

PHD SEMINAR: BIHB9403 Interpreting the Old Testament Prophets
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
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Spring 2016

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NOBTS 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.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The core value for this year is Mission Focus.

NOBTS has seven basic competencies guiding our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar is an intense study of select portions of the Major and Minor biblical Prophets which cover the time period from the 8th to the 4th centuries B.C. The seminar includes introductory and background issues, how the Prophets of Israel and Judah relate to the prophetic phenomenon in the Ancient Near East, and research into the current critical scholarly literature of the biblical Prophets.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this course include the following:

- To nurture understanding of the meaning of the Prophetic writings in their original context and their application to the current day through the development of critical insight into the background and writings of the Prophets
- Students should enhance the skills used in conducting basic exegetical research
- Students should understand the state of research and historical meaning related to the Prophetic literature.
- Students should gain an increased appreciation for the relevance of the exegetical study of Prophetic literature based on the Hebrew text
- Students should demonstrate the ability to understand the Hebrew text of the Prophets and to apply their skills in exegesis for a sound interpretation of the text

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will use a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, class discussions, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: Students should obtain and read all of the following:

Bullock, Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books* (Moody, 2007) ISBN: 0-8024-4142-4

Chisholm, Robert. *Handbook on the Prophets* (Baker, 2002)
ISBN: 978-0-8010-3860-0

McConville, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament*, vol. 4 (IVP, 2003)
ISBN: 0-8308-2554-1

Petersen, David. *The Prophetic Literature* (Westminster John Knox, 2002)

VanGemeeren, Willem, *Interpreting the Prophetic Word* (Zondervan, 1990)

Sweeney, Marvin. *The Prophetic Literature* IBT (Abingdon, 2006)
ISBN: 0-687-00844-1

Ben Zvi, Ehud and Michael H. Floyd. *Writings and Speech in Israelite and Ancient Near Eastern Prophecy* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2000)
ISBN: 0-88414-023-7

Lundbom, Jack R. *The Hebrew Prophets: An Introduction* (Fortress Press, 2010)

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

1. Book Reviews

- A.** Each Student will be assigned one of the Required Textbooks to prepare a book review (see instructions for preparation below) from the list of required textbooks above as assigned by the Professor. This book review **WILL BE** presented to the seminar at the scheduled time.
- B.** In addition to the textbooks for the seminar, each student will select one of the following books and prepare a book review as shown below. This book review **WILL NOT** be presented to the seminar. The student will present his selection to the professor for approval. Each student should present two or three selections so that none are duplicated. Guidelines for the reviews are below.

Davies, Philip R. And David J.A. Clines ed. *Among the Prophets: Language, Image and Structure in the Prophetic Writings* (JSOT Press, 1993)

Von Rad, Gerhard. *The Message of the Prophets* (SCM Press LTD, 1965)

Mays, James Luther and Paul J. Achtemeier. *Interpreting the Prophets* (Fortress Press, 1962)

Lindblom, J. *Prophecy in Ancient Israel* (Fortress Press, 1962)

Clements, Ronald E. *Old Testament Prophecy: From Oracles to Canon* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1996)

Mowinckel, Sigmund. *The Spirit and the Word* (Fortress Press, 2002)

Day, John Ed. *Prophecy and Prophets in Ancient Israel* (T&T Clark, 2010)

Redditt, Paul L. *Introduction to the Prophets* (Eerdmans, 2008)

Seitz, Christopher R. *Prophecy and Hermeneutics: Toward a New Introduction to the Prophets* (Baker, 2007)

Kelle, Brad E. And Megan Bishop Moore. *Israel's Prophets and Israel's Past: Essays on the Relationship of Prophetic Texts and Israelite History in Honor of John H. Hayes* (T&T Clark, 2006)

Hutton, Rodney. *Fortress Introduction to the Prophets* (Fortress Press, 2004)

Rofe', Alexander. *Introduction to Prophetic Literature* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1997) ISBN: 0-310-21138-7

2. Journal Article Review

The student will select two journal articles germane to the study of the subject of the Old Testament Prophets and will write a review of each article following the instructions given below. One of the Journal Article Reviews, selected by the student, will be presented as shown on the Seminar Schedule.

Book and Journal Article Review Guidelines

1. Read All Required Texts and Prepare Book Reviews per the Seminar schedule.

The **Book Reviews (4-5 pages)** and **Journal Article Reviews (2-3 pages)** should be single-spaced and consist of the following standard book review / article review elements:

- Bibliographic data about the author
- The thesis/purpose of the book / journal article
- A summary of the development of the thesis
- A critique of the book / journal article citing strengths and weaknesses, including significance for OT studies
- A synopsis of 3 reviews of the book / article if available from scholarly journals.

Book reviews and Journal Articles will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Grammar and Style:** spelling, sentence and paragraph development; punctuation; conformity to Turabian
2. **Summary:** A fair, concise presentation of the book's / journal article's content
3. **Evaluation:** A balanced, critical assessment of the book's / journal article's strengths and weaknesses
4. **Research Insight:** Awareness of the book's / journal article's interpretive significance and place in the Prophetic literature

Each of the four areas will count as 25% of the grade for the book review

3. Research Paper

For the research paper assignment, the student is to write a major research paper on a student selected topic which must include thorough exegesis of a passage from the Prophets. The research papers are to be from 25-35 pages in length, thoroughly covering the selected topic. The paper must show evidence that the student used the textbooks for this class in the research of the paper. The paper must be written according to the rubric below and posted in the *Group Everybody* File Exchange on Blackboard no later than one week before the class session in which it is presented. Papers will be presented, evaluated, and defended at the class session as indicated on the Seminar Schedule.

A response to the paper is to be presented to the writer of the paper in writing and to the class orally by another student who will be assigned. Like the paper, the response will be defended in class. **Papers and responses may be chosen by sending in two choices to the professor before the first class session. Assignments will be made to cover all the papers.**

Papers will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Grammar and Style:** Spelling; sentence and paragraph development; punctuation; conformity to Turabian; use of quotations (use them sparingly to clarify your analysis and interpretation).
2. **Clarity and Coherence:** Organization; logical development; overall sense of the paper.
3. **Research:** Bibliography; type and variety of sources (primary, secondary monographs, journal articles, etc.); [Most bibliographic entries should be accompanied by footnote citations].
4. **Interpretive awareness and insight:** Factual accuracy; awareness of context and connection to other material (i.e., continuity/discontinuity; cause/effect; relationships/comparisons; sensitivity to context; awareness of persons, movements, or forces, historical and otherwise).
5. **Analysis and Evaluation:** Going beyond the mere reporting of facts to include explanation, interpretation, analysis of material; evaluation of the material at hand; demonstration that you have done a thorough critique of the material that you have researched.

Each of the five areas will count as 20% of the grade for the research paper.

4. Translation

Each student will translate the following passages. These passages will be potential passages for your Oral Exam Old Testament readings. Please have these prepared to turn in on **March 10th**. The student should be able to locate/parse any of the verbal parts of speech for any of the passages. The translation should include the Hebrew text with the translation below.

Jeremiah 22:1-9

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Isaiah 49:1-13

Amos 3:1-15

Daniel 9:20-27

5. Attendance Requirement:

Because of the nature of the course, no absences are allowed. If emergency situations dictate an absence, the student will schedule a make-up session with the professor and

Division Chairman. Work is still due the day scheduled even if the student is absent. Any student missing more than one meeting must repeat the seminar.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Interpreting the Old Testament Prophets

BIHB9403

Meeting 1

February 4

8:00-10:00	Introduction – Professor
10:00-11:00	2 -Book Reviews (30 minute each)
1:00-2:00	2- Book Reviews (30 minute each)
2:00-3:00	2- Book Reviews (30 minute each)
3:00-4:00	2- Book Reviews (30 minute each)
4:00-5:00	Concluding Remarks

Meeting 2

March 10

8:00-9:00	Professor
9:00-10:00	2-Journal Article Reports (30 minute each)
10:00-11:00	2-Journal Article Reports (30 minute each)
1:00-2:00	2-Journal Article Reports (30 minute each)
2:00-3:00	2-Journal Article Reports (30 minute each)
3:00-5:00	Translation Review (Each Student will read from the Hebrew)

Meeting 3

April 2

8:00-9:00	Paper Presentation
9:00-9:30	Response
9:30-10:30	Paper Presentation
10:30-11:00	Response
1:00-2:00	Paper Presentation
2:00-2:30	Response
3:00-4:00	Paper Presentation
4:00-4:30	Response
4:30-5:00	Concluding remarks

Meeting 4

May 5

8:00-9:00	Paper Presentation
9:00-9:30	Response
9:30-10:30	Paper Presentation
10:30-11:00	Response
1:00-2:00	Paper Presentation
2:00-2:30	Response
2:30-3:30	Paper Presentation
3:30-4:00	Response

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