



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Old Testament Studies: Israelite Prophecy: LCBS3326-65
(211)**

Fall 2020

Class Dates: 8/31, 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/16, 12/7

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will be introduced to the academic study of Israelite Prophecy. Emphasis will be given to the various critical issues related to prophetic literature. Additionally, students will explore the role of the prophet, the social context of prophecy, and relevant prophetic texts and theological themes related to the books. *Prerequisites: Old Testament Survey and Hermeneutics.*

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course is designed to examine the prophets and prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible in light of theological and exegetical challenges. At the conclusion of the semester, the student will be able to:

1. **Identify** and **critically evaluate** the introductory issues of the prophetic books, including issues of authorship, historicity, dating, significant characters, themes, and historical events in the prophetic books.
2. **Be able** to discern key themes and interpret selected parallel passages in the prophetic books.
3. **Apply** the truths of Israelite prophecy to one's personal life.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

The primary text is the Old Testament itself. Students are encouraged to use a modern English translation of the Holy Bible (RSV, NSRV, NIV, HCBS, NASB, ESV, NET, etc.).

Matthews, Victor. *The Hebrew Prophets and Their Social World*. 2d edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012. ISBN 9780801048616.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance and Participation** (5%)
Each student is expected to attend and participate in class.
2. **Required Reading and Quizzes** (15%)
Each student is required to complete the assigned reading for each class meeting. Quizzes will be given to determine the quality of the student's reading from the required readings. Quizzes will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions, and they will only cover the material specified on the syllabus schedule. Missed quizzes **cannot be made up** and will be scored as a "0." If a student is not present at the beginning of class, he or she will not be allowed to make up the quiz.
3. **Midterm Exam** (15%)
The midterm exam will be given on Blackboard. It will cover all readings, class discussions, and lectures covered during the first half of the semester.
4. **Two Research Critical Introductions** (25%)
Each student will write a **critical introduction** on a major prophet (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, or Daniel) of her/his choice as well as a **critical introduction** on a minor prophet of her/his choice. The purpose of this assignment is to provide a thorough, yet thoughtfully relevant, introduction to the books. The structure of the critical introductions should follow the "How to Write a Critical Introduction" form. The required textbook as well as Old Testament introductions (2 required), specialized introductions (2 required), commentaries (3 required), and journal articles (2 required) should be consulted. The assignment should include a variety of viewpoints. Introductions should be documented and written in **12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, and minimum of 3 full pages** single-spaced.
5. **Critical Worksheet** (25%)
Each student will complete a critical worksheet. The worksheet will cover a vast array of topics related to Israelite prophecy. The majority of the research should reflect thorough research from journals, commentaries, and proven monographs in the field. The worksheet should be written in accordance to Turabian. Additionally, the worksheet must be written in **Times New Roman 12 pt. font**, have one inch margins, include page numbers, and a bibliography. The use of **Study Bibles, Wikipedia, any non-approved Internet sources, and Matthew Henry's Commentary** is prohibited.
6. **Final Exam** (15%)
The final exam will be given on Blackboard. The final exam is cumulative.

EVALUATION

The final evaluation for the course will be tabulated according to the following percentage breakdown:

GRADING

Class Participation	5%
Reading Quizzes	15%
Midterm	15%
Two Research Critical Introductions	25%

GRADING SCALE

A: 93 - 100
B: 85 - 92
C: 77 - 84
D: 70 - 76

Critical Worksheet
Final Exam

25%
15 %
100%

F: below 70

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Written Assignments
1	8/31 Class Meeting	Syllabus Class Introduction How to write a critical introduction? Interpreting prophetic literature		
2	09/08/-9/13		Chapters 1-4	Due on Blackboard by 9/13: Reading Quiz
3	9/14 Class Meeting	Forms of Prophetic Speech Defining and Describing the Prophet Premonarchic Prophetic Activity Early Monarchic Prophets		
4	9/21-9/26		Chapters 5-8 Amos & Hosea	Due on Blackboard by 9/26: Reading Quiz
5	9/28 Class Meeting	Elijah and Elisha The Major and Minor Prophets The Book of Amos The Book of Hosea		
6	10/5-10/10		Chapter 9 Isaiah 1-66 "Assyrian Article"	Due on Blackboard by 9/13: Reading Quiz Critical Introduction #1

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading	Written Assignments
7	10/12 Class Meeting	The Book of Isaiah	Chapters 10-11 Micah Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Obadiah	Due on Blackboard by 10/18 Reading Quiz; Mid-Term
8	10/19- 10/24	FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK	
9	10/26 Class Meeting	The Book of Micah Prophetic Voices of the Late Seventh Century		
10	11/2-11/5		Chapter 12 Jeremiah 1-52 “Babylonians Article” Lamentations	Due on Blackboard by 11/5: Reading Quiz; Critical Introduction #2
11	11/9 Class Meeting	The Book of Jeremiah	Chapters 13-14 Ezekiel Haggak, Zechariah, Malachi, Joel, Jonah “Persians Article”	Due on Blackboard by 11/14: Reading Quiz
12	11/16 Class Meeting	The Book of Ezekiel Postexilic Prophecy		
13	11/23- 11/28	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
14	11/30-12/5		Chapters 15-16 Daniel	Due on Blackboard by 12/5: Reading Quiz; Critical Worksheet
15	12/7 Class Meeting	The Book of Daniel Review		
16	12/14	FINAL EXAM		Due on Blackboard by 12/14: Final Exam

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: All late assignments will be penalized five points for the

first day and one point per day thereafter, with no assignments being accepted more than two weeks past the due date.

3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Cook, Joan E. *Hear, O Heavens and Listen, O Earth: An Introduction to the Prophets*. Collegeville, M.N.: Liturgical Press, 2006.
- Crenshaw, James L. *Prophets, Sages, and Poets*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2006.
- Freeman, Hobart E. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*. Chicago: Moody Pr, 1968.
- Hutton, Rodney R. *Fortress Introduction to the Prophets*. Philadelphia: Augsburg Fortress, 2004.
- Mays, James Luther, and Paul Achtemeier, eds. *Interpreting the Prophets*. Philadelphia: Augsburg Press, 1987.
- McComiskey, Thomas E., ed. *Minor Prophets*. 3 vols. Dallas: Baker, 1997.
- McConville, J Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: The Prophets*. London: SPCK, 2002.
- Peterson, David L. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Seitz, Christopher R. *Prophecy and Hermeneutics: Toward a New Introduction to the Prophets*. Studies in Theological Interpretation. Dallas: Baker, 2007.

Slavitt, David R. *Book of the Twelve Prophets*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Smith, Gary V. *Prophets as Preachers: An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets*. Nashville: Broadman Holman, 1998.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *Prophetic Literature*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. New York: Abington, 2005.

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Wood, Leon J. *Prophets of Israel*. Dallas: Baker, 1998.