

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND AGREEMENT

OT 4420 Old Testament Prophets

Spring 2012 Alternative Time Delivery Course (Hybrid)

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Task #1 Read the following Course Description and Agreement

Task # 2 Register on Moodle for the OT 4420 course (your registration on the OT 4420 Spring 2012 Moodle Site will be indication that you have read and agree to the general course expectations as detailed below .

*Alternative Time Delivery Course – this is a course taught on-line as well as in conjunction with 3 class meetings. It requires that you are an independent learner with good discipline to do the weekly assignments on your own according to your schedule. The first gathering on Feb 4th will clarify the course requirements below and how to access the on-line activities. Don't worry about that for now. In the meantime, **please complete the Assignment found at the end of this syllabus for the Sat Feb 4th class meeting.** You must do the reading before coming to class. There are no on-line activities before that meeting- only reading assignments, one of which is on-line..*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An investigation of the historical, compositional, and literary dimensions of the prophetic books of the Hebrew Bible. An exploration of how the message of the biblical prophets integrates the theological traditions of the past with the distinctive socio-cultural realities of their own context. Central to these investigations will be our study of these biblical texts in conjunction with relevant outside readings as well as contemporary ministerial issues and challenges with which they intersect.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Weekly Assignments:

1. Weekly reading assignments as specified in the syllabus (which will be handed out at the first class meeting (Feb 4)) . These reading assignments include assigned biblical reading, introductory readings that fill in the background of the prophetic text, and articles that address theological, textual, ethical or ministerial topics as related to these prophets.
2. Weekly on-line participatory or individual assignments. (contact time 2- 3 hrs/week) This includes your written response to the unit's question addressing outside reading or activities and occasionally your response to other students' answers. You will upload these on-line within a particular time frame after which

you will not be able to submit the assignment. (20-30 hrs contact time for the semester)

3. Lectures on-line – these can be listened to with the accompanying powerpoint presentation any time. You need not listen to the whole lecture at one time. And you may return to these presentations for review.

Saturday Classroom Meetings

4. Attendance at 3 Saturday class meetings for presentations, seminars sessions and input forums. All three are mandatory in order to earn course credit – no exception! Dates: Feb 4th, March 17th and May 5th. All three Saturday Sessions run from 9:00am-4:00pm (20 hrs contact time).
5. Three content exams Feb 4, March 17, and May 5 –that require adequate grasp and synthesis of reading material and on-line assignments.

Semester Assignment:

1. Each student will prepare a Paper, Project, or Textbook chapter on a prophet we *did not* consider in this course. The semester assignment must be proposed and approved before you begin. Submission of what you intend to do and the prophet or text you intend to study is due on March 17th
Due Date for submission is May 12th

Paper: an exegetical paper on one prophetic text (approximately 10 verses) that demonstrates critical engagement of the research on this text, good exegetical method, and your own critical interpretative thesis. 12 pages. (you must confirm with me the text you intend to study and have it approved before beginning).

Project: propose a five week course on some prophetic text or part of a prophetic text. Designate the audience and context in some detail. Be sure to define the course goal and each class objective (5 classes). In addition to the cs outline, and these other intro matters, the project will include detailed outlines of each of the 5 classes making clear the content covered, the pedagogy, the readings, and other elements to accomplish the goal of that particular class. How you will review the effectiveness of the course should also be included as well as the resources that you would use to both develop and teach the course.

Textbook Chapter: design an original book chapter for a text aimed for a college class, an adult educational program or a high school program that introduces one prophet that we did not cover in class. The chapter can be no more than 12-15 pages. You can use illustrations, pictures, questions for discussions, sidebars as well as the content you intend for your readers. Layout is your choice (computers make this a great project).

- **Hard copies of your semester projects are required. Do not submit on line.**

Required Texts:

Victor Matthews, *The Social World of the Hebrew Prophets* Hendrickson or Baker Press (2001) (available on Amazon both new and used 2-5 days delivery)

Abraham Heschel, *The Prophets* Hendrickson Publishers (2007) (available on Amazon both new and used 2-5 day delivery)

OT 4420 Course Reader Available at Copy Central (corner of Hearst and Euclid – on Hearst) Will not be available until Feb 5th. New copyright laws prevent faculty from upload many articles on to Moodle beginning Jan. 2012 . Thus you will need to purchase the reader.

ASSIGNMENT: to be completed by Friday Feb 4, 2012 before our class meeting.

1. Read I Kings 17-19 and II Kings 4-6
2. Read the chapter 1, 2, and 5 of V. Matthews *Social World of the Hebrew Prophets*
3. After completing the above assignments, read Tamara Hoover Renteria's article "Elijah/Elisha – A Socio-Cultural Analysis" available on the OT 4420 moodle site.

There will be a brief quiz at the beginning of class on Feb 4th over this material.