

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature

TERM: Spring 2018-2019

PROFESSOR: Steven Tuell

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: 10

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the prophetic books (Latter Prophets), Psalter, and Wisdom literature of the Old Testament with an exploration of factors that gave rise to and helped shaped this material. In addition to examining the background of prophecy in the cultures of the ancient Near East, attention is given to the specific content of these books, to the theology of the prophetic books, to the various literary genres (e.g., oracle, hymn, lament), to methods used in the interpretation of Scripture (source, form, redaction, literary, socio-cultural, canonical, and rhetorical criticism), and to the psalms as a product of Israel's cultic life. Our goal is to seek a deeper understanding of core theological themes within the Judeo-Christian tradition, how these themes relate, and their significance in the Church and world today.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To consider the classical prophets in the light of their precursors in Israel and the ancient Near East.
2. To place Hebrew prophecy in its proper social, historical and canonical context.
3. The prophets of the Babylonian exile, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Second Isaiah, will be considered in particular depth.
4. Special attention will be given to the theology of the prophetic books, and to the genres of prophetic oracles and the methods that may be employed for their interpretation.
5. An introduction to the Psalms and Wisdom Literature completes the course.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Harold Attridge, ed., *HarperCollins Study Bible* (NRSV), HarperOne, 2006, ISBN: 978-0060786854, \$28.57.
- Michael D. Coogan, *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*. 4th edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0190608651, \$72.95 – new; used starting at \$14.90 (amazon.com).
- Patrick D. Miller, *Interpreting the Psalms*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986. ISBN: 978-0800618964, \$19.69—new; used starting at \$3.49 (amazon.com).
- William P. Brown, *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature*. Eerdmans, 2014. ISBN: 978-0802867933, \$21.46—new; used starting at \$7.43; Kindle \$11.99 (amazon.com).

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Class sessions will be devoted to lecture, discussion, and the close study of particular assigned texts. Evaluation will be on the basis of the students' critical grasp of the literature, demonstrated in a midterm (25%) and a comprehensive final (40%); and the students' ability to deal creatively with the literature and communicate their insights, demonstrated by a 4-5 page exegetical essay (rough draft, 10%; final form, 25%).

ATTENDANCE: Required.