



**OTEN5325: Old Testament Exegesis (English) of  
Amos/Hosea**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Biblical Studies**  
**Spring 2022 (NOLA2U Flex)**

**Professor's Name:** Eric Reeves

**Office:** HSC 211

**Phone:** 504.282.4455 x3343

**Email:** [ereeves@nobts.edu](mailto:ereeves@nobts.edu)

**Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Course Description**

This course expands the study of Hosea and Amos to include a broader understanding of prophetic literature in the Old Testament. Only through a better understanding of the prophetic literature will Hosea and Amos be explored in more depth. The focus of this course will be on historical and literary contexts for the exegesis and application of the texts of Hosea and Amos.

**Required and Supplementary Texts**

*Required Texts*

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

Hays, J. Daniel. *The Message of the Prophets: a Survey of the Prophetic and Apocalyptic Books of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

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

*Supplementary Texts*

Texts for review are listed in the Course Requirements section. Any other supplementary texts may be found in the Blackboard Shell for this course.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course should:

- Understand the role of the prophets and the prophetic literature in the context of the Old Testament;
- Understand the historical setting, literary structure, theological themes, and basic critical issues of Hosea and Amos;
- Use the knowledge obtained to correctly exegete and apply the text;
- Relate the knowledge, exegesis, and application of Amos and Hosea to others within the local church setting through preaching and teaching.

## Teaching Method

This course uses lectures, class discussion, readings, quizzes, examinations, student presentations, and written assignments. By offering a variety of ways to interact with the information and text, students have multiple opportunities to learn and interact with the course material. The variety of methods used in this course also allow the NOLA2U students to take a more active role in the course. The ultimate goal is for students to be able to use Amos and Hosea to preach and teach in the context of the local church.

## If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See "Absences" category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through **[assignment by professor]** after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

## Course Requirements

*Textbook Reading and Class Participation:* Complete reading assignments prior to the next class meeting (e.g. The Message of the Prophets 16-74 BEFORE January 25). Weekly reading assignments are listed in the Course Schedule. Lectures and class discussions will not cover all material from the reading, so students are responsible for the reading material. Students should also read the material to participate in class discussion. Students who do not participate in discussion will lose participation points.

*Quizzes:* Students will complete weekly quizzes over the reading material and lectures. The quizzes will be available in Blackboard and are due on Saturdays by 11:59 PM. Textbooks and other resources will not be allowed on the quizzes. Students should have read and prepared for the material before the quiz. The quizzes will be limited to 20 minutes.

*Midterm Exam:* The midterm exam will be a comprehensive examination of the material covered in the first half of the semester. The exam will be available on Blackboard. Students are encouraged to use textbooks and notes taken from class lectures to complete the exam. The midterm exam will be limited to 1.5 hours.

*Student Presentations:* Students will present three times throughout the semester on an assigned topic. Presentations should be researched with a minimum of 10 resources and no less than 3 of those resources being journal articles (a bibliography should be provided). Presentation dates are in the Course Schedule below. Each presentation should be 15-20 minutes with 10-15 minutes for Q&A and discussion. Creativity is encouraged. Students should present information in interesting and creative ways. Use of presentation software (e.g PowerPoint, Keynote, etc) is likewise encouraged. DON'T BE BORING. Flex students should record their presentations and upload to a video sharing site (e.g. Youtube, Vimeo, etc.) and provide a link for the class.

### *Topics for Presentation 1*

- The Neo-Assyrian Empire
- Politics in Palestine: The Divided Kingdom and Surrounding Countries
- History of Israel and Judah according to II Kings
- History of Israel and Judah according to Chronicles

### *Topics for Presentation 2*

- Hosea's Marriage to Gomer
- Divorce in the OT
- Covenant in the ANE and the OT
- Hope, Promise, and Restoration

*Topics for Presentation 3*

- The Oracles Against Foreign Nations
- Social Justice in Amos and the OT
- Religion in Israel (N. Kingdom)
- The Day of YHWH in the Prophets

*Book Review:* Students will submit a book review of no less than 2,000 words. Book reviews should contain 750 words summarizing the contents of the book. A critical review of the book should constitute the remaining 1,250 words. The critical review should answer questions such as:

- What is the author's purpose?
- What type of evidence does the author use to support their argument?
- Do any weaknesses exist in the argument?
- What do you agree/disagree with?
- What have you learned from this book?

The book review should also include three discussion questions based on the reading of the book. The questions should address questions the book left unanswered.

The following books may be chosen by students for review:

Fuhr, Jr., Richar Alan, and Gary E. Yates, eds. *The Message of the Twelve: Hearing the Voice of the Minor Prophets*. Nashville: B&H, 2016.

Gowan, Donald E. *Theology of the Prophetic Books: The Death and Resurrection of Israel*. Louisville, KY: WJK, 1998.

Hasel, Gerhard F. *Understanding the Book of Amos: Basic Issues in Current Interpretations*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2019.

Möller, Karl. *A Prophet in Debate: The Rhetoric of Persuasion in the Book of Amos*. Vol. 372. *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2003.

Morris, Gerald. *Prophecy, Poetry, and Hosea*. Vol. 219. *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.

Petersen, David L. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Louisville: WJK, 2002.

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

*Timeline of the 8th Century:* Students should also prepare a timeline of the 8th century. Again, students are encouraged to be creative. The timeline can be hand-drawn, painted, digital, written, etc. Each timeline must include major events in the ANE as well as major rulers and people. Attention should also be given to Israel and Judah and their neighbors.

*Discussion Board:* A discussion board (located in Blackboard) will be available for students to use. Students may pose questions for discussion to other students or to the professor. The discussion board is not a required element for the course. However, participation in the discussion board will contribute to a student's participation grade.

*Exegetical Paper:* Students will write a 4000 word exegetical paper from either Hosea or Amos. Passages chosen for this exegetical should be no fewer than 10 verses and no more than 25. The paper should include the following:

1. Title Page
2. Critical Introduction
  - a. Historical context
  - b. Major issues (authorship, dating, etc)
3. A Word Study
  - a. Key word from the passage
  - b. That words importance for understanding the text
4. Literary Analysis
  - a. Literary outline of the passage
  - b. Genres used in passage
  - c. Explanation of how the passage fits within the larger context of the book
5. Exegesis
  - a. Verse-by-verse, paragraph-by-paragraph, etc analysis of the text
  - b. Avoid using commentaries here, use your own explanation of the text.
6. Conclusion
  - a. Summary of your findings
  - b. Application for your local context

*Preaching/Teaching Outline:* Students will develop an outline for preaching or teaching the selected passage from the exegetical paper. The outline should be detailed (introduction, points, sub-points, conclusion, etc). It should demonstrate a well-organized sermon/lesson including, but not limited to:

1. Title
2. Expected Audience
3. Purpose Statement
4. Clear and logical flow
5. Application for the chosen audience/context

*Extra-Credit:* Students may opt to write a second book review for up to five points added to the final grade.

**Grading System**

Reading/Participation	8%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	12%
Book Review	10%
Presentations (8% each)	25%
8th Century Timeline	5%
Exegetical Paper	20%
Teaching/Preaching Outline	10%

**Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Discussion - Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Jan 18	Syllabus/Course Overview/Introduction to the Prophets		
Jan 25	Prophecy in Israel; The Prophetic Literature	Hays 16-90	Quiz 1 (1/29)
Feb 1	The Major Prophets: Isaiah	Hays 95-143	Quiz 2 (2/5)
Feb 8	The Major Prophets: Jeremiah & Ezekiel	Hays 145-230	Quiz 3 (2/12)
Feb 15	The Book of the Twelve: Introduction and Overview	Hays 259-307	Quiz 4 (2/19)
Feb 22	The Book of the Twelve: Message and Theology	Hays 309-365	Quiz 5 (2/26)
Mar 1	Mardi Gras (No Class)		Quiz 6 (3/5) 8th Century Timeline (3/5)
Mar 8	Introduction to Amos; Student Presentations 1	Smith 203-227; "Amos, Book of" in ABD, LBD	Midterm Exam (3/12)
Mar 15	Spring Break (No Class)		
Mar 22	Amos 1-2	Smith 229-268	Quiz 7 (3/26) Book Review (3/26)
Mar 29	Amos 3-6	Smith 269-350	Quiz 8 (4/2)

Apr 5	Amos 7-9; Student Presentations 2	Smith 351-418	Quiz 9 (4/9)
Apr 12	Introduction to Hosea; Hosea 1-3	Smith 21-79; "Hosea, Book of" in ABD, LBD	Quiz 10 (4/16)
Apr 19	Hosea 4-9	Smith 80-145	Quiz 11 (4/23)
Apr 26	Hosea 10-14	Smith 146-202	Quiz 12 (4/30)
May 3	Student Presentations 3; Concluding Matters		Exegetical Due (5/7)
May 10	NO CLASS MEETING		Sermon/Teaching Outline Due; Extra Credit Due (5/9)

### Other Matters

*Make-Up & Extra Credit:* Failure to submit any major assignment will result in failure of the course. Even if late work is allowed, there could be as much as a letter grade drop per day. Notifying the professor and grader of accidents, illness, or church/family-related- unavoidable delays can lessen this penalty or allow us to grant some measure of grace. Any late work will result in a penalty of 10 points per day late.

*Netiquette:* Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online with professors and peers. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

*Plagiarism:* Students are given the task of writing reports & answering worksheet questions in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the result of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students & a grade of "F" will be assigned. NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

*Technical Assistance:* For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

*Writing Style Guide:* A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: [https://www.nobts.edu/\\_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf](https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf)

*Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff":* NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

## Bibliography

### *General Prophecy*

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *A History of Prophecy in Israel: From the Settlement in the Land to the Hellenistic Period*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983.

Bright, John. *History of Israel*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1981.

Fuhr, Richard Alan, and Gary E. Yates. *The Message of the Twelve: Hearing the Voice of the Minor Prophets*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016.

Gowan, Donald E. *Theology of the Prophetic Books: The Death and Resurrection of Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.

Nogalski, James D. "The Day(s) of YHWH in the Book of the Twelve." Pages 192–213 in *Thematic Threads in the Book of the Twelve*. Edited by Paul Redditt, L., and Aaron Schart. New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2003.

Petersen, David L. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Louisville: WJK, 2002.

### *Amos*

Andersen, Francis I., and David Noel Freedman. *Amos: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. AYBC 24A. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.

Barton, John. *The Theology of the Book of Amos*. Old Testament Theology. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Bramer, Stephen J. "Analysis of the Structure of Amos." *Bibliotheca Sacra* 156 (1999): 160-74

Bulkeley, Tim. "The Book of Amos and the Day of YHWH." *Colloquium* 45.2 (2013): 154-69.

Carroll R., M. Daniel. *The Book of Amos*. Edited by E.J Young, R.K. Harrison, and Robert L. Hubbard Jr. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2020.

- Carroll R., M. Daniel. "Twenty Years of Amos Research." *Currents in Biblical Research* 18.1 (2019): 32–58.
- Collins, Terry. "Threading as a Stylistic Feature of Amos." Pages 94–104 in *The Elusive Prophet: The Prophet as a Historical Person, Literary Character and Anonymous Artist*. Edited by Johannes C. de Moor, ed. Boston: Brill, 2001.
- Eidevall, Göran. *Amos: A New Translation with Commentary*. Edited by John J. Collins. AYBC 24G. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.
- Hasel, Gerhard F. *Understanding the Book of Amos: Basic Issues in Current Interpretations*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.
- Jeremias, Jörg. *The Book of Amos*. Translated by Douglas W. Stott. The Old Testament Library. Louisville: WJK, 1998.
- Paul, Shalom M. *Amos*. Edited by Frank Moore Cross. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.
- Willoughby, Bruce E. "Amos, Book of." Edited by David Noel Freedman. *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Hosea*
- Andersen, Francis I., and David Noel Freedman. *Hosea: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. ABC. New York: Doubleday, 1980.
- Ben Zvi, Ehud. *Hosea*. The Forms of the Old Testament Literature XXIA/1. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Dearman, J. Andrew. *The Book of Hosea*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
- Mays, James Luther. *Hosea: A Commentary*. The Old Testament Library. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1969.
- Morris, Gerald Paul. *Prophecy, Poetry, and Hosea*. JSOT 219. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.
- Seow, C. L. "Hosea, Book of." in *ABD*. Edited by David Noel Freedman. New York: Doubleday, 1992.