



COURSE SYLLABUS

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SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

Format: Eight weeks.

Course ID: BIOT 3423

Course Title: The Former Prophets

College: College of Unrestricted Education

Prerequisites: BIBL 2623

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

Course Description

This course overviews the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings) with emphasis on the historical setting, literary context, and theological emphases of these books. Special attention will be given to literary genre, interpreting the Former Prophets within the Christian canonical context, and their ethical implications in the contemporary context. The professor may overview this literature or emphasize one or more specific books.

Course Overview

In this course, students will engage directly with the texts of the Former Prophets, both as exegetes of the biblical material and interpreters of the communities that have received and interpreted them in the past. You will develop a robust awareness of the historical matrix that gave rise to the texts of Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, and 1 & 2 Kings by reading and responding to modern biblical scholarship. You will also develop relevant Christian ministry competencies by reading the texts in conversation with theologians and alongside comparable contemporary ethical issues. You will have an opportunity to bring your knowledge and insight to bear on these ethical issues through social media engagement with your peers as these issues emerge and are played out in digital spaces in real time.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is **9 hours per week**.

Course Materials

Brueggemann, W. (2001). *Prophetic imagination* (2nd ed.). Fortress Press.
Miller, J. M., & Hayes, J. H. (2008). *A history of ancient Israel and Judah*. Westminster John Knox Press. Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through [SEU's bookstore](#).

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Course Topics

The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:

- The Israelite conquest of Canaan
- Deuteronomistic history
- Literary genre and dynamics of the Former Prophets
- Theological challenges in the Former Prophets
- Contemporary social ethics in light of the biblical witness

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Articulate the historical context, literary structure, and theological themes of the Former Prophets.
2. Demonstrate the ability to research within the Former Prophets.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate the message of the Former Prophets within a Christian context.
4. Assess the ethical implications of the message of the Former Prophets in the contemporary context.

Late Work

Late work may be conditionally accepted only if approved by the instructor prior to the deadline. Otherwise, not accepted.

Extra Credit

None accepted.

SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.


SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.


Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS


Aim

 When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

Learn

 When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

Apply

 When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

MODULE 1:
XX/XX/XX-XX/XX/XX



- Describe the historical and geographical setting in which the Former Prophets narrative material transpires.
- Recall the biblical material that precedes Joshua–2 Kings.
- Discuss the communities of authorship and redaction that produced the Former Prophets narratives.
- Rehearse the essential theological themes that comprise the Former Prophets metanarrative.
- Identify genre and relevant Hebrew Bible literary conventions in the Former Prophets material.



- Read Deuteronomy 27:1–34:12.
- Read: Chapter 1-3 of Miller & Hayes, pp. 1–83.
- View: Additional resources (provided in the course)



- Discussion Module 1 Discussion Forum
 - ILO: 1
 - Due: Sunday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30

➤ Module 1 Reading Questions

- ILOs: 1
- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 100

MODULE 2:
XX/XX/XX-XX/XX/XX



- Outline the literary structure of the book of Joshua.
- Identify the community of authorship that produced the book of Joshua.
- Articulate how the book of Joshua establishes both continuity and projection for Israel's national identity.
- Discuss the ethical ramifications of the conquest of Canaan.
- Explore theological themes at play in the book of Joshua.



- Read Joshua 1:1–24:33.
- Read: Chapter 5 of Miller & Hayes, pp. 84–117.
- Read: Chapters 1-2 of Brueggemann, pp. 1–37.
- View: Additional resources (provided in the course)



- Discussion Module 2 Discussion Forum
 - ILO: 1
 - Due: Sunday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30
- Module 2 Reading Questions
 - ILOs: 1
 - Due: Tuesday

○ Points: 100

MODULE 3:
XX/XX/XX-XX/XX/XX



- Outline the literary structure of the book of Judges.
- Identify the community of authorship that produced the book of Judges.
- Articulate how the book of Judges contributes to Israel's cultural identity and lays the groundwork for the monarchy.
- Discuss how the pattern of disloyalty, oppression, outcry, and deliverance in the book of Judges functions in the ancient Israelite religious identity.
- Explore theological themes at play in the book of Judges.



- Read Judges 1:1–21:25.
- View: Additional resources (provided in the course)



- Module 3 Discussion Forum
 - ILO: 1
 - Due: Sunday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30
- Module 3 Reading Questions
 - ILOs: 1
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

MODULE 4:
XX/XX/XX-XX/XX/XX



- Identify Samuel's role as prophet in the transition from judges to monarchy.
- Articulate how the prophetic role in ancient Israel emerged with multiple functions: priest, seer, war leader, and judge.
- Critically evaluate 1 Samuel's rejection of the house of Eli and the Shiloh priesthood.
- Describe the rise, reign, and decline of Saul as Israel's first monarch.
- Analyze the text's political and theological preference for David during his rise to power and his conflict with Saul.



- Read 1 Samuel 1:1–31:13.
- Read: Chapter 5 of Miller & Hayes, pp. 119–147.
- View: Additional resources (provided in the course)



- Discussion Module 4 Discussion Forum
 - ILO: 1
 - Due: Sunday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30
- Module 4 Reading Questions
 - ILOs: 1, 3, 4
 - Due: Tuesday

- Points: 100
- Project Proposal
 - ILO: 2
 - Due: Tuesday

MODULE 5:
XX/XX/XX-XX/XX/XX



- Describe the transition of Israelite power from the house of Saul to David's kingship.
- Identify the significance of the establishment of Jerusalem as capital and the ark's placement therein.
- Explore the theological implications of God's covenant with David.
- Analyze the ethical issues at play in the Bathsheba affair and Nathan's critique of David.
- Trace the events of Absalom's usurpation and failed coup.



- Read 2 Samuel 1:1–24:25.
- Read: Chapters 6–7 of Miller & Hayes, pp. 148–220.
- Read: Chapters 3–4 of Brueggemann, pp. 39–79.
- View: Additional resources (provided in the course)



- Discussion Module 5 Discussion Forum
 - ILO: 1
 - Due: Sunday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30
- Module 5 Reading Questions

- ILOs: 1, 3, 4
- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 100

MODULE 6:
XX/XX/XX-XX/XX/XX



- Recall the major events and expansions of the united kingdoms of Judah and Israel during Solomon's reign.
- Identify the primary causes for the dissolution of the united kingdoms and the northern secession.
- List the kings of Israel and Judah following the division and their essential activities.
- Evaluate the changing role of the prophet with the emergence of Elijah.
- Analyze the conflicts between Elijah and Ahab, as well as the political and religious motivations their efforts represent.



- Read 1 Kings 1:1–22:53.
- Read: Chapters 3–4 of Brueggemann, pp. 39–79.
- View: Additional resources (provided in the course)



- Module 6 Discussion Forum
 - ILO: 1
 - Due: Sunday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30

➤ Module 6 Reading Questions

- ILOs: 1, 3, 4
- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 100

➤ Project Outline

- ILO: 2
- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 15

MODULE 7:
XX/XX/XX-XX/XX/XX



- Recall the major events of Elisha's ministry.
- List the kings of Israel and Judah and their essential activities prior to the invasion of Israel and the fall of Jerusalem.
- Describe the reign of Hezekiah and his relationship with Isaiah.
- List the reforms of Josiah.
- Compare the author(s) of 2 Kings' narration of the captivity of Israel by Assyria to the fall of Jerusalem and the exile of Judah perpetrated by Babylon



- Read 2 Kings 1:1–25:30.
- Read: Chapters 3–4 of Brueggemann, pp. 39–79.
- View: Additional resources (provided in the course)



- Discussion Module 7 Discussion Forum
 - ILO: 1
 - Due: Sunday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30
- Module 7 Reading Questions
 - ILOs: 1, 3, 4

- Due: Tuesday
- Points: 100

MODULE 8:
XX/XX/XX-XX/XX/XX



- Identify contemporary social and ethical issues that have precedent in the Former Prophets.
- Summarize the metanarratives of the texts of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings.
- Trace the development of national religious and cultural identity in ancient Israel through the Former Prophets.
- Analyze the rise and decline of the sovereign nations of Israel and Judah.
- Identify opportunities for leveraging creative Christian ministries informed by the Former Prophets.



- Read: Chapters 3-4 of Brueggemann, pp. 39–79.
- View: Additional resources (provided in the course)



- Discussion f Module 8 Discussion Forum
 - ILO: 1
 - Due: Sunday, Tuesday
 - Points: 30
- Module 8 Reading Questions
 - ILOs: 1, 3, 4

- Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100
- Creative Project/Exegetical Research Paper
 - ILO: 2
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Discussion Forums

Description

In these forums and threads, students will engage in discourse with both the learning material and their peers to produce critical and informed reflections on both the significant content encountered in the module as well as applicability of that content to their lived experiences as people of faith, ministers of the gospel, scholars of the text, and civically engaged lifelong learners. Students will respond to the prompt in an original post by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time. They will then engage in discussion by responding to other students' original posts as well as replies to those posts. Students must participate in at least one thread where they critique, question, or push back on an idea, and in at least one thread where they reinforce, affirm, or expand on the main idea. These responses must be complete by Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. each week.

Total Possible Points

240

Reading Questions

Description

Students will respond to a series of questions with one to two full paragraphs in which they will critically evaluate the reading material from this week, consider its relevance to the learning objectives, and produce competent, informed reflections on its implication for biblical studies, theology, or Christian ministry, as applicable.

Total Possible Points

800 points

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Creative Project/Exegetical Research Paper

Description

Students will choose between completing a creative project on a theme or themes from the course or writing an exegetical research paper on a pericope from the Former Prophets.

Creative Project:

Develop a creative solution for contemporary Christian ministers who are seeking to bring the wisdom and insight of the Former Prophets to shape their faith communities. Based on the themes of power, ethics, fidelity, and social/cultural conflict, develop a presentation, work of art, or creative writing essay that frames current issues in Christian ministry in the context of the narratives and message of the Former Prophets.

Exegetical Paper:

Choose a pericope (passage) from one of the books of the Former Prophets we read in the class (Joshua–2 Kings) to interpret using sound exegetical practices. An introduction, historical analysis, detailed analysis and synthesis, reflection, and bibliography should be included. A rubric is provided to help guide the development of the paper.

Total Possible Points

115 (15 points for the Project Outline; 100 points for the Creative Project or Exegetical Research Paper).