This course will develop the language and exegetical skills necessary for interpreting Old Testament prophetic literature. The major prophets will be studied in their historical context to appreciate the theological contribution of their message as a revelation of the Lord and his sovereign outworking of redemptive history. Attention will be given to current issues of interpretation with a view toward building confidence in teaching and preaching out of the prophetic corpus.

I. Course Objectives
   1. Strengthen exegetical skills and competence in reading prophetic literature through analysis of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.
   2. Grow in appreciation of the historical, literary, and theological contribution of the Old Testament prophets.
   3. Become equipped to faithfully preach and teach from the prophets.

II. Required Textbooks
1. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (BHS)
   For a 700-level exegesis course, you will be asked to translate directly from the Hebrew text with the aid of notes and translations prepared in advance. The use of computers for translation is not permitted.


   This classic primer on the exegetical method is a helpful tool for seminary papers and sermon preparation. This is the exegetical method we will practice in class and which will guide your final papers.
III. Course Requirements

1. **Attendance**  Class participation is essential for the format of this course. Attendance and active participation are required for all class sessions. According to seminary policy, a letter grade penalty will be assessed for an absence of more than 3 hours.

2. **Readings** (20%) You are required to read in full the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel in English translation, as well as the assigned chapters out of Robertson’s *The Christ of the Prophets*. At the end of the semester, you will be asked to submit a reading report stating the percentage of readings completed.

3. **Translation** (30%) Your original translation of the assigned passages must be turned in at the beginning of class on Friday. An encounter with the inspired Word of God is transformative. Your effort in grappling with the text will strengthen your Hebrew translation skills and yield deeper theological insights. You will be graded on effort, completion, and a growing understanding of concepts covered in class. *Cut and paste translations will not receive a passing grade.*

   In class, you will be asked to translate directly from the Hebrew text. You may use notes and translations prepared in advance. You will be asked to parse select verbs, though you need not include parsing in the translation you submit. *Please note that the use of Bible programs for in-class translation is not permitted.*

4. **Exegesis Paper** (50%) The paper should reflect the exegetical method you have learned in OT 511 and practiced in OT 750. Refer to Stuart’s *Old Testament Exegesis*. You may choose from the following passages:

   - Isaiah 1:2-20  *Israel’s Spiritual Sickness*
   - Isaiah 11:1-16  *Promised Shoot of Jesse*
   - Isaiah 40:12-31  *The Incomparable God*
   - Jeremiah 23: 9-22  *Lying Prophets*
   - Jeremiah 29: 1-14  *Hope for Exiled Israel*
   - Ezekiel 33:1-20  *Israel’s Watchman*
   - Ezekiel 34:1-24  *Shepherds False and True*

   Papers are due **December 23, 2015**.

IV. Course Schedule

All work is to be completed in advance for the weekend class session.

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1 You will need 2 copies of your translation: one to be turned in, the other to discuss in class. You may hand-write or type out your translation in good English. A copy of the Hebrew text with English words written above the Hebrew is not considered an acceptable "translation."
Session 1 – September 18-19  

*The Holy One of Israel*

Read the book of [Isaiah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaiah) in English translation; note themes  
Read *Christ of the Prophets*, chapters 1-3, 10 (Isaiah: pgs 173-196)

Session 2 – October 16-17  

*The Restorer of Israel*

Read the book of [Jeremiah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremiah) in English translation; note themes  
Translate Jeremiah 1:4-12; 7:1-11; 17:1, 5-10; 18:1-11; 20:7-9; 23:5-8; 31:27-37  
Read *Christ of the Prophets*, chapters 4, 6, 11 (Jeremiah: pgs 209-221)

Session 3 – December 4-5  

*The Glory of Israel*

Read the book of [Ezekiel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezekiel) in English translation; note themes  
Read *Christ of the Prophets*, chapters 12, 16, 17-conclusion

Some Specific Instructions for Exegesis Papers:

Papers must be at least 15 pages in length, 1.5 spaced, 12 pt font, and 1” margins. If you choose to include the Hebrew text of your passage, do not include it in your page count. Use SBL citation for footnotes and bibliography.

1. **Translation.** Provide your own annotated translation of the passage (raised-letter annotation system). Although you should consult standard Bible translations, this translation must reflect your own understanding of the Hebrew text. Include in the annotation reasons for your lexical choices, text critical issues, unusual forms, and meaningful grammatical constructions.

2. **Historical and Cultural Context.** What is the historical moment to which this passage speaks? Consult a reference work on ancient Israelite history like Bright’s *History of Israel*. How does the cultural context illuminate the passage?

3. **Literary Context.** Locate your passage within the larger structure of the book. Why is it placed there and how does it contribute to the progression and development of the broader prophetic message?

4. **Verse by Verse Commentary.** Follow the flow of the passage. How does the narrative style or poetry (chiasm, repetition, parallelism, etc) contribute to the communication value of the message? What is the emotional tone? How does the argument unfold?
5. **Semantic Analysis.** Are there certain words or ideas that are repeated? Do word studies of theologically significant words remembering that concepts may be present even if a particular lemma is not.

6. **Biblical Theological Context.** Discuss the theological message of your passage. What unique contribution does it make to the book? To Old Testament biblical theology? What is the vision of God it presents? Is your passage quoted or alluded to in any other biblical texts? Does it anticipate, or is it directly quoted in, the New Testament?

7. **Secondary Literature.** After you have worked through your passage and studied it in depth, consult commentaries and scholarly articles. Critically interact with other scholars and their ideas in your discussion. Based on your study of the text, what is your judgment of their interpretation?

8. **Application.** Once you have determined the meaning of the text in its original setting, consider how this passage embodies and communicates a revelation of the Lord. How are we personally confronted and encountered by the Scripture? How can this passage be applied to the life of the community of faith? How is the character of God and his dealings with humanity revealed in the text in a way that is eternally relevant?

Conclude with a 1-pg outline for a sermon or Bible study.

9. **Bibliography.** Cite major commentaries, dictionaries, and scholarly sources you have consulted on your passage. Use *SBL Handbook of Style*.

**Recommended Resources:**


