

## **The Old Testament Prophets**

OT 3311—Course Syllabus

Spring 2008

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### **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.

Gowan, Donald. *The Theology of the Prophetic Books: The Death and Resurrection of Israel*. Louisville: W/JKP, 1998.

McConville, Gordon. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Prophets*. Downer's Grove: IVP, 2003.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the semester, the student should 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.

### **Course Requirements:**

*Regular attendance and timely submission of assignments are required.*

*Three Tests: 75% (25% each)*

*Book Review: 25%*

### **Schedule:**

*§ Introductory Issues.*

*Week 1: Introduction to the course: Basic issues about prophecy in general; the value of the study of prophecy.*

*Week 2: Pre-Literary Prophecy (prophecy prior to Amos): Prophecy in Israel from the earliest times to Amos in the eighth century B.C.*

Numbers 22-24; I Sam. 8-10; II Sam. 7; I Kings 17-II Kings 10.

McConville, xi-xxxii.

Gowan, 1-21.

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

*Week 2: Amos.*

McConville, 133-4; 163-77.

Gowan, 24-37.

Amos

*Week 3: Hosea.*

McConville, 135-151.

Gowan, 37-50.

Hosea

*Week 4: Micah.*

McConville, 195-204.

Gowan, 50-9.

Micah

§ *Week 5 (ca. 2/27): First Exam.: Pre-literary Prophets-Micah.*

*Week 5: Isaiah 1-39.*

McConville, 1-12.

Gowan, 59-77.

Isaiah 1-12

*Week 6: Isaiah 1-39 (continued).*

McConville, 12-23.

Gowan, 59-77 cont'd.

Isaiah 13-39

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

*Week 7: Isaiah (continued); Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk.*

McConville, 205-227

Gowan, 79-97.

Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk

*Week 8: Spring Break?*

*Week 9: Jeremiah.*

McConville, 45-72.

Gowan, 98-117.

Jeremiah

*Week 10: Jeremiah (continued).*  
 McConville, 45-72 cont'd.  
 Gowan, 98-117 cont'd.  
 Jeremiah

§ *Week 11: Exam #2 (Isaiah - Jeremiah).*

*Week 11: Ezekiel.*  
 McConville, 83-106  
 Gowan, 121-37.  
 Ezekiel

*Week 12: Ezekiel, Isaiah 40-66 and Obadiah.*  
 McConville, 83-106 cont'd; 23-44; 179-83  
 Gowan, 121-37 cont'd.; 117-121; 146-162; 170-177  
 Ezekiel, cont'd.; Isaiah 40-66; Obadiah

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

*Week 13: Haggai and Zechariah.*  
 McConville, 229-56  
 Gowan, 162-70.  
 Haggai and Zechariah

*Week 14: Joel, Malachi, and Jonah.*  
 McConville, 153-61, 259-71, 185-94  
 Gowan, 177-81; 137-42.  
 Joel, Malachi, Jonah

§ *The Transition from Prophecy to Apocalyptic: Daniel, Zechariah 9-14.; Jesus and the Prophetic Office*

*Week 15: Daniel and Apocalyptic Literature.*  
 McConville, 109-31  
 Gowan, 193-200.  
 Daniel

§ *Final Exam (not comprehensive): Final Exam week (Ezekiel - Daniel).*

**Book Reviews:**

*All book reviews will be due the last regularly scheduled class day prior to finals week.* 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 ICS guide for writing a critical book review.* Your book review should contain 1-2 pages of survey of the contents of the book and 2-3 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.*