

## SYLLABUS

### I. Course Description

*An exposition of the pre-exilic, exilic, and postexilic writing prophets (Isaiah through Malachi), excluding Jonah, but including Lamentations with emphasis on the biblical theology of these books, their genre, and application.*

Prerequisite: BE101 Methods of Bible Study

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: BE103 Old Testament History II & Poetry.

2-credit hours (for MABC students)

3-credit hours (for all other students)

### II. Course Objectives

On successful completion of this course, students will . . .

#### A. Cognitive Objectives (what the student should know and understand)

1. Arrange the prophets chronologically and geographically as well as classify them in their major and minor groupings.
2. Understand the nature of the prophetic office to the extent that they able to:
  - a. Outline the criteria necessary for "prophetic status" and state where these criteria are found in Scripture, and
  - b. Define the role of the prophet including God's purpose for this ministry.
3. Identify the part the various covenants (i.e., Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) play in the prophetic message
4. Relate each book to its general historical setting and connect this information to the prophet's message.
5. State the general theme(s) or purpose for each of the prophetic books.
6. Evaluate selected problems in the prophets and defend their view on each difficulty.

#### B. Affective Objectives (what the student should feel and appreciate)

1. Feel confident as they develop contemporary applications from the prophetic messages that they are doing this in keeping with the author's intended meaning.
2. Appreciate the value of the messages of the prophetic book to the extent that they will desire to do further study and make future use of this material in ministry.
3. Desire to obey those commands and principles in these books that are valid and relevant to their spiritual life.

4. Feel amazement at the fulfillment of many of the prophetic statements in these books and hope in the ones still to be fulfilled.
5. Worship our God in a deeper way as the insights and truths of these books reveal to us our God.

### III. Course Textbooks

#### A. Required

Hays, Daniel J., *The Message of the Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

OR

Smith, Gary V. *The Prophets as Preachers*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.

AND the student needs to have possession of ...

Dallas Theological Seminary Thesis Style Committee. "Supplement to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed." Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, November 2013. See available PDF online at [http://library.dts.edu/Pages/RM/Write/turabia\\_sup.pdf](http://library.dts.edu/Pages/RM/Write/turabia_sup.pdf).

#### B. Suggested Textbooks

Frank, Harry Thomas, ed. *Atlas of the Bible Lands*. Maplewood, NJ: Hammond Incorporated, 1977.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

### IV. Course Requirements

#### A. Reading Assignments

1. Read the prophetic books. The Bible Exposition (BE) Department regards the biblical text as the fundamental text. The BE Department expects students to recognize the importance of intently reading the Scriptures.
2. Read the assigned pages in either of the required textbooks according to the reading schedule. This reading supplements the class lectures.

#### B. Written Assignments

2-Credit Hour MABC students will 1) view all the videos, 2) complete Assignment #1 below—Geographical/Expositional Maps—and 3) take the Final Exam.

For the three (3) learning activities for this course, submit all papers/charts in Turabian format using a normal, 12-pt. font. For all learning activities, in addition to dictionaries, study Bibles, encyclopedias, and other study tools, cite at least four (4) sources in your bibliography that deal with your topic, e.g commentaries, biblical theologies, and journal articles.

All other students will complete the following Assignments:

1. Geographical/Expositional Maps  
Regarding Geographical Knowledge in All Sections of BE104:

The BE Department expects you to demonstrate competency in identifying certain geographical sites in the ancient Near East and in explaining why each one is significant for Bible study. These sites include the regions, countries, cities, towns, bodies of water, and significant routes specified below.

Minimal geographical knowledge:

Another BE Department instructor may require additional items and specify a different form, e.g. create an original map, fill in an existing map, prepare the material on PowerPoint or transparencies.

- a. Regions (Fertile Crescent, Shephelah, Cis-Jordan, Trans-Jordan, Mesopotamia, Jezreel Valley, Carmel Range, Rift Valley, Coastal Plain, Anatolia, Arabah, Negev, Central Mountain Range),
- b. Countries (Israel [incl. Divided Kingdom], Ammon, Edom, Moab, Assyria, Babylon, Aram [Syria], Persia, Egypt, Philistia),
- c. Cities/towns (Babylon, Nineveh, Jerusalem, Samaria, Megiddo, Shiloh, Bethel, Dan, Jericho, Ur [traditional], Philistine pentapolis, Damascus, Tyre and Sidon, Susa),
- d. Bodies of water (Mediterranean Sea, Jordan River, Dead Sea, Tigris River, Euphrates River, Nile River, Wadi El-Arish, Red Sea, Sea of Galilee), and
- e. Significant routes (Great Trunk Road [a.k.a. Via Maris, Way of the Sea, International Coastal Highway], The Kings' Highway, The Ridge Route [a.k.a. The Way of the Patriarchs]).

Geographical/Exposition Study: Develop a series of two (2) maps and accompanying explanations to assist in the study of the Old Testament Prophets. Develop a map in the following areas:

Map 1: Discuss the setting of Israel in the Ancient Middle East including such countries/regions as Egypt, Mesopotamia, etc. and the major bodies of water.

Map 2: Discuss the main cities and routes of ancient Canaan, especially those referred to in the Scriptures. Discuss those countries bordering Israel/Judah.

See the course files for maps for each project.

Include the following on each map:

- a. A page describing the information presented on a specific map and describing how this information helps you understand the Scriptures.
- b. Specific examples from the prophets to show how this information helps you understand the prophets.

## 2. Research Paper

Follow these requirements for writing a seven (7) to ten (10) page research paper:

- a. State the problem or thesis clearly in your introduction by including a one (1) sentence thesis statement in your first paragraph that depicts what you will prove about your topic.
- b. Provide a short preview that indicates the direction and outline of the paper. An introduction in a research paper is NOT like an introduction to a sermon so avoid personal stories or a paragraph to create “the need” in the reader.
- c. Defend any position you take with solid facts. Avoid quotations to establish your point. After you make your point, use a quote from an expert to demonstrate an “expert” holds your reasoning or conclusion.
- d. Include a good, brief conclusion. Note the sources you use not just those from whom you quote. Although content comprises the primary component, clarity, neatness, accuracy, and spelling will affect your grade.

Choose from ONE of the following assignments for research:

Synthetic Chart: Prepare a synthetic chart on Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah or Lamentations (choose one). Please consult the handout “Creating a Synthetic Chart” available in the course files for further details concerning his expectations for a synthetic chart.

Synthetic Charts (not the Final Prophets Chart which is assignment #3 below) have specific instructions that MUST be followed. Charts should still contain footnotes (or use endnotes if you prefer to keep the chart as clean as possible) to indicate where specific material has been obtained as well as a bibliography of 4 sources as stated above.

All papers will be graded according to the grading sheet included in the course files. Students often ask for numerous comments on their papers. Please notice that this grading sheet enables numerous comments to be made by carefully noting in which areas improvements could be made. All charts will be graded on a similar format that is specific for charts.

OR

Character/Expositional Study: Read through the Book of Jeremiah and collate all the personal references about the character, conduct, feelings, etc., of Jeremiah the prophet. Organize your material into a researched "character study" of this great prophet of God. Include an appendix in which you have listed each verse that you found in your study that applies in some way to the character of Jeremiah.

OR

Biblical Theology/ Integration Assignment: For pastoral/counseling majors— now that you are more familiar with the purpose, message, and method of the Old Testament prophets—write a paper on the “Validity of the Pastor [or Counselor] functioning as a Prophet.” Include major themes from the prophets that you would see the pastor/counselor utilizing in the

ministry. Your bibliography could include: Donald A. Leggett, *Loving God and Disturbing Men: Preaching from the Prophets* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990), 7-11; G. Tucker, "The Role of the Prophets and the Role of the Church," in *Prophecy in Israel*, ed. D. Petersen (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987), 159-74.

OR

Exegetical Study: Work through Daniel 9:24-27 and develop an analysis of these verses. Based on this analysis (including Hebrew when available to the student) develop a chart or diagram of the "70 weeks" showing the major events in the prophetic structure. Both the chart and an accompanying textual explanation should be handed in for this assignment.

OR

Expositional/Historical Study: Write a research paper on the fulfillment of prophecy in Daniel 11–12. The student may choose to present this material using charts and maps but an accompanying textual explanation should be included in for this assignment.

OR

Biblical Theology Study: Write a paper on the theme "The Day of the Lord in the Prophets."

OR

Biblical Theology Study: Develop a chart and an accompanying paper on "Messianic Expectations from the Prophets." You should center your paper on the prophecies that deal specifically with the person and work of the Messiah, not on those which deal more generally with the future Messianic/Millennium Kingdom.

OR

Biblical Theology Study: Write a paper on the theme "Expectations and Treatment of Non-Covenant Nations in the Prophets." Please include a page or two on the probability or improbability of the United States of America being treated as such a nation.

OR

Expositional Study: Write an exposition on the Book of Haggai. The exposition should include: a statement of the overall message, an outline of the book based on the overall message, and a brief explanation of each paragraph as the message is developed in the argument of the text. Obviously comments cannot be made on every verse in the book but all significant statements should be dealt with in your brief explanations.

OR

Expositional Study: Write a paper on "The Use of Deuteronomy 28 in the Prophets."

### 3. Summary Chart of the Prophets

Prepare three (3) charts that cover all the Old Testament writing prophets. Exclude Jonah since the course excludes Jonah, unless you prefer to include Jonah for your own personal benefit and for a complete chart.

Since this chart's purpose and formatting is dissimilar to a synthetic chart, ignore the instructions for a synthetic chart. Rather, include in this chart: date of the prophet, recipient, theme, purpose, message, unique characteristic of the prophecy or prophet, etc. Develop an excellent, concise summary of what you want to remember concerning the prophets. Also, many charts on the prophets appear in various chart books. Your chart should reflect the minimal information found on such charts and any additional information that reflects your appreciation of the message of the book, possible uses of such a message, and a simplified outline of each book.

Use the templates for the three charts. Cite sources in endnotes rather than footnotes. Attach your bibliography.

C. Exam

1. Take the final exam. Study the guide in the course files called "Biblical Literacy Areas" to help prepare for this exam.
2. Follow BE Department Policy regarding Final Exams:

Do not discuss this exam and its questions or any other BE exam with anyone who has already taken the exam. You WILL be asked to affirm that you have not done so when you take the final exam. To discuss the exam with someone who has already taken it will result in a significant penalty.

V. Course Policies

A. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

B. **Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading for 3 credits (non-MABC students)**

Reading.....	10%
Geographical/ExpositionalMaps .....	25%
Research Paper .....	25%
Summary Chart of the Prophets.....	25%
Final Exam .....	15%

Failure to complete videos will reduce your final grade one (1) point per module missed of videos.

Failure to participate in an interaction assignment will reduce your final grade four(4) points per interaction missed.

C. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading for 2 credits MABC students

Viewing of additional videos..... 20%

Reading..... 20%

Geographical/Expositional Maps ..... 40%

Final Exam.....20%

Failure to complete videos will reduce your final grade one (1) point per module missed of videos.

Failure to participate in an interaction assignment will reduce your final grade four (4) points per interaction missed.

D. Late Assignments

Submit all assignments on their scheduled due date. A 10% late penalty will apply to late assignments. Submit late papers by the end of the semester. Apply for an extension with the Credits Committee to submit late papers beyond the semester.

VI. Course Supplemental Information

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

The Presence of the Professor

While the online learning environment is different than the live classroom environment, your professor is still involved and available. You can expect your professor to participate in the required interactions/discussions regularly and substantially. You can also expect your professor to have at least 3 virtual live “office hours”. Your professor will inform you of the times and means that these will occur. Most professors will likely use the Chat feature provided by our online platform at [online.dts.edu](https://online.dts.edu).

VII. Course Schedule

Module	Lecture Topic	Assignments Due
1	Introduction to the Prophets	Smith, Chaps. 1, 2, 19 OR Hays Chaps. 1-5
2	<i>Obadiah</i> <i>Joel</i>	Read Obadiah Read Smith, Ch. 13 OR Hays Ch. 22 Read Joel Read Smith, Ch. 12 OR Hays Ch. 20
3	<i>Amos</i>	Read Amos Read Smith, Ch. 3 OR Hays Ch. 21
4	<i>Hosea</i>	Read Hosea Read Smith, Ch. 4 OR Hays Ch. 19 Geographical/Expositional Map 1
5	<i>Micah</i>	Read Micah Read Smith, Ch. 6 OR Hays Ch. 23 Research Paper
6	<i>Isaiah</i>	Read Isaiah Read Smith, Ch. 7 OR Hays Chaps. 6-9 Prophets Summary Chart: Part A
7	<i>Nahum</i> <i>Zephaniah</i> <i>Habakkuk</i>	Read Nahum Read Smith, Ch. 8 OR Hays Ch. 24a Read Zephaniah Read Smith, Ch. 9 OR Hays Ch. 25 Read Habakkuk Read Smith, Ch. 10 OR Hays Ch. 24b Geographical/Expositional Map 2
8	<i>Jeremiah</i> <i>Lamentations</i>	Read Jeremiah Read Smith, Ch. 11 OR Hays Ch. 10-13 Read Lamentations Prophets Summary Chart: Part B
9	<i>Ezekiel</i>	Read Ezekiel Read Smith, Ch. 14 OR Hays Chaps. 14-16
10	<i>Daniel</i>	Read Daniel Read Smith, Ch. 15 OR Hays Chaps. 17-18
11	<i>Haggai</i> <i>Zechariah</i> <i>Malachi</i>	Read Haggai Read Smith, Ch. 16 OR Hays Ch. 27a Read Zechariah Read Smith, Ch. 17 OR Hays Ch. 26 Read Malachi Read Smith, Ch. 18 OR Hays Ch. 27b Prophets Summary Chart: Part C
12	<i>Conclusion</i>	Final Exam