



## **BSOT8302: Exegetical Studies in the Old Testament**

### *Minor Prophets*

Doctor of Ministry Seminar

Winter Trimester

January 9-11, 2019

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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 department. The core value focus for this academic year is Doctrinal Integrity.

### **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**

This seminar offers a practical study of selected portions of the Old Testament Minor Prophets. The focus is development and use of sound method of biblical interpretation as a source for responsible exegesis, with the results being applied to the demands of ministry in the contemporary setting. This course may be repeated as long as a different Old Testament text is being studied.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. The student will develop knowledge in areas concerning the background and hermeneutical issues related to the book(s) of the twelve Minor Prophets: (1) dating of the books, (2) authorship of the books, and (3) prophecy in both the Old Testament & ANE context.
2. The student will become adept at reading and understanding the Minor Prophets utilizing critical-thinking tools and/or methodologies (e.g. literary criticism, intertextuality, messianic expectation, theology of the prophets, etc).

## Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. The exploration of the Minor Prophets will be primarily via research and class presentations.
2. Students will be guided through the process of understanding key issues of the Minor Prophets in class discussion. These issues will include purpose, genre, theology, etc.
3. A final research project will allow students to utilize their research and presentations into a cohesive exegetical project.

## Textbooks

Chalmers, Aaron. *Interpreting the Prophets: Reading, Understanding and Preaching from the World of the Prophets*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2015.

*Dictionary of the Old Testament Prophets*. Mark J. Boda & J. Gordon McConville, eds. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.

New American Commentary. *Hosea, Joel; Amos, Obadiah, Jonah; Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah; Haggai, Malachi; Zechariah*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman.

### *Recommended*

McComiskey, Thomas Edward, ed. *The Minor Prophets, 3 volumes*. Baker Academic, 1998.

## Course Requirements

1. ***Background and Historical Context for the Minor Prophets (note: choose only one book to analyze if more than one is listed. Each student must contact my office [504-816-8102] to request one of the following options--this is on a first-come, first serve basis; email [bibstdivision@nobts.edu](mailto:bibstdivision@nobts.edu) if you cannot reach me in the office):***

The student will choose a chronological period from the list below and investigate the historical context and background for the book(s) indicated. Be sure to include (but not limited to): (1) dating of the book(s), (2) which kingdom the author belonged to and which kingdom was the intended recipient, (3) what facts, events, or predictions of the book(s) are historically or prophetically fulfilled, (4) what are (some of) the concerns addressed or alluded to by the message of the book, and (5)

explain how the historical background and context of that period can help the contemporary church relate to the message.

- a. 8th century BC (early): Jonah, Hosea, & Amos
  - b. 8th century BC (late): Nahum & Micah
  - c. 7th century BC: Zephaniah & Habakkuk
  - d. (Uncertain) Joel & Obadiah
  - e. 6th century BC: Haggai & Zechariah
  - f. 5th century BC: Malachi
2. *Book Reviews*: Students will be expected to review at least one of the texts below. Submit a 4-5 page, double spaced assessment of this book. Assume that you are training Sunday School teachers in an associational educational event. Indicate to the audience how helpful (or not) this text could be for assisting in preparation for teaching a quarterly series of lessons. Remember, not all these texts are Baptist or conservative.

Chisholm, Robert B. Jr. *A Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

Fuhr, Al & Gary Yates. *The Message of the Twelve*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2016.

Gordan, Robert., ed *The Place is Too Small For Us: The Israelite Prophets in Recent Scholarship*, Selections: Introduction; Part 1; Part 3:107-175, 252-264; Part 4: 275-278, 308-376; Part 5:419-442, 513-524. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1995.

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

Hays, J. Daniel & Tremper Longman III. *The Message of the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Hays, J. Daniel & J. Scott Duvall. *Dictionary of Biblical Prophecy and End Times*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Petersen, David L. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Taylor, J. Glen & Mark W. Chavalas. *The Minor Prophets: Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

VanGemeren, Willem. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word: An Introduction to the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

3. Students will also be expected to present a PowerPoint lecture to the class on one of the following social setting topics. This lecture should take approximately 20 minutes; handouts are required.
  - a. Prophecy in the ANE and its influence on Israel
  - b. Social Welfare/Justice in Israel
  - c. Israelite Religion
  - d. Monarchy in Israel
  - e. Foreign Policy and Diplomacy
  - f. Economics of Israel
4. Students will choose a discourse from the one book they previously investigated (see number 1 above). The student will then prepare a written project which should address issues of literary structure, word studies, authorial intent (intended message of the prophet for the original audience), special features of the text (i.e. rhetorical devices), interpretation of the selected text (especially noting and interacting with various commentary positions), and points of application for today (reflecting the current needs in the student's context for ministry). This is intended to be an exegetical project, not a sermon brief. The final formal paper should be 20-25pp, double-spaced in length and follow Turabian formatting guidelines.
5. In conjunction with the written exegetical project, students will be expected to give a presentation to the class concerning the research paper. Presentation handouts should be of adequate length to allow for the length of the presentation. ***Handouts and preliminary paper outline are due 48 hours before*** the presentation is to be made.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

The final grade for the seminar will be based on the evaluation of the material submitted to meet the seminar requirements, the preparedness of presentation material, and class participation.

### **Course Schedule**

The first session of the class will be devoted to presentations/discussion of the Historical Context and Background assignment.

The second session of the class will be devoted to book reviews and social settings presentations/discussion.

The third session will be reserved for the presentation of the final exegetical projects.

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- . *Old Testament Theology: An Introduction*. Fortress, 2008.
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- House, Paul R. *Old Testament Theology*. IVP, 1998.
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Davies, G.I. *Hosea*. NCB. Eerdmans, 1992.

Garrett, Duane A. *Hosea, Joel*. NAB. Broadman & Holman, 1997.

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#### *Joel*

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