

ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at *The University of Western Ontario*
Fall 2021

Biblical Studies 5401A
Prophets and Deuteronomic History
Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Room: 226)

Instructor: Rev. Fr. Mladen Horvat, 416 – 887 – 7094, mhorva4@uwo.ca
Office hours by Appointment

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course examines the Israelite prophetic movement from the early monarchical period to the early post-exilic period, its original message and its modern applications. Themes include the city of Jerusalem in Israelite history, the desert as a place and metaphor, the figure of the prophet, religious practices cannot be disconnected from social justice, the exile and its causes, and how the wrath of God is conquered by His mercy and faithfulness.

B. GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

Knowledge:

- A deeper understanding of Biblical history, also as a theological place, from the conquest of the Promised Land until the return from the Exile;
- To realize the essential connection between the “Former and Later Prophets” with the Torah (synchronic approach);
- A deeper understanding of forming process of the prophetic literature, that includes a growth from oracles towards written passages and prophetic books (diachronic approach);
- Familiarity with the outline and book structure of individual prophetic books;
- Familiarity with the main themes in the prophets with a special awareness for social justice in connection with religious practices;

Skills:

- The ability to use important resources and tools available for the study of the Prophets, especially biblical software (Logos Bible Software, e-Sword...) based resources;
- To enable students to approach a prophetic text, positioning it in a certain historical context, in order to determine the meaning of the original author;
- The ability to delimit a certain prophetic passage on the basis of certain markers, and to recognize different literary types of texts: a Narrative, an Oracle, a Messenger speech, a Woe – utterance; a Trial speech; a Dispute; a Lament; different types of Hymns;
- To enable the students to integrate the results of exegetical studies with one’s own spiritual life, developing in them the ability to preach on the basis of Old Testament prophetic texts;

Attitudes:

- To engender in the students a familiarity with the prophetic literature;
- To foster an appreciation for prophetic literature as the Word of God;
- to cherish the prophetic texts as sources for personal prayer, spiritual life and pastoral activity;

C. ASSESSMENT

The final mark will be determined on three bases:

1) A written summary of between three and four pages of each of the prophetic book giving in summary its plan or outline, content and most important thought: 50%. These will be due one week after the completion of the study of each book. Each summary is to include the following three elements:

- a) The structure and content of each book in summary form;
- b) Its significance, main themes and the historical context;
- c) Students are to point out the importance and meaning of one significant passage in each book.

Note: Sources must be duly acknowledged. The standard form for all written materials in the course are found in, Alexander, Patrick H. *et al. (eds.) The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical and Early Christian Studies*, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999, especially Chapter 7 on proper form for bibliographies.

2) Active class participation: 20% in all.

3) A final written examination of three questions out of a choice of questions, given to the students in advance. 30%

In order to ensure that the written work submitted fairly represents the work of a student, the instructor reserves the right, on an individual basis, to have the student undergo an oral exam on the written work submitted. The oral exam, if applied, will help determine the grade assigned to the written work in question.

D. READINGS OR TEXTBOOKS

A. Required textbooks:

- a) A contemporary English translation of the Bible, such as the New Revised Standard Version (preferred), the New Jerusalem Bible or the New American Bible.
- b) BRANICK, Vincent P., *Understanding the prophets and their books*, New York / Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2012, 3-341.
- c) BRANICK, Vincent P., *Understanding the historical books of the Old Testament*, New York / Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2011, pp. 3-127.

- d) Students will be expected to read the Prophets and the Deuteronomistic History. They will also be expected to study the text books carefully.

B. Recommended readings:

- a) BLENKINSOPP, Joseph, *A history of prophecy in Israel*, Louisville / London, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996².
- b) CHISHOLM JR., Robert B., *Handbook on the prophets*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002.
- c) SWEENEY, Marvin A., *The prophetic literature*, Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- d) SAWYER, John F. A., *Prophecy and the prophets of the Old Testament*, New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1987.
- e) BOADT, Lawrence, *Reading the Old Testament*, New York / Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2012.
- f) CAMPBELL, Antony F. and O'Brien, Mark A., *Unfolding the Deuteronomistic history: origins, upgrades, present text*, Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000.
- g) MENDENHALL, George E., *Ancient Israel's faith and history. An introduction to the Bible in Context*, Louisville / London, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

E. SCHEDULE and STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

- September 14/21: Introduction:
I. Historical and literary background of biblical prophecy
II. Reading the prophets for their theology and message
- September 21/21: The classic prophets of the eight century (I.):
I. Historical background
II. Amos
III. Hosea
- September 28/21: The classic prophets of the eight century (II.):
I. Isaiah 1-39
II. Micah
- October 05/21: The prophets of the seventh century and of the period of the exile (I.):
I. Historical background
II. Three Pre-exilic Judean prophets:
a. Zephaniah
b. Nahum
c. Habakkuk
- October 12/21: The prophets of the seventh century and of the period of the exile (II.):
I. Jeremiah
- October 19/21: The prophets of the seventh century and of the period of the exile (III.):
I. Ezekiel
II. Deutero-Isaiah (Isa 40-55)

- October 26/21: The postexilic prophets (I.):
- I. Historical background
 - II. Trito-Isaiah (Isa 56-66)
 - III. Two prophets of reconstruction:
 - a. Haggai
 - b. Proto-Zechariah (Zech 1-8)
- November 09/21: The postexilic prophets (II.):
- I. Independent oracles:
 - a. Deutero-Zechariah (Zech 9-14)
 - b. Malachi
 - II. Two prophets on the occasion of disaster
 - a. Obadiah
 - b. Joel
- November 16/21: Prophetic – sounding Midrash:
- I. Introduction to Midrash
 - II. The Book of Jonah
 - III. The Book of Daniel
- November 23/21: I. Conclusion:
- a. The message of the Prophets
 - b. Reflections on the Old Testament Theology
- II. Overview of the Deuteronomistic History
- November 30/21: I. The Book of Joshua
- II. The Book of Judges
 - III. 1 Samuel
- December 07/21: IV. 2 Samuel
- V. 1 Kings
 - VI. 2 Kings
- December 14/21: final written exam

F. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

Accommodations for Tests/Examinations: Students with disabilities work with Accessibility Services which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances. **All students requiring academic accommodations for tests and examinations must use the services offered through King's University College.**

How to Request Academic Accommodation – King's Students:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/medical-accommodation/>

UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://www.eng.uwo.ca/files/undergraduate/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

<http://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/terms/plagiarism.html>

Copyright re: Course Material: Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty Members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a Faculty Member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course web site he/she should ask for the student's written permission. (Commercial use of Course material - <http://umd.edu/legal/commercial.html>)

Scholarly Citation: According to the policy adopted by the faculty of St. Peter's Seminary, all citations, references and bibliographies in written assignments are to follow the formatting prescribed in the Chicago Manual of Style. Footnotes are to be used, rather than author-date references in the body of the text. Please review and consult the summary provided by

Kenrick-Glennon

Seminary

at

<https://www.kenrick.edu/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-Academic-Papers-and-Citations.pdf> for further information.

Submission of Assignments: It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

Students who are unable to hand in assignments or take examinations for legitimate reasons must consult with the instructor. If the reason is medical, students may be required to provide a note from a doctor. Ordinarily, all assignments and exams will be made up at a later date. In certain circumstances, the final grading scheme may be re-weighted if the missed assignment is of a low weight.

Selection and Registration of Courses: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for everyone and with professionalism in all classroom activities. Laptops and other electronic devices may be used for classroom academic activities only. The use of such devices must always be in accord with the common good of the whole learning community as specified by the instructor. The instructor may choose at any time to limit their use for instructional purposes or because of the disruptive use of such devices.

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Support Services:

Information about Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development (formerly Services for Students with Disabilities) at King's is available at <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The website for Academic Services at King's University College is

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <https://uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.

G. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

For an updated bibliography see: http://www.biblico.it/doc-vari/ska_bibl.html