

Syllabus for  
**BIB 424—Hebrew Prophets**  
3.0 Credit Hours  
Spring 2010

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

##### Required Textbooks

The Old Testament (preferably a modern English Version)

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

Dillard, Raymond B., and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2006. ISBN 978-0-310-26341-8

Petersen, David L., *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Philadelphia: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002 ISBN 0-664-25453-5

Walton, John H., *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. ISBN 0-310-48161-9

#### 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. 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) All assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus or assigned in class. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline will be received but will be granted a grade of zero for that assignment.
    - b) **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.
  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

- a) The Official Attendance Policy for the Undergraduate Theology Department is as follows for the three-semester hour class:
  - (1) If the class meets three times a week, the missing of 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 8 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 12 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
  - (2) If a class meets twice a week, the missing of 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 6 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 8 sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
  - (3) If the class meets once a week, then missing 3 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade. Missing 4 class sessions will result in a grade reduction of two letter grades. Missing 5 class sessions will automatically result in a grade of "F."
- b) **The absences allowed prior to grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses, for example, and are not designed for indiscriminate use.** Many students incorrectly assume that they may use these allowable absences as unexcused "cuts" from class. Any illnesses, emergencies, and trips are included in exempt. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official University business and has received approval in advance from the University administration.
- c) Students are expected to be prompt for classes. **Two tardies will equal one absence.**

C. Course Policies and Procedures

The student shall demonstrate the attainment of the course goals and objectives by successfully participating in the following activities:

- 1. Evaluation Procedures
  - a. **Three Exams: (60%)**
    - (1) The first unit exam will be worth 15% and the second unit exam will be worth 20% of the final grade.
    - (2) The final exam will comprise 25% of the final grade.
  - b. **Class Presentation: (10%)**
  - c. **Research Paper: (30%)**
    - (1) The research paper will be 10-15 pages in length.
    - (2) A thesis sentence, outline, and bibliography are due Week 8.
    - (3) The research paper is due Week 13.
  - d. Grade Scale  
90+ = A; 80+ = B; 70+ = C; 60+ = D; 59- = F
- 2. ePortfolio Requirements: None

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1	Introduction to Course	Petersen, ch 1

Forms of Prophetic Speech

2	The Prophetic Phenomenon in Israel The Development of Prophetism The Prophetic Tradition Perspectives on Prophecy	
3	Jonah  Amos	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Jonah Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Amos
4	Hosea	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Hosea
5	Micah	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Micah
6	Isaiah 1-39 <b>EXAM I (Weeks 1-5)</b>	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Isaiah
7	Isaiah 40-66	
8	Seventh-Century Prophets Zephaniah Habakkuk	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Zephaniah Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Habakkuk
<b>RESEARCH PAPER THESIS, OUTLINE, AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE</b>		
9	Jeremiah	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Jeremiah
10	Jeremiah Nahum <b>EXAM II (Weeks 6-9)</b>	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Nahum
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
11	Ezekiel	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Ezekiel
12	Ezekiel Obadiah	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Obadiah
13	Lamentations Daniel	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Lamentations Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Daniel
<b>RESEARCH PAPER DUE</b>		
14	Post-Exilic Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Joel	Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Haggai Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Zechariah Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Malachi Petersen, Chisholm, & D-L Joel
15	Summary of Prophetic Motifs Living the Prophetic Word	Petersen, ch 6

**FINAL EXAM**

**Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes**  
**BIB 424—Hebrew Prophets**  
**Spring 2009**

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
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<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	