

# HYFLEX COURSE SYLLABUS OT 453 – READING THE PROPHETS

**Instructor: Dr. Carmen Imes** 

carmen.imes@prairie.edu
Office: Maxwell 209

Office Hours: 1:30-3:00 M/Th

TA: Karen Hagens

karen.hagens@gmail.com

Winter 2 2021 3 credit hours 8:30–9:45, MTThF Classroom: FH 302 Shannon Warnock

shannon.warnock@gmail.com

Welcome to OT 453! We're in for a wild ride this term as we explore the most powerful rhetoric of the Old Testament. If you have questions about the course or the Bible or something else on your mind, you are welcome to drop by to see me during office hours or email to make an appointment. We also have a Zoom room set aside for office hours on our course page under "Zoom."

**Course Description:** A study of the Latter Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Twelve), with Daniel and Lamentations, focusing on developing sensitivity to the historical, literary, and theological dimensions of these books. Class time will include discussion of the relevance of the prophetic books for contemporary critical issues.

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you should be able to...

#### Know:

- 1. Describe the literary, historical, and theological dimensions of the prophetic books.
- 2. Discuss the relevance of the biblical prophets for today.

#### Feel:

- 3. Exhibit respect for questions related to the subject and to those who raise them.
- 4. Express your appreciation for the OT Prophetic books as Scripture.

#### Do:

- 5. Analyze prophetic oracles in light of their historical context and literary features.
- 6. Identify good scholarly resources and grow in confidence in seeking out such resources.

#### **Required Books and Materials**

- NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.
- Chalmers, Aaron. *Interpreting the Prophets: Reading, Understanding and Preaching from the Worlds of the Prophets.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015.
- Rah, Soong-Chan. *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015.
- Other required readings are scanned and available on Brightspace.

## **Performance Evaluation**

<b>Learning Outcome</b>	Assessment Strategy	Weight
1, 4, 5	Bible Reading	(see below)
1, 5	Quizzes	10%
1, 3, 5, 6	Insight Reports	10%
1, 2, 3, 4	Rah Reflection Paper	10%
1, 5	Poetry Analysis	10%
1, 3, 4, 5, 6	Final Project, Part 1	20%
1, 2, 4, 5, 6	Final Project, Part 2	40%

## **Course Assignments**

## 1. BIBLE READING

Closely read the relevant chapters of our study Bible before each class, as well as the book introductions and extra articles along the way. Read footnotes that interest you or help answer your questions. Bring a Bible to class <u>every day</u>, even if you're joining on Zoom (it doesn't have to be the Study Bible, but it cannot be your cell phone or laptop). Keep track of your reading on the Reading Report provided. No point value is assigned for Bible reading, but the percent you complete will be the formula used to calculate your final grade. E.g., if you earned a 95% in the class but only do 90% of the reading, your final grade will be an 85%.

## 2. MAP AND TIMELINE QUIZZES – 10%

Blank maps and Timelines will be provided. On the day of each quiz you'll need to fill them in with the list of required places/people/dates. Hyflex students will upload a picture of their completed map or timeline to Brightspace on quiz day.

## 3. TEXTBOOK INSIGHT REPORTS – 10%

Read through the designated chapter(s) of our textbooks or other reading before class on the days assigned. Neatly fill out an Insight Report on the assigned reading each day, indicating what percent you read. Include at least 3 insights and at least 3 questions. Come to class ready to discuss what you read.

### 4. RAH REFLECTION PAPER – 10%

After reading Soong-Chan Rah's book, please write a 2-3 page typed reflection paper. How has the book challenged you? What would you want to ask the author? What issues in Canadian society (or in your home country) might need to be addressed in similar ways? (See "Academic Policies" below for formatting details.)

## 5. POETRY ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT – 10%

Analyze Jeremiah 18:1-17, looking for features of biblical poetry such as parallelism, metaphor, and chiasm. Type out and annotate the assigned passage, noting poetic features and

overall structure. On the due date, you'll write a quiz on the poetic features and prophetic message of this passage. See rubric on Brightspace for more information on how it will be marked.

## 6. FINAL PROJECT – 60%

This capstone project is designed to demonstrate the breadth of skills you have developed in all your Bible classes at Prairie. First, choose a prophetic oracle from Joel, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, or Malachi. Part 1, worth 20% of your overall grade, is a research paper that interprets your chosen passage in light of its historical, literary, and theological contexts, expressing its major themes. Your paper should demonstrate evidence of careful analysis of a prophetic oracle (i.e., a poetry analysis) and quality research in quality sources (commentaries, dictionary articles, journal articles, monographs), and will be assessed for quality of written expression as well as content. Be sure to include a properly-formatted bibliography of sources consulted. (See "Academic Policies" below for formatting details.) Both your poetry analysis and your paper are due in class (for on-campus students) or on Brightspace (for hyflex).

Part 2 will involve thoughtful application of your research from Part 1 to a contemporary issue facing the church (e.g., immigration/refugees, human trafficking, addiction, idolatry, etc.). Our model is the way Soong-Chan Rah addresses issues of racial inequality in light of the message of Lamentations. You may either produce a creative project or a lesson plan. In either case your finished project should reflect the quality time you spent studying the text itself as well as relevant secondary literature in part 1, plus substantive reflection on how the text addresses a contemporary issue. Your final submission is worth 40% of your grade. You're welcome to work with other students if you list their names on your project, but you must work together from the beginning and each provide a brief report of your classmates' contributions. You'll sign up to present an abbreviated version of your project to the class.

- Option #1: Creative Project Attempt to capture the message of your passage with an original piece of art (painting, drawing, 3-D mixed media, quilt, pottery, sculpture, etc.), musical composition, video, spoken word poem, or other creative project. Your submission must include a short paper (typed) with a bibliography of sources consulted addressing these areas:
  - o summarize the theme of your passage based on your research in Part 1,
  - o address a contemporary issue in light of what you learned from the scriptures, and
  - o explain how your creative project portrays that theme, giving specifics.

For example, how did the theme affect your choice of color, arrangement, style, even media? You will be graded on the quality of your project (that is, on its own merits). To get you started, what are some of the key images/metaphors used in prophetic literature? How could you engage key themes of prophetic literature in contemporary ways?

- Option #2: Teaching Lesson Create a lesson plan or plans for teaching on your passage. Your plan should include
  - your target audience (youth group, Sunday school, adult retreat, Bible Study, etc.),
  - o the length of time your presentation will take,
  - o any visuals/illustrations you plan to use,

- o the substance of what you plan to say,
- o and a bibliography of sources you consulted.

Your lesson should address a contemporary issue in light of the scriptures. You'll be graded on the quality of your preparation and your ability to communicate that message to your target audience.

## **Grading scale**

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	90-100	4.0
A	85–89	4.0
A-	80-84	3.7
B+	77–79	3.3
В	73–76	3.0
B-	70–72	2.7
C+	67–69	2.3
C	63–66	2.0
C-	60-62	1.7
D+	57-59	1.3
D	53-56	1.0
D-	50-52	0.7
F	Below 50	0

Numerical course grades are not rounded.

## **Academic Policies**

NOTE: All handwritten work should be done neatly in blue or black pen. All typed submissions should be in Times New Roman 12-point font and double-spaced. All assignments should include your first and last name and box number in the upper right-hand corner of the first page. No cover page necessary. Double-sided is fine. Multiple-page submissions must be stapled. Failing to bring your assignment to class on the day it is due or uploading it to Brightspace by the start of class will result in a 5% grade reduction (that is, it will be counted late). DO NOT SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL. English style and quality of writing are part of your grade. Before submission, check for the following common errors / weaknesses:

- Bible and Old Testament should be capitalized (biblical is lowercase, since it is an adjective).
- Always use complete sentences.
- Avoid contractions in academic writing ("Do not" rather than "Don't).
- Avoid passive sentences ("Bill threw the ball," not "The ball was thrown by Bill").
- Avoid sentences beginning with "there is" or "there are" (weak sentence constructions).
- Avoid personal reflection ("Arnold argues . . . ," not "I was so surprised to learn that . . .").
- Commas and periods belong inside of quotation marks and before footnote numbers.
- Footnote citations follow a different style than bibliographic citations. Check the handbook.
- Book titles should always be italicized. Article titles should be in quotation marks.
- Cut every unnecessary word, even the ones you really like. Every word should matter.

### Attendance, late work

In order to be counted present, hyflex students are required to join class live on Zoom, and on-campus students are required to attend class in person *unless you make other arrangements with me in advance*. Students who have made arrangements to watch the recordings because of a time zone difference or other unavoidable reason must watch the recording within 24 hours *and email me to let me know that you have done so*. Your email should include the date of the class you watched in the subject line, comments about what you learned from the class, and any questions you have. You are permitted 4 absences without penalty. You will be penalized at the rate of a 5% grade reduction per class missed beyond this limit, up to 50% of the course grade. Two tardies are the equivalent of one unexcused absence. No reading responses may be turned in late. For other late assignments, the policy is outlined in the Academic Guide.

## **Participation & Technology Policy**

Your participation in this class is vital for all of us. If you bring your whole self to class, everyone will benefit. Please bring your curiosity and questions, your insights and openness to new ideas, your diligence in preparation, and your focused attention. For your own sake and the sake of your classmates, on-campus students will not be allowed to use laptops or phones in class unless otherwise directed. Hyflex students, please close other tabs and programs at the beginning of class. Only Brightspace and Zoom should be open. I encourage everyone, even hyflex students, to take notes on paper.

## Statement on academic integrity

There are no shortcuts to success. Violations of academic integrity include: Plagiarism, Collusion/Inappropriate Assistance, Cheating, fabrication/falsification/alteration, Unauthorized and Multiple Submission. A student who violates academic honesty will be subject to disciplinary action according to the Academic Guide.

#### **Student Success**

Students with documented learning disabilities must let me know during the first week of the term (preferably the first day of class) so that I can make accommodations. Please inform the Student Success Office, located in the Library, of requested accommodations. If you have been, or should be diagnosed, please don't tell yourself you'll be fine. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively, after you realize you should have asked for help. The professor and the staff in Student Success are here to ensure that you get the most out of this class. We can't help you if we don't know how you're struggling. Perhaps you don't have a learning disability, but you could use some help. Student Success is here for you, too! For further advocacy and academic assistance, please contact Student Success (bill.nyman@prairie.edu or veronica.lewis @prairie.edu). You can also drop by the library Monday & Wednesday 4:20–5:35pm for help.

## **Intellectual Property**

Unless otherwise stated, all course materials are the intellectual property of the instructor or Prairie College, or of third parties, and are for use only in this course. Canada's Copyright Act grants students certain user's rights; unauthorized use, distribution, publication, or posting of any of this material outside its provisions constitutes academic misconduct and may be illegal.

#### **Use of Turnitin**

This course makes use of Turnitin, a third-party application that helps maintain academic integrity. Assignments uploaded in Brightspace will be submitted to Turnitin and will be added to the Turnitin reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. Turnitin compares student work to a vast range of available sources and submits an originality report. The report simply shows the instructor whether sections of a student's work are similar to or copies of pre-existing material. Turnitin's Privacy and Security statements are here: https://help.turnitin.com/Privacy\_and\_Security/Privacy\_and\_Security.htm

#### **Covid-19 Protocol**

You are required to follow all protocol for classrooms as stipulated by Prairie College. Because the particular instructions may change as the pandemic develops over the course of the year, these protocols are provided in a separate document found on Prairie's website.

## **Bibliography:**

## **Supplementary Readings (scanned on Brightspace)**

- Newsom, Carol A. "A Maker of Metaphors—Ezekiel's Oracles Against Tyre." *Interpretation* 38 (1984) 151–64
- Stromberg, Jacob, "Formation of the Prophetic Books," pages 271–79 in Mark J. Boda, and J. Gordon McConville, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament Prophets*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.
- Udd, Kris J., "Prediction and Foreknowledge in Ezekiel's Prophecy against Tyre," *Tyndale Bulletin* 56 (2005) 25–41.

### **Old Testament Backgrounds**

- Nissinen, Martti, with C. L. Seow and Robert K. Ritner. *Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East*. SBL Writings from the Ancient World. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2003.
- Sparks, Kenton L. Ancient Texts for the Study of the Hebrew Bible: A Guide to the Background Literature. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005.
- Walton, John H. Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.
- Walton, John H., Victor H. Matthews, and Mark W. Chavalas. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2000.
- Walton, John H. and D. Brent Sandy. *The Lost World of Scripture: Ancient Literary Culture and Biblical Authority*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2013.
- Walton, John H., ed. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Old Testament*. Vol 4: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel. Vol 5: The Minor Prophets. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

### **Old Testament / Prophets**

Adeyemo, Tokunboh, ed. Africa Bible Commentary. Nairobi, Kenya: Word Alive, 2006.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *A History of Prophecy in Israel*. Rev. and Enlarged. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

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Brueggemann, Walter. The Prophetic Imagination. 2nd ed. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Bullock, C. Hassell. An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books. Chicago: Moody, 2007.

Gordon, Robert, ed. *The Place is Too Small For Us: The Israelite Prophets in Recent Scholarship.* Sources for Biblical and Theological Study 5. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1995.

Hays, Daniel J. *The Message of the Prophets: A Survey of the Prophetic and Apocalyptic Books of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Heschel, Abraham J. The Prophets: An Introduction. 2 vols. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.

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#### Isaiah

Childs, Brevard S. Isaiah. OTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox/SCM, 2001.

Goldingay, John. Isaiah. UBCS. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Grogan, G. W. Isaiah. REBC 6. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Motyer, J. A. The Prophecy of Isaiah. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1994.

Oswalt, John N. Isaiah 1–39 and Isaiah 40–66. 2 vols. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986/1998.

\_\_\_\_\_. Isaiah. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Seitz, Christopher R. *Isaiah 1–39*. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993.

#### **Jeremiah & Lamentations**

Allen, Leslie C. Jeremiah: A Commentary. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008.

Berlin, Adele. Lamentations. OTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox/SCM, 2002.

Brown, Michael L. "Jeremiah." REBC 7. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.

Brueggemann, Walter. The Theology of the Book of Jeremiah. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006.

Fretheim, Terrence E. Jeremiah. SHBC. Smyth & Helwys, 2002.

Garrett, Duane & Paul R. House. *Song of Songs / Lamentations*. WBC 23B. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Longman, Tremper III. Jeremiah, Lamentations. UBCS 14. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Lundbom, J. R. *Jeremiah 1–20* and *Jeremiah 21–36* and *Jeremiah 37–52*. 3 vols. AYBC. Yale University Press, 1999/2004.

Parry, R. A. Lamentations. Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary. Eerdmans, 2010.

Provan, Iain. Lamentations. New Century Bible Commentary. Sheffield/Marshall Pickering, 1991.

Villanueva, Federico G. Lamentations. ABCS. Cumbria: Langham Global Library, 2016.

Walker, L. L., and Elmer A. Martens. *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations*. Cornerstone Bible Commentary. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2005.

## **Ezekiel**

Blenkinsopp, J. Ezekiel. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1990.

Block, Daniel I. The Book of Ezekiel 1–24 and The Book of Ezekiel 25–48. 2 vols. NICOT. 1997/1998.

Duguid, I. Ezekiel. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan/Hodder & Stoughton, 1999.

Jensen, Robert W. Ezekiel. Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible. Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009.

Sweeney, Marvin A. *Reading Ezekiel: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2013.

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Wright, Christopher. *The Message of Ezekiel: A New Heart and a New Spirit.* Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2001.

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Collins, John J. Daniel. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress/SCM, 1993.

Hamilton, James M. With the Clouds in Heaven: The Book of Daniel in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2014.

Hill, Andrew E. Daniel. REBC 8. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Longman, Tremper, III. Daniel. NIVAC. Grand Rapids: Zondervan/Hodder & Stoughton, 1999.

Nelson, William B. Daniel. UBCS. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Scheetz, Jordan M. *The Concept of Canonical Intertextuality and the Book of Daniel*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2011.

Seow, Choon-Leong. *Daniel*. Westminster Bible Companion. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003. Widder, Wendy L. *Daniel*. The Story of God Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

## The Twelve Minor Prophets (as a whole)

Online bibliographies for viewing the Book of the Twelve as a unity available at: <a href="http://www.cjconroy.net/bib/twelve.htm">http://www.cjconroy.net/bib/twelve.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.uni-due.de/~gev020/twelve/12b">http://www.cjconroy.net/bib/twelve.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.uni-due.de/~gev020/twelve/12b">http://www.cjconroy.net/bib/twelve.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.uni-due.de/~gev020/twelve/12b">http://www.cjconroy.net/bib/twelve.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.uni-due.de/~gev020/twelve/12b">http://www.cjconroy.net/bib/twelve.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.uni-due.de/~gev020/twelve/12b">http://www.uni-due.de/~gev020/twelve/12b</a> bib1-date.htm</a>

House, Paul. The Unity of the Twelve. Bible and Literature 27. LHB/OTS. Sheffield: Almond, 1990.

McComisky, Thomas, ed. *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2009.

Nogalski, James D. & Marvin A. Sweeney, eds. *Reading and Hearing the Book of the Twelve*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2000.

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Goldingay, John. Hosea—Micah. BCOT: Prophetic Books. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2021.

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Walton, John H. Jonah. REBC 8. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

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Andersen, Francis I. and David Noel Freedman. Micah. AB 24E. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

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#### **Series Abbreviations**

AB/AYBC Anchor Bible/Anchor Yale Bible Commentary

ABCS Asia Bible Commentary Series

ITC International Theological Commentary

LHB/OTS Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies

NAC New American Commentary

NIBCOT New Interpreter's Bible Commentary: Old Testament
NICOT New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIVAC New International Version Application Commentary

OTL Old Testament Library

PNTC Pillar New Testament Commentary

REBC Expositor's Bible Commentary: Revised Edition

SHBC Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary TOTC Tyndale Old Testament Commentary

UBCS Understanding the Bible Commentary Series

WBC Word Biblical Commentary
WEC Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary

ZECOT Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament

# **OT 453 Class schedule**

Day	Date	Торіс	Textbook / Assignments	Scripture Reading	
M	Mar 15	What is a Prophet? What is Prophecy?			
T	Mar 16	Isaiah: Historical	Chalmers 1-2	Isaiah 1-12	
Th	Mar 18	Isaiah: Messianic Prophecy	Map Quiz	Isaiah 13-24	
F	Mar 19	Isaiah		Isaiah 25-39	
M	Mar 22	Isaiah	Timeline Quiz	Isaiah 40-55	
T	Mar 23	Isaiah: Theological	Chalmers 3	Isaiah 56-66	
Th	Mar 25	No Class – Global Connections Conference			
F	Mar 26	Isaiah in the NT			
M	Mar 29	Isaiah: Authorship	Stromberg		
T	Mar 30	Jeremiah: Rhetorical	Chalmers 4	Jeremiah 1-15	
Th	Apr 1	Jeremiah	Poetry Analysis on Jer 18:1-17 (Quiz)	Jeremiah 16-28	
F	Apr 2	No Class – Good Friday			
M	Apr 5	No Class – Easter Monday			
T	Apr 6	Jeremiah		Jeremiah 29-45	
Th	Apr 8	Jeremiah/Lamentations		Jeremiah 46-52	
F	Apr 9	Lamentations		Lamentations 1-5	
M	Apr 12	Discussion of Rah	Rah Reflection Paper		
T	Apr 13	The Twelve: Hosea		Hosea	
Th	Apr 15	The Twelve: Amos		Joel, Amos	
F	Apr 16	The Twelve: Obadiah		Obadiah	
M	Apr 19	The Twelve: Jonah		Jonah, Micah, Nahum	
Т	Apr 20	The Twelve: Zechariah		Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Zechariah	
Th	Apr 22	Eschatology	Final Project, Part 1	Haggai, Malachi	
F	Apr 23	Ezekiel: Prophetic Call		Ezekiel 1-17	
M	Apr 26	Ezekiel: Oracles	Newsom	Ezekiel 18-35	
T	Apr 27	Ezekiel	Udd	Ezekiel 36-48	
Th	Apr 29	Ezekiel			
F	Apr 30	Daniel: Apocalyptic	Chalmers 5-6	Daniel 1-6	
M	May 3	Daniel: Intertextuality		Daniel 7-12	
T	May 4	No Class (Study Day)			
W	May 5 8-10am	Project Presentations	Final Project, Part 2		