SYLLABUS

1 OT 516: The Prophets Isaiah to Malachi

RTS-Jackson
3 credits
Fall 2010
Dr. Daniel Timmer
dtimer@rts.edu

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is an expositional course that covers Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Minor Prophets - also called the Latter Prophets. Limited attention is given to introductory matters. Primary attention is given to the exegetical, biblical-theological study of the text. Master of Divinity students should take Hebrew and Greek before enrolling in this course.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. To know the basic historical, political, social and religious backgrounds and content of these books.
2. To begin to grasp their theological emphases, main characteristics, and thematic development.
3. To understand the basic issues involved in critical study of the prophets.
4. To develop a careful exegetical method that does justice to the richness of the historical, literary, and theological expression of each book in view of their God-breathed nature.
5. To have the content of these books permeate us, rendering us more Christ-like.
6. To make humble, patient, thorough handling of Scripture part of sermon preparation, personal Bible study, and all theological work.

C. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Strongly recommended:

Other readings

D. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS (M.Div., Hebrew-based)
We will employ a number of activities to understand and absorb these books’ message, and to use it biblical-theologically, in this course.

First, lectures and your timely reading of the assigned texts will cover the books’ background and content. Your attendance and participation is assumed and appreciated. Occasional quizzes will cover the content of the assigned readings in the Bible and the textbooks.

Second, you are required to read and summarize in three to five pages (in advance of the related lecture) each book covered in the course. Just write this summary as your read the book—it doesn’t need to be a literary masterpiece, but will serve as the first draft for your ongoing reflection on these books throughout your career. Pay attention to each book’s structure and to its theological themes and their development, and include some reflection on how those themes are drawn to their conclusion in the NT. **These will be collected at the end of the semester, then returned to you.**

Third, you are to prepare one of the Hebrew passages scheduled for each week (if longer than 12 verses, do at least 12 verses; if shorter than 12 verses, you’re lucky!). These “prep sheets” should include a translation of the passage, parsing of its verbs (you can handwrite this section rather than ransacking your keyboard for elusive Hebrew letters), a suggested structure, and an explanation of how each part of the passage contributes to its meaning, with a few sentences at the end on how the main themes of the passage are fulfilled in Christ and a few lines on their potential applications; the prep sheets will be about 3-4 pages each. While this work focuses on your skills in Hebrew, push yourself to link that text-based knowledge with your understanding of the book as a whole. **These will be collected for every passage, graded, and returned.**

Fourth, an exegetical paper of about 15 pages will be assigned to help you develop a sound exegetical method. For exegetical work, Stuart's book (see “strongly recommended” under “C,” above, pages 63-81; 67-87 for 3rd ed.) will serve as the basis of evaluation. Your passage must be approved by the instructor. While integrating the facets that Stuart outlines, the paper should have the following sections (with their approximate relative length): introduction (10%), text criticism (0-5%), structure (5%), exegesis and exploration of the text in light of its context, the book’s themes, and biblical theology (the “threads”) (70%), conclusions and synthesis (10%)—no need to parse verbs or give a translation. You may synthesize all but the introduction and conclusion, but be sure that your paper has a clear structure, that each paragraph has a clear point, etc. Papers should include (a) title page, (b) bibliography, and (c) adequate footnotes, must (d) interact with at least 5 (five) academic journal/dictionary articles in addition to at least 3 (three) commentaries and other resources; (e) and must involve, by way of compare and contrast, at least one relevant extrabiblical source with your passage (not more than one page). Feel free to discuss the writing of this paper with me during office hours.
Last, there will be a final exam that tests your comprehension and retention of the lectures and readings as well as your Hebrew skills. You will be asked to translate and exegete one or more passages from the books covered, comment on relevant theological or practical issues, etc. You will also be asked to indicate what percentage of the textbooks you read.

Weighting of Assignments:
- Reading and summaries of biblical books: 10
- Quizzes: 10
- Prep sheets: 20
- Exegetical paper: 25
- Final exam: 35

E. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS (M.A., English-based)

In this course our goal is to build a useful theological understanding of these books using them as our primary source and getting help from authors who have studied them in depth.

First, lectures and your timely reading of the assigned texts will cover the books’ background and content. Your attendance and participation is assumed and appreciated. Occasional quizzes will cover the content of the assigned readings in the Bible and the textbooks.

Second, you are required to read and summarize in three to five pages (in advance of the related lecture) each biblical book covered in the course. Just write this summary as you read the book—it doesn’t need to be a literary masterpiece, but will serve as the first draft for your ongoing reflection on these books throughout your career. Pay attention to each book’s structure and to its theological themes and their development, and include some reflection on how those themes are drawn to their conclusion in the NT. These will be collected at the end of the semester, then returned to you.

Third, you are to prepare one of the passages scheduled for each week or (if longer than 12 verses, do at least 12 verses; if shorter than 12 verses, you’re lucky!). These “prep sheets” are to make use of 3 (three) commentaries published after 1970, including one with a homiletical or practical focus. Write about 4 pages on the meaning of the passage in light of what it says and of what these commentaries say—be sure not to just reproduce what the commentaries say, but tell me what you think about the passage on the basis of your own reading and thinking, aided but not guided by the commentaries. About 75% of the paper should discuss the passage (with some attention given to its place in the book), with the other 25% consisting of biblical theology and limited application. These will be collected for every passage, graded, and returned.

Fourth, an expository paper of about 15 pages will be assigned to help you connect a passage from the books we’re studying with your intended field of work (counseling, conflict resolution, mission, etc.). Your passage must be approved by the instructor. Each paper should have the following sections (with their approximate relative length): introduction (10%), structure (5%), exploration of text in light of its context, the book’s themes, and biblical theology, culminating in a brief sketch of how it applies to you as a believer and your work (75%), conclusions and synthesis (10%). You may synthesize all but the introduction and conclusion, but be sure that your paper has a clear structure, that each paragraph has a clear point, etc. Beware of citing sources at length and so breaking up your argument. Papers should include (a) title page, (b) bibliography, and (c) adequate footnotes, and must (d) interact with at least 5 (five) academic journal articles in addition to the usual commentaries and other resources; (e) involve, by way of compare and contrast, at least one relevant extrabiblical source with your passage (not more than one page. Feel free to discuss the writing of this paper with me during office hours.
Last, there will be a final exam that tests your comprehension and retention of the lectures and readings, particularly your ability to reflect theologically on them. You will be asked to discuss one or more passages from the books covered, and/or some aspects of their message, and to tie your thoughts to relevant theological and practical issues. You will also be asked to indicate what percentage of the textbooks you read.

Weighting of Assignments:
- Reading and summaries of biblical books: 10
- Quizzes: 10
- Preparation of weekly passages: 20
- Expository-Practical paper: 25
- Final exam: 35

F. MISCELLANEOUS

All written work is to be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5”x11” paper. All main text is to be in a legible 12-pt typeface; footnotes may be in 10- or 12-pt typeface. Provide a cover page (including paper title, your name, mailbox number, class name, professor, and date) and full bibliography (when required), and be sure that each page after the cover page is numbered. Bibliographies and foot/endnotes are to be prepared according to Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (6th ed. or later), specifically the “notes-bibliography” style (as opposed to APA style = "Jones 1999, 23-25").

The grading scale for the course is as follows: late work will be penalized one full letter grade/day.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-100%</td>
<td>86-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-96%</td>
<td>83-85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>91-93%</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>88-90%</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
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Cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Handbook. Since cheating and plagiarism are tantamount to theft, either may result in a failing mark for the assignment concerned, a failing mark for the course, or dismissal from the Seminary.

In order to ensure full participation, any student with a disability requiring special accommodations (voice recording, special equipment, reading or writing needs) is encouraged to contact the professor before the beginning of the course.

Apart from special circumstances, you are kindly requested to not use laptop computers in class. In all cases, please turn off and refrain from using PDAs, iPods, cell phones, and the like.

This syllabus is intended to represent accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, and other information so that students are able to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify and part of this syllabus during the semester in light of events or circumstances which may present themselves during the semester.
### G. COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week, Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading and/or writing due at the beginning of class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 22-28 Aug</td>
<td>—No class—</td>
<td>—No class—</td>
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<tr>
<td>2, 29 Aug-4 Sep</td>
<td>Introduction; Preaching Christ from the prophets; what is exegesis?</td>
<td>Read CoP 1-200; GG 1-139, 167-82; RANE 207-221; NDBT on Apostasy; Eschatology; Exile; Israel (nation); Land; Nations; OT and NT, relationship of; People of God; Remnant; Righteousness...;</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 5-11 Sep</td>
<td>Reading the 12 as a book; Hosea, Amos</td>
<td>Read CoP, D&amp;L on Hosea, Amos; Nogalski 2007; prepare Hosea 11:1-11 or Amos 9:1-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 12-18 Sep</td>
<td>Jonah, Nahum</td>
<td>Read CoP, D&amp;L on Jon, Nah; prepare Jon 1 or Nah 1:1-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>5, 19-25 Sep</td>
<td>Nahum</td>
<td>Prepare Nah 2 or 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6, 26 Sep-2 Oct</td>
<td>Micah</td>
<td>Read CoP, D&amp;L on Micah, prepare Micah 3:9-4:8</td>
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<tr>
<td>7, 3-9 Oct</td>
<td>Habakkuk</td>
<td>Read CoP, D&amp;L on Hab; prepare Hab 1:1-2:5</td>
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<td>8, 10-16 Oct</td>
<td>—Reading week—</td>
<td>—Reading week—</td>
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<tr>
<td>9, 17-23 Oct</td>
<td>Zephaniah</td>
<td>Read CoP, D&amp;L on Zeph, prepare Zeph 1 or 2</td>
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<td>10, 24-30 Oct</td>
<td>Zephaniah</td>
<td>Prepare Zeph 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11, 31 Oct-6 Nov</td>
<td>Jeremiah</td>
<td>Read CoP, D&amp;L on Jer, prepare Jer 25:1-14 or 31:2-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>12, 7-13 Nov</td>
<td>Ezekiel</td>
<td>Read CoP, D&amp;L on Ezek, prepare Ezek 20:1-44 or 37:1-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>13, 14-20 Nov</td>
<td>—ETS/SBL—</td>
<td>—ETS/SBL—</td>
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<td>14, 21-27 Nov</td>
<td>—SBL/Thanksgiving—</td>
<td>—SBL/Thanksgiving—</td>
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<tr>
<td>16, 5-11 Dec</td>
<td>Malachi, Joel</td>
<td>Read CoP, D&amp;L on Mal, Joel; prepare Mal 3:13-4:6 or Joel 3:18-21; book summaries and papers due on paper day; Final Exam (during final exam period)</td>
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