10 sources (at least three journal articles). Students will then present their research during the scheduled class periods. Presentations should be 20-25 minutes to be followed by 10 minutes of Q&A and follow-up discussion.

*Topics for Paper One*

Historical background of 8<sup>th</sup> century Israel/Judah  
The rise and development of the "classical" (i.e., "writing") prophets  
Hosea among the 8<sup>th</sup> century prophets  
Amos among the 8<sup>th</sup> century prophets

*Topics for Paper Two*

Hosea's marriage to Gomer  
Divorce in the OT  
Covenantal unfaithfulness  
Promises of Restoration

*Topics for Paper Three*

Oracles against foreign nations  
Was Amos a prophet?  
Social justice in the OT  
Worship in Israel

Exegetical Paper: Students will select a passage to exegete from either Hosea or Amos of no fewer than 10 verses and no more than 25 verses. Exegetical papers should be 18-22 pages double spaced and should include the following:

1. Title page
2. Background issues
  - a. Historical context
  - b. Impact on the message/understanding of the text
3. A word study
  - a. Key word from the passage and,
  - b. Its importance for the message/understanding of the text
4. Literary analysis
  - a. Relevant literary features (prose/poetry, parallelism, chiasm, etc.)
  - b. How does this passage fit into the broader context of the book?
5. Detailed explanation of the text
  - a. Refrain from using commentaries
  - b. Provide your own explanation (verse-by-verse, paragraph-by-paragraph, however you see fit)
6. Conclusion/Implications
  - a. Summation of your findings
  - b. Application for the modern Church

Teaching/Preaching Outline: Students will develop an outline for teaching or preaching the selected texts from the exegetical paper. The outline should include enough detail (points, sub-points, etc.) to demonstrate a well-organized, well-planned lesson/sermon including, but not limited to:

1. Statement of expected audience (e.g., Bible study class, youth group, entire church, etc.)
2. Main Point/Statement of Purpose
3. Clear flow (bullet points, intro and conclusion)
4. Application for Christian living

Extra Credit: Students may choose to do a fourth historical/thematic paper or a second book review for up to three points extra credit on their final average. Extra credit must be submitted by the final class period (Dec 7).

Late Work: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Any assignment submitted after this time will incur a late penalty of three points per day (including weekends).

**Course Evaluation**

Reading/Participation	10%
Book Review	10%
Historical/Thematic Paper (15% each)	45%
Exegetical Paper	25%
Teaching/Preaching Outline	10%

## **Course Policies**

Attendance: NOBTS policy allows students to miss up to nine (9) hours of class time for a three hour class. Students who are tardy to class and/or leave early from class will not receive credit for attending the entire class. Exceeding the maximum number of allowed absences will result in automatic failure of this course. If a student misses a class period, that student is still responsible for the information covered in class.

Classroom Decorum: Your participation is required for every class session. You are expected to:

- Come to class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources related to the course topic.
- Dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook.
- Silence cell phones and not accept calls or text messages during class.
- Use laptops appropriately during class.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Course Evaluation* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2017-2018 catalog.

A 93-100   B 85-92   C 77-84   D 70-76   F 69 and below

Paper Format: Papers should be written in 12 pt, Times New Roman font and follow Turabian, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. While the purpose of your writing in this class is not for publication, you should still strive for excellence in formatting (i.e., it will be a part of your grade for each paper). Historical/Thematic papers may use parenthetical citations but the exegetical paper should use footnotes.

Plagiarism: NOBTS has a *zero tolerance policy* when it comes to plagiarism and all cases are reported to the Dean of Students. In certain cases, plagiarism may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. As a general rule, if you think it might be plagiarism, it probably is.

## Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Classroom Discussion</u>	<u>Readings and Assignments Due</u>
<b>Aug 24</b>	Course Introduction; Prophecy in Israel; Historical Overview of 8 <sup>th</sup> Century Israel/Judah	
<b>Aug 31</b>	Literary and Thematic Structures of Hosea/Amos	NAC 21-40; NIVAC 21-41
<b>Sept 7</b>	Hosea 1-3	NAC 41-104; NIVAC 43-79
<b>Sept 14</b>	Paper Presentations/Discussion	Historical/Thematic Paper 1
<b>Sept 21</b>	Hosea 4--9	NAC 105-203; NIVAC 80-145
<b>Sept 28</b>	Hosea 10-13	NAC 203-268; NIVAC 146-191
<b>Oct 5</b>	Hosea 14	NAC 268-282; NIVAC 192-201
<b>Oct 12</b>	Paper Presentations/Discussion	Historical/Thematic Paper 2
<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>FALL BREAK</b>	
<b>Oct 26</b>	Amos 1-2	NAC 23-69; NIVAC 203-268 Book Review
<b>Nov 2</b>	Amos 3-5:17	NAC 69-108; NIVAC 269-321
<b>Nov 9</b>	Amos 5:18-6:14	NAC 108-123; NIVAC 322-350
<b>Nov 16</b>	Paper Presentations/Discussion	Historical/Thematic Paper 3
<b>Nov 23</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
<b>Nov 30</b>	Amos 7-8	NAC 125-153; NIVAC 351-398
<b>Dec 7</b>	Amos 9	NAC 153-170; NIVAC 399-418 Exegetical Paper
<b>Dec 14</b>		Teaching/Preaching Outline

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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