

Syllabus for  
**BIB 424—Hebrew Prophets**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Spring 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the major and minor prophets and their writings. It is an introduction to the origin and development of prophecy among the Hebrews, a study of the Hebrew prophets who lived and preached in the nations of Judah and Israel during the first millennium B.C., and an examination of the historical, social, and religious implications of their message  
Prerequisites: BIB 222, BIB 306, THE 217.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to do the following:

- A. Meet the prophets as real people who lived in real places at a given period of time.
- B. Understand the message of the prophets within the cultural-historical framework of Israel and the Ancient Near East.
- C. Examine some of the major themes of the Old Testament prophets and relate the message to us today.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully taking this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Define the terms “prophecy” and “prophet.”
- B. Discuss, in a short essay, prophecy outside of Israel, both ancient and modern.
- C. Answer questions or trace the development of prophecy in ancient Israel, especially in the area of:
  - 1. character of God.
  - 2. God's demand of men.
  - 3. Israel's relationship to God and to other nations.
  - 4. criteria for evaluating a prophet.
  - 5. message reception and delivery.
- D. Distinguish, in an essay or in an objective examination, the message of one prophet from another, indicating the unique contribution of each.
- E. Place each prophet within his political, historical, social, and geographical framework.
- F. Contrast the message of the pre-exilic prophets with that of the post-exilic prophets.
- G. Write an essay on the development of monotheism in Israel.
- H. Interpret or comment on a given passage from one of the prophets.

- I. Answer questions on major themes, such as: covenant, sacrifice, righteousness, judgment, salvation, eschatology (Day of the Lord, remnant, etc.).
- J. Write an essay on "Eschatology in the Prophets" (including such concepts as "apocalyptic" and "Day of the Lord").

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS

##### A. Required Textbooks

Coogan, Michael D., ed. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (ISBN: 9780195289558)

Chisholm, Jr., Robert B. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. (ISBN 978-0-8010-3860-0)

Heschel, Abraham. *The Prophets*. New York: Harper. 1963. (ISBN 9780060936990).

Lundbom, Jack. *The Hebrew Prophets*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010. (ISBN 9780800697372)

McConville, J. Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: Guide to the Prophets*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002. (ISBN 9780830825448)

##### B. Recommended Textbooks

Lamp, Jeffery S. *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department*. ORU Bookstore, 2011.

Longman, Tremper, III, and Peter Enns, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry, and Writings*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008. (ISBN 9780830817832)

Sweeney, Marvin A. *The Prophetic Literature*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005. (ISBN 9780687008445)

#### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Double Cuts are assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
4. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.
5. Final Exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
6. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental

policies regarding ePortfolio requirements. Students should consult the ePortfolio handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.

- a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
- b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

## B. School and/or Department Policies and Procedures

Note: Attendance policy is enforced. Excessive absences will affect your grade. See syllabus attendance policy.

### 1. Completion of a Course

- a. Late work will not be accepted. Assignments are due on or before the deadline given.
- b. Under rare circumstances, exceptions may be made in consultation with the faculty member for the course. However, except in extreme emergencies, students must contact faculty members before the assigned due date and request an exception to the policy.

### 2. Incompletes

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the instructor and the department chair by written petition that his or her work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete will be excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and will be penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval at least one week prior to the end of normal classes. The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete. The petition must be approved by the appropriate academic committee of the Undergraduate Theology Department.

### 3. Examinations and Other Assignments

- a. Early examinations are **not allowed**.
- b. Late examinations are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams, sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician). In fairness to all students, some persons should not have more time to prepare for an examination than others. **The granting of a late examination request is rare.**
- c. A Petition for Late Examination without penalty must be signed by the professor and the chair. Proper documentation must accompany the petition and must be submitted to the Undergraduate Theology Department. The student must schedule the makeup exam with the professor of the course. The exam must be taken no later than five (5) calendar days after the approval of the petition. **Grade penalties may be applied as indicated by the Academic Affairs Committee.**
- d. **All** exams will be given as scheduled. It is the student's responsibility when purchasing airline tickets, for example, to take this schedule into consideration. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

- e. These requirements apply to all quizzes, tests, and examinations administered by the Undergraduate Theology Department.
4. Attendance Policy
- a. The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows:
    - (1.) If class meets three times a week, 3 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 6 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.
    - (2.) If class meets two times a week, 2 unexcused absences will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 4 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.
    - (3.) If class meets one time a week, 1 unexcused absence will result in 1 grade letter reduction; 2 unexcused absences will automatically result in an “F” for the course.
  - b. **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, only. (Faculty may require documentation.)**  
Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
  - c. The penalty for tardies is at the discretion of the instructor.

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR and METHOD OF EVALUATION

### **Week One:** Introduction to the World and Writings of the Prophets

Heschel “What Manner Man is the Prophet”  
Lundbom “To Be a Prophet . . .”

### **Week Two:** Introduction (continued); Pre-mosaic Prophets

Heschel “Ecstasy” (ch. 9 & 10); “Theology of Pathos”  
Lundbom “The Prophetic Message—What is it?”  
Pre-mosaic Prophets

### **Week Three:** Pre-Mosaic Prophets (Cont.), Moses, and Prophecy; Poetry and Rhetoric in Prophecy

Lundbom “Prophetic Discourse in Poetry and Prose”; “Rhetorical Discourse in the Prophets”  
Heschel “Religion of Sympathy”

### **Week Four:** Prophets Prior to Elisha and Elijah; Elisha; Elijah

Prophets up to Elijah (Read: *Samuel*—1 Sam. 1–4; 7–13; 15–16; 28; *Nathan*—2 Sam 7; 11:1–12:25; 24:1–25; 1 Kgs 1; *Gad*—2 Sam 22; 24; *Ahijah*—1 Kgs 11:26–14:31); Heschel “Events and Experience”  
Elijah (869–849 B.C.E.) and Elisha (849–801 B.C.E.); Read: *Elijah*—1 Kgs 17–19; 21:1–29; 2 Kgs 1–2; *Micaiah*—1 Kgs 22; *Elisha*—2 Kgs 1–9:6; 13:14–2  
Heschel “Meaning of Mystery and Wrath”

### **Week Five:** Elisha and Elijah (continued)

The Prophets and History; Heschel “History”  
**Term Paper topic commitment day!** (Last class of the week)

**Week Six: Pre-exilic Prophets (8<sup>th</sup> Century)**

Amos (760–745); Heschel<sup>1</sup>

Jonah (750?)

Hosea (750–725)

**Week Seven:**

Isaiah (742–701); Isa 1–7; 9:1–7; 11:1–9; 13–14; 21; 25–26; 30–31; 36–39<sup>2</sup>

Micah (739–687)

Heschel “Prophecy and Poetic Inspiration

**Preliminary Term Paper materials due beginning of class** (Last class of the week)

**Week Eight: Pre-exilic Prophets (7<sup>th</sup> Century)**

Nahum (655)

Zephaniah (627–626)

Jeremiah (626–587/6); Jer 1; 7–9; 15:15–21; 27–32; 33:14–26; 34:8–22; 36–39; 41–42; 50:1–20; 51:59–64; 52

**Week Nine: Pre-exilic Prophets (7<sup>th</sup> Century continued)**

Jeremiah (continued)

Habakkuk (603)

2nd Isaiah (date?); Heschel 1:145–58; Isa 40; 42; 44:9–20; 49:1–13; 50; 52:13–53:12; 65–66

**Week Ten: Exilic Prophets**

Ezekiel (592–570); Ezek 1–5; 7–18; 22–24; 26; 28; 31; 33–34; 36–39; 43–44; Lundbom  
“Prophetic Signs, Wonders, and Symbolic Behavior”

Heschel “Chastisement”

Daniel (602–536)

**Spring Break!**

**Week Eleven:**

Haggai (520)

Zechariah (520–518)

**Week Twelve:**

Obadiah (450)

Malachi (450)

Joel (400)

**Week Thirteen: Term Paper Oral Presentations**

**Term Paper due (beginning of class)** Last class of the week.

**Week Fourteen: Term Paper Oral Presentations**

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<sup>1</sup> Hereafter read all pertinent chapters in class textbooks on the prophet we are studying (i.e., when studying Hosea, read all material on Amos in Chisholm, Heschel, Lundbom, and McConville). Note: some of our texts do not cover every prophet.

<sup>2</sup> Here and following, read the chapters listed for each Major Prophet. For Minor Prophets (“The Twelve”), read the entire prophet.

**Week Fifteen:** Term Paper Oral Presentations

**Week Sixteen:** Finals (Term Paper Oral Presentations)

## **METHOD OF EVALUATION**

### **FINAL GRADE TABULATION:**

1. Class participation: class attendance and discussion participation, and weekly reading reports (20%)
2. Thesis and Bibliography (20%)
3. Term Paper (40%)
4. Oral Presentation (20%)

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Total: 100 percent

### **Attendance and Participation** (20% of the final grade)

Based on attendance records as well as level of engagement with classmates during in-class discussion.

### **Preliminary Term Paper materials** (10 points for each: prospectus and outline; and bibliography)

Prepare a thesis statement, paper outline, and prospectus to guide your research and also prepare a bibliography with at least 10 sources (including books, journals, and online references [no more than 2]) and present it in proper format. See Jeffrey S. Lamp, *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department* for formatting requirements. Submit it along with a title page (again in proper format). The submission should appear as follows:

1. Title page
2. Thesis statement (page #2)
3. Bibliography (page #3 and following)

### **Research Paper** (40% of the final grade)

Prepare a well-researched, well-written term paper on one of the Classical Hebrew Bible Prophets. Chose a prophet that you would like to study in-depth, and when you have finished you will have at least one prophet that you know well. As with the Preliminary Term Paper materials (above), see Jeffrey S. Lamp, *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department* for formatting requirements.

Additionally:

1. Each essay should be 3000–3500 words
2. Part of the essay grade will include grammar, punctuation, spelling, and appropriate format.

### **Oral Presentation** (20% of the final grade)

The last few weeks of class will be dedicated to oral presentations of student term papers. Presentations should be 10 minutes and should include an introduction to your work, brief summary of main points, and a conclusion. Prepare and distribute an outline of your presentation for the class. The instructional aids in the classroom and presentation creativity are especially encouraged.

**Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes**  
**BIB 424—Hebrew Prophets**  
**Spring 2015**

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

<b>OUTCOMES &amp; Proficiencies/Capacities</b>		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking		X		
2B	Informational literacy			X	
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation		X		
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills			X	
4B	Interpersonal skills			X	
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences		X		
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	