

Trinity International University

Trinity College

BI 304 Old Testament Prophetic Books	Prof. Samir B. Massouh
Fall Semester, 2007	(Office 335; ext. 7171
MWF 9-9:50, 2007	Office Hrs. TR 12:10-3:40 WF 3:10-4:00

Old Testament Prophetic Books

Mission Statement of the Department:

The goal of the Department of Biblical Studies is to help students grasp the message of the Bible, interpret the scriptures accurately, develop a Christian world view and integrate faith, living and learning. Faculty members are committed to studying the Bible in its historical and cultural context and applying it to present day ethical issues. Students will study various theological options and points of view of the larger Christian community and be encouraged to arrive at their own conclusions, based on careful study and scholarship. Faculty members will endeavor to model Christian character and life-style in their dealings with the students both in and outside the classroom.

This course is designed, in part, to help fulfill the mission statements of the College and the department by helping the students grasp the message of the Bible, interpret the scriptures accurately, and apply biblical values to today's ethical issues in the United States.

Course Description: An historical and theological analysis of the prophetic books of the Old Testament. The course will survey all the prophetic books briefly and focus in some detail on Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea and Zechariah. Selected passages will be exegeted in class using methods taught in BI 210 Biblical Interpretation. Prerequisite: BI 101, BI 210. Offered fall semester, 2007-8 and alternative years. *Three hours.*

Objectives: By the end of the course, the student is expected to do the following:

- Identify the basic content of each book of the Latter Prophets, Isaiah-Malachi
- Place each prophet within the main events in Israel's history
- Place main events in Israel's history within the context of the Ancient Near East
- Exegete a passage from the prophets using the methods taught in BI 210.

Textbook: J. Gordon McConville, *Exploring the Old Testament, volume 4: A Guide to the Prophets*, IVP.

John Bright, *The Kingdom of God*, Abingdon. (Recommended)

Bibliography: Consult the bibliography in the textbook.

Class Attendance: The student is expected to attend class lectures regularly. One may miss class while on an official Trinity function such as debate, choir and athletic events. Furthermore, a student may miss up to three (3) class lectures without a legitimate excuse. After that, each unexcused absence may result in lowering the student's course grade by five points.

Grading:

The instructor will use this scale in assigning grades:

A+ = 98-100	A = 94-97	A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86	B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76	C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66	D- = 60-63

There are two tests and one exegetical paper, each worth 33.3%. The semester consists of 42 class sessions which are divided into two halves. At the end of each half, the student will take a test covering both the required reading and the class lectures for that portion of the course. As a general rule, 60% of the questions will come from class lectures and 40% from the textbook.

Test #1 will be given on **Wednesday, October 10th**. It will cover:

- Class lectures covering Isaiah, Hosea-Micah
- The chapters in the textbook that deal with these prophets.

Test #2 will be given on **Monday, December 12th, 9-10 AM**. It will cover:

- Class lectures covering Jeremiah-Daniel, Nahum-Malachi
- The chapters in the textbook that deal with these prophets.

Exegetical Paper: Based on the methods taught in BI 210 and reviewed in this class, each student will write a paper 3000 words long (=10 pages, double spaced, typed, 1 inch margin, size 12 font), on a passage *not* studied in class. (I do not want you to write a paper that consists mainly of my own class lectures!). The paper is due on **Monday, November 12th**.

Notice Very Well: The tests and paper must be submitted on the assigned date. In case of official TIU business or medical/family emergency, the student must obtain permission from the instructor, the Academic Dean or Dean of Students allowing him/her to miss the exam. All make up work must be completed within **two (2) days** (excluding Saturday and Sunday) of the student's return to Trinity. If the student does not have permission to miss a test, or if make-up work is not completed within two days, the student will receive an automatic "F" for that work. Remember: You will earn an "F" if you miss the deadline.

Biblical Interpretation

Research Paper

A. Behind the Text (Background; "Introduction")

- 1 Author
- 2 Date
- 3 Audience
- 4 Purpose
- 5 Message
- 6 Historical Setting
- 7 Cultural/intellectual/theological setting
- 8 Outline of the Book
- 9 The context of the passage within the book
- 10 The context of the book within its larger block or genre

B. Within the Text (Exegesis)

- 11 Outline
- 12 Defense of the outline
- 13 Textual variations, alternative readings
- 14 Word Study
- 15 Genre
- 16 Use of antecedent scripture
- 17 Latter use of the text
- 18 Message = central theme
- 19 Content

C. In Front of the Text

20. Application