I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the course is to develop skills to interpret prophetical books from the perspective of the Hebrew text. In addition to building upon exegetical methodology learned at the 600-level, class times will be devoted to an examination of the prophets’ main themes against their historical and biblical-theological backdrop.

- Exegetical steps. How to interpret the Hebrew text of the prophets.
- Biblical-theological context. What overarching principles govern the message/approach of the prophets and how Yahweh’s character is revealed in the prophets.
- Historical context. How the prophets fit within the environment of Iron II Israel and related Near Eastern polities.
- Practical context. Developing skills to preach and teach from OT Hebrew prophetical texts.

Additional notes:
- Course documents (handouts, Powerpoints, etc.) will be available on Cams. It is the student’s responsibility to check Bb for announcements, handouts, etc.

INTERNET USAGE

Students are asked to refrain from accessing the internet at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class session.
II. Required Textbooks

- A. Berlin, *Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*

III. Recommended Texts

- *NIV Archaeological Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2005)
- W.C. Kaiser, *A History of Israel*

Please also consult/review these 600-level texts:


IV. Hebrew Competency Exam

All 700-Level students are required to take a Hebrew competency exam that includes translation and parsing. The exam is scheduled for the first day of class.

*Hebrew competency for the course:*

Hebrew competency must be demonstrated both in terms of the language and exegetical methodology in order to pass the course, regardless of grades on the two tests and exegesis paper. Thus, if a student fails to demonstrate Hebrew and/or exegesis competence in any aspect of the course, he/she will not be able to receive a passing final grade.

V. Course Requirements

*Mid-Term and Final Quizzes* (50%):

  - **Part I:** Translation and parsing (with exegetical comments) of a set text covered in class (no lexicon allowed).
  - **Part II:** Identification and short essay questions based on the required readings and materials covered in class.

*Hebrew Exegesis Paper* (range of 30 pages; 50% of course grade): Specific guidelines will be made available in class. Students are expected to abide by the academic policies as found in the Student Handbook (re: plagiarism, late assignments, etc.). For style consult *The SBL Handbook of Style*. This is especially important for footnotes and bibliography.
DUE DATES:
- Choice of pericope for exegesis paper: before first reading week
- Exegesis paper due on Dec 9 (no electronic copies)

Readings:
- VanGemeren and Berlin should be read in their entirety (contents will be tested for the final test)
- Regarding Oswalt, the expectation is that students will interact (not simply read) relevant sections of the commentary. Other sections in Oswalt should be read, but not with the same care as the sections that are covered in class.
- Additional required readings may be added on the Reserve shelf at Goddard Library (materials pertaining to technical aspects of the Hebrew language, socio-historical context or other relevant matters).
- If students are not familiar with the prophetic corpus in translation, it is strongly recommended to use Kaiser’s History of Israel as supplementary reading.

Class Participation: Students need to come to class prepared to discuss (= read, parse, comment on exegetical steps) the assigned texts. Note: Lack of preparation and attendance will affect course grade. Unexcused absences must be reported in writing.

VI. PREPARATION BEFORE FIRST CLASS

- Review 600-level texts Old Testament Exegesis (D. Stuart); Old Testament Textual Criticism (Brotzmann)
- Read the prophets in translation (each reading in one sitting)

VII. CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE, Sept 13/15: “Prophetic Playbook”
- Prophetic Books: the Big Picture
- Exegetical Method: “The Big Picture of the Book”
- Hebrew competency exam
- Isaiah 1:1-17 (cf. Oswalt)
- Oswalt vol. 1, Introduction pp. 3-76

WEEK TWO, Sept 20/22: “Old Zion, New Zion”
- Isa 1:10-31 (cf. Oswalt)
- VanGemeren Part 1
• Method: “Text Criticism and Translation”
• Begin Berlin

WEEK THREE, Sept 27/29  “Exile”

• Isaiah 5:8-30
• Method: “Hebrew Syntax of Poetry”
• Begin VanGemeren Part 2
• Oswalt

WEEK FOUR, Oct 4/6: “Nations are Accountable”

• Isaiah 13
• Method: “Lexical analysis of Poetry: the question of metaphorical language”
• Finish VanGemeren Part 2
• Oswalt

NOTE: Choice of passage for the exegesis paper is due this week.

WEEK FIVE, Oct 11/13 READING WEEK
Assignment: Text Criticism, Translation and Grammar

WEEK SIX, Oct 18/20: “Heart Problems”

• Tuesday class: Mid-Term Test
• Jer 17:1-14 (not included in the mid-term test)
• Method: “Structural analysis of Poetry”
• Begin VanGemeren Part 3
• Oswalt

WEEK SEVEN, Oct 25/27: “Promise of Zion”

• Isa 2:1-4; Isaiah 19
• Oswalt
• Method: “The prophets in OT context”
WEEK EIGHT, Nov 8/10  READING WEEK
Assignment: Structure, Old Testament Context, Cultural Context

WEEK NINE, Nov 15/17 “Hope”

- Isaiah 40
- Oswalt, vol. 2 Introduction and related materials
- Method: “The prophets in their cultural environment”
- Finish VanGemeren Part 3
- Oswalt, Finish Berlin

WEEK TEN, Nov 22/24 “Sacrifice”

- Isa 52:13 – 53:1-12
- Method: “The prophets in NT context”
- Oswalt

WEEK ELEVEN, Nov 29/Dec 1: “Kingship”

- Haggai 2
- Method: “The prophets in Biblical-Theological context”

WEEK TWELVE, Dec 6/8: “Fulfillment”

- Zechariah 14
- Method: “Contextualizing and Applying the prophets”
- Oswalt
- D. Wells, *The Courage to Be Protestant*, chs 1-3

EXEGESIS PAPERS ARE DUE ON DECEMBER 9 (a box will be outside my office)

WEEK THIRTEEN, Dec 13 Final test
VIII. BIBLICAL HEBREW SELECT REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dictionaries/Concordances


Hebrew Grammar


**Hebrew Vocabulary**


**Hebrew Text**


Narrative


Poetry


