I PURPOSE

A study of the institution and contribution of the prophets. The course will study both the historical contexts and the messages of the prophets, but with emphasis also on the background of prophecy and the prophetic experience of God. We will also explore the place of prophecy in biblical theology and the relevance of the prophetic experience for today.

II PREREQUISITES: OL 502; a 600-level OT exegesis course

III SCHEDULE

29 Jan Lecture 1 Covenantal Background to Old Testament Prophecy:
Prophets as Covenant Mediators; Christology

5 Feb Hebrew Competency Test
Lecture 2 The Prophetic Experience of God: Prophetic Nature of
God's Kingdom Creation and Administration; Pentateuchal
Foundations for Prophets of the Mosaic Covenant

12 Feb Lecture 3 The same, continued
19 Feb READING WEEK
26 Feb Test on Lectures 1-3

Lecture 4 Isaiah overview
Text Issues
Isa 1:1-20 covenant lawsuit, word study
Isa 8:23-9:6 messianic promise, sentence name, text crit.
Isa 44:24-28 form criticism, vaticinium ex eventu

5 Mar Lecture 5 The same, continued
Jeremiah overview
Text Issues
Jer 1:1-19 call narrative, word-event, paranomasia
Jer 7:1-15 "Name" theology, date ("C" source)

12 Mar Lecture 6 The same, continued
19 Mar Lecture 7 Ezekiel overview
Text Issues
Ezek 1:15-28 theophany
Ezek 47:1-12 temple

26 Mar READING WEEK
2 Apr GOOD FRIDAY (NO CLASS)
9 Apr Lecture 8 Daniel overview
Text Issues
Dan 2 eschatology

16 Apr Lecture 9 Test on Lectures 4-8
Issues in the Minor Prophets:
Hosea, Joel, Amos

23 Apr NO CLASS (PROFESSOR AWAY)
IV REQUIREMENTS

1 There is a Hebrew competency exam early in the course. It is necessary to pass this exam to continue in the course.

2 Required readings = REQUIRED TEXTS (WITH PAGES TO BE READ) and REQUIRED READINGS (ON RESERVE), as listed below. These count 10% of the course grade. Use reading report attached to syllabus. The reading report must be stapled to your final paper and submitted with it. Reading reports submitted late will not receive full credit, but will receive proportional credit at the discretion of the professor.

3 Passages assigned in Hebrew for you to translate accompany each lecture (as noted in the SCHEDULE, above).

4 Two one-hour tests. These cover specified lectures in the SCHEDULE (above). They will also cover Hebrew passages that accompany the lectures. Each test counts 10% of the course grade.

5 A 15 page paper. The paper will be a comparative study of Isaiah 2:1-5 and Micah 4:1-5. It must include your own translation of each passage and your own conclusions as to date and authorship. The paper counts 70% of the course grade. It is due at 4 p.m. on 3 May (seniors, 23 April).

V REQUIRED TEXTS (WITH PAGES TO BE READ)

Heschel, Abraham, The Prophets, Vols. I & II.
Smith, Gary, The Prophets as Preachers, pp. 1-345
Niehaus, J. J., God at Sinai, pp. 1-383
----------------, “An Argument against Theologically Constructed Covenants,” JETS 50, no. 2 (June, 2007), pp 259-273 On CAMS
----------------, "Covenant and Narrative, God and Time," article, pp 1-47 On CAMS
van Gemeren, Willem A., Interpreting the Prophetic Word, pp. 16-411

VI REQUIRED READING (ON RESERVE)


Niehaus, Jeffrey, "Old Testament Foundations" (= Chapter One) in The Kingdom and the Power, Gary S. Grieg & Kevin N. Spring, eds., pp. 41-53.

VII EXEGESIS

Broadly speaking, exegesis is the process by which a text, as a concrete expression of a "sender" to a to a "receiver" is systematically explained. The steps of exegesis are interrelated and not necessarily sequential. In abbreviated form they are:

1 Delimit the passage for study, noting opening and closing formulae (if any). Is the passage a true pericope, that is, "a self-contained unit of Scripture," or "a preachable unit?" E.g., Ezek. 37:1-14 (revitalized bones), and Ezek. 37:15-28 (the two sticks joined to symbolize the one nation, Israel), are both pericopes in this sense. Ezek. 37:1-28 is not.

2 Determine the literary context of the pericope, and its function in that context. (E.g., is it a word of encouragement placed strategically amid prophecies of

3 Outline the passage, noting interrelationships of elements. E.g., are certain words or ideas repeated, and what is the significance of this? Are certain contrasts established, and what would God teach us thereby?

4 Check words of historical and theological import in dictionaries; seek cross-references with other passages by means of a concordance. E.g., Heb. go'el kinsman redeemer in Job 19:25. From Boaz and Ruth we know it's a kinsman redeemer - cf. Jesus.

5 Compare other translations, noting significant differences. Words have different shades of meaning. Some translators choose one shade of meaning, others choose another. What are the the merits of their choices? What is your choice, and why?

6 Ask: what is unique about the text? What is typical (such as rhetorical or stylistic devices, e.g., parallelism, chiasmus, paranomasia, diatribe, irony, etc)? How do the typical elements relate to those which are unique? What is their function?

7 What is the setting of the text -- its Sitz im Leben (the social setting in the life of Israel in which particular literary forms, e.g. psalm, prophecies, parables, occurred)?

8 What is the function of the passage? Is it didactic, kerygmatic, emotive? How is the hearer expected to respond? What does this say about its content?

9 What is the New Testament usage of the passage? How does the NT understand or develop the OT meaning?

10 List question and problem areas.

11 Consult reference tools. Check commentaries and peridocial literature for insights into your own questions.

12 State succinctly the results of your investigation: the text's meaning in its original setting.

13 What is its meaning for today? (Including biblical anthropology and theology: What does the passage reveal about man? About God?)
VIII  REFERENCE WORKS ON RESERVE

Prophets

Bright, John, Jeremiah
Keil, C.F., & Delitzsch, F., Isaiah
Keil, C.F., & Delitzsch, F., Jeremiah
Morgenstern, Julian, "The Suffering Servant - a New Solution" (3 articles)
North, Christopher R., The Suffering Servant in Deutero-Isaiah
Smith, George Adam, The Book of Isaiah (2 Vols)
von Rad, Gerhard, Ezekiel
Young, Edward J., My Servants the Prophets
------------------------, The Book of Isaiah (3 Vols)
------------------------, The Prophecy of Daniel

Minor Prophets

Stuart, Douglas, Hosea-Jonah, WBC 31
Thomas E. McComiskey, ed., The Minor Prophets, Vol. 1 (Hosea, Joel, Amos); Vol. 2 (Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk)

General

Dumbrell, W. J., Covenant and Creation
Harrison, R.K., Introduction to the Old Testament
Kline, Meredith G., Images of the Spirit
------------------------, "Covenant Theology under Attack"
Soulen, Richard N., Handbook of Biblical Criticism
Vos, Geerhardus, Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments
# READING REPORT

NAME.............................................

DATE.............................................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heschel, Abraham, <em>The Prophets</em></td>
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