

Syllabus for
Bib 424—Hebrew Bible Prophets
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2022

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 BCE, and an examination of the historical, social, and religious implications of their message. Prerequisites: BIB 222, BIB 306, THE 217.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

After completing this course successfully, students will be able to:

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

III. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the following program.

- A. Biblical Literature
 - a. Outcome 1 Use critical thinking and writing skills in the exegetical field of biblical studies.
 - b. Outcome 2 Apply working knowledge of appropriate hermeneutical and language skills to biblical studies.
 - c. Outcome 3 Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.

IV. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page

- A. Spiritual Integrity
- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit
- D. Global Engagement
- E. Bold Vision

V. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Textbooks

Chisholm, Jr., Robert B. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. (ISBN 978080108600)

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

- Boda, Mark J., and J. Gordon McConville, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008. (ISBN 9780830817849)
- Coogan, Michael D., ed. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. (ISBN 9780190276089)
- Lamp, Jeffrey S. *Writing Style Manual for the Theology Department*. ORU Bookstore, 2011.
- Sharp, Carolyn J. *Oxford Handbook of the Prophets*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. (ISBN 9780199875959)

VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Department Policies and Procedures

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.
- 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 or the last day of final examinations. **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. Self-Plagiarism Policy

Students may not reuse part or all of an assignment from another course without written permission from the current instructor/faculty member. This is considered self-plagiarism and therefore goes against ORU's policies against plagiarism.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Weekly Reading Reports and Class Participation (20%)
 - b. Preliminary Term Paper materials: Thesis and Bibliography (20%)
 - c. Term Paper (40%)
 - d. Oral Presentation (20%)

Total: 100 %

The grading scale is as follows:

A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = Below 60

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements—None
3. **Reading Reports** (20% of the final grade)

Weekly Reading Reports are due at the beginning of the last day of class each week. Reading Reports submitted after the deadline will receive a grade deduction.
4. **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 prepare a bibliography with at least 10 sources (including books, journals, and online references [no more than 2]). Submit it in proper format. *Formatting guidelines available in the class website under Content; Paper Style Guides*. Submission must include a title page (again in proper format) and appear as:

 - a. Title page
 - b. Thesis statement (page #2)
 - c. Bibliography (page #3 and following)
5. **Research Paper** (40% of the final grade)

Prepare a well-researched, well-written term paper on one of the Classical Hebrew Bible Prophets ("Classical" = the Later Prophets, also known as the "writing" prophets). Choose a prophet that you would like to study in-depth, and when you have finished you will have 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:

 - a. Each essay should be 3000 words.
 - b. Part of the essay grade will include grammar, punctuation, spelling, and appropriate format.
6. **Oral Presentation** (20% of the final grade)

The last few weeks of class are dedicated to oral presentations of student term papers. Presentations should be 10 minutes and should include an introduction to your work, 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.

VII. COURSE CALENDAR

Week One: Introduction to the World and Writings of the Hebrew Bible Prophets

Heschel “Perennial Classic Edition: Introduction”

Heschel “What Manner Man is the Prophet”

Week Two: Introduction to the World and Writings of the Hebrew Bible Prophets (cont.)

Heschel “What Manner Man is the Prophet”

Lundbom “To Be a Prophet . . .”

Week Three: Introduction (continued); Pre-mosaic Prophets

Heschel “Ecstasy” (ch. 9 & 10); “Theology of Pathos”

Lundbom “The Prophetic Message—What is it?”

Pre-mosaic Prophets

Week Four: 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 Five: Prophets Prior to Elisha and Elijah; Elisha; ElijahProphets 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”

Term Paper topic commitment day! (Last class of the week)**Week Six:** Elisha and Elijah (continued)Amos (760–745)¹

Jonah (750?)

Hosea (750–725)

Week Seven: Pre-exilic Prophets (8th century)²Isaiah (742–701); Isa 1–7; 9:1–7; 11:1–9; 13–14; 21; 25–26; 30–31; 36–39³

Micah (739–687)

Heschel “Prophecy and Poetic Inspiration

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

¹ 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.

² This schedule will change according to the size of the class and the prophets selected by students for term papers.

³ Here and following, *read the chapters listed* for each Major Prophet. For Minor Prophets (“The Twelve”), read the entire prophet.

Week Eight: Pre-exilic Prophets (8th century cont.)

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 (7th century cont.)

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

Spring Break!**Week Ten:** Pre-exilic Prophets (7th century cont.)

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)

Week Eleven: Exilic Prophets

Haggai (520)

Zechariah (520–518)

Obadiah (450)

Malachi (450); Joel (400)

Term Paper due (beginning of class) Last class of the week**Week Twelve:** Term Paper Oral Presentations**Week Thirteen:** Term Paper Oral Presentations**Week Fourteen:** Term Paper Oral Presentations

Primary Program: Biblical Literature
BIB 424—Hebrew Bible Prophets
Spring 2022

This course contributes to the University and program 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.

OUTCOMES	Significant	Moderate	Minimal
Spiritual Integrity			
BIB 424 – Outcome C: Examine some of the major themes of the Old Testament prophets and relate the message to us today.		X	
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 3: Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.		X	
Personal Resilience			
BIB 424 – Outcome A: Outcome 1 Use critical thinking and writing skills in the exegetical field of biblical studies.		X	
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 3: Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.		X	
Intellectual Pursuit			
BIB 424 – Outcome A: Discuss the prophets as real people who lived in real places at a given time.	X		
BIB 424 – Outcome B: Discuss the message of the prophets within the cultural-historical framework of Israel and the Ancient Near East.	X		
BIB 424 – Outcome C: Examine some of the major themes of the Old Testament prophets and relate the message to us today.	X		
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 1: Use critical thinking and writing skills in the exegetical field of biblical studies.	X		
Global Engagement			
BIB 424 – Outcome C: Examine some of the major themes of the Old Testament prophets and relate the message to us today.		X	
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 3: Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.		X	
Bold Vision			
BIB 424 – Outcome A: Discuss the prophets as real people who lived in real places at a given time.			X
Biblical Literature Program – Outcome 3: Demonstrate an understanding of Christian theology and life application in the global Christian community.			X