

**Old Testament Prophets**  
OT 3311—Course Syllabus  
Fall 2019

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**BA Course Goals:**

The student will show mastery of the biblical story and familiarity with various genres of biblical literature (law, wisdom, prophecy, poetry, etc.) and basic methods and principles of biblical exegesis.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the semester, the student will demonstrate a broad understanding of the historical background, theology, and character of the prophetic books of the Old Testament. The student should also gain sensitivity to issues in the church today and how the Old Testament prophets still speak to those issues.

**Required Texts:**

A study Bible, such as the Oxford Annotated Study Bible of the New Revised Standard Version, New English Bible, Harper/Collins Study Bible, Jerusalem Bible, or NIV Study Bible.

Newsome, James. *The Hebrew Prophets*. Louisville: W/JKP, 1984.

McConville, J. Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Prophets*. vol. 4. Downers' Grove: IVP, 2002.

Shipp, R. Mark. *The Not- So-Minor Prophets*.

**Course Requirements:**

Regular attendance and timely submission of assignments are required.

Three Tests:           75% (25% each)

Book Review:       25%

## **Schedule:**

**Week 1 (8/29):** Introduction to the course: Basic issues about prophecy in general; the value of the study of prophecy; Pre-Literary Prophecy (prophecy prior to Amos).

McConville, xi–xxxii

Newsome, 1–15.

Numbers 22–24; 1 Sam. 8–10; 2 Sam. 7; 1 Kings 17–2 Kings 10.

### ***Eighth Century Prophecy: Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah.***

**Week 2 (9/5):** *Amos*

McConville, 163–178.

Newsome, 16–29.

Amos.

**Week 3 (9/12):** *Hosea*.

McConville, 135–152.

Newsome, 30–43.

Hosea.

**Week 4 (9/19):** *Micah*.

McConville, 195–204.

Newsome, 44–57.

Micah.

**Week 5 (9/26):** **First Exam.: Pre-literary Prophets to Micah;** also *Isaiah 1–39*.

McConville, 1–44.

Newsome, 58–78.

Isaiah 1–39.

**Week 6 (10/3):** *Isaiah 1–39* (continued).

**Week 7 (10/10):** *Isaiah 1–39* (continued).

***Prophets of the Judean Destruction and Exile: Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah 40–66, and Obadiah.***

**Week 8** (10/17): *Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk; Jeremiah.*

McConville, 205–228.

Newsome, 79–100.

Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk.

**Week 9** (10/24): *Jeremiah* (continued).

McConville, 45–74.

Newsome, 101–123.

Jeremiah.

**Week 10** (10/31) ***Exam #2 (Isaiah-Jeremiah).*** Also, *Ezekiel.*

McConville, 83–108.

Newsome, 124–138.

Ezekiel 1–39.

**Week 11** (11/7): *Ezekiel* (continued).

**Week 12** (11/14): *Isaiah 40–66, Obadiah.*

McConville, 179–184.

Newsome, 139–156, 170–176, 180–183.

Isaiah 40–66 and Obadiah.

***The Prophets of Judean Restoration and Late Biblical Prophecy: Haggai, Zechariah, Jonah, Joel, Malachi.***

**Week 13** (11/21): *Haggai, Zechariah, Jonah, Joel, Malachi.*

McConville, 229–258; 153–162; 185–194; 259–270.

Newsome, 157–169, 177–187; 201–205.

Haggai and Zechariah 1–8; Jonah, Joel, Malachi.

**Week 14** (11/28): *No class; Thanksgiving holiday.*

**Week 15** (12/5): *Daniel, or catch-up.*

Newsome, 214–224.

Daniel.

**Week 16 (12/12): Exam #3 (Ezekiel-Malachi)** (or Daniel, if we get that far).

### **Book Reviews:**

All book reviews will be due the the last regularly scheduled class day prior to finals week, 4/29. Papers should be 3-5 pages in length. Proper research style, including footnoting of sources and correct spelling and grammar are absolutely essential. All papers should be typed and double spaced.

You should use the AGST guide for writing a critical book review ("Faith & Scholarship">"Resources">"Student Resources," on the [Austingrad.edu](http://Austingrad.edu) webpage). Your book review should contain 1–2 pages of survey of the contents of the book and 1–2 pages of critical reflection on what the author's presuppositions are, how well he handles his material, whether he is consistent, how well he reflects the text of scripture, etc.

### **Sample Review Books:**

Brueggemann, Walter, *Hopeful Imagination: Prophetic Voices in Exile*.

Brueggemann, Walter, *The Prophetic Imagination*.

Brueggemann, Walter, *Tradition for Crisis: A Study in Hosea*.

Fretheim, Terence, *The Message of Jonah*.

Gowan, Donald, *The Triumph of Faith in Habakkuk*.

Heschel, Abraham, *The Prophets* (either volume one or two).

Holladay, William, *Jeremiah: Spokesman Out of Time*.

Kaiser, Walter, *Malachi: God's Unchanging Love*.

Kidner, Derek, *Love to the Loveless: The Message of Hosea*.

McConville, J. G., *Judgment and Promise: An Interpretation of the Book of Jeremiah*.

Russell, D. S., *Daniel: An Active Volcano*.

White, R. E. O., *The Indomitable Prophet: A Biographical Commentary on Jeremiah*.