

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.

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**TITLE:** Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature

**TERM:** Spring 2023-2024

**PROFESSOR:** Jerome Creach

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
# AUDITORS: 3

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.

### **CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

1. Describe the social role of prophecy in ancient Near Eastern society and the particular expression of this phenomenon in ancient Israel;
2. Identify the historical, theological, and literary issues in the prophetic books studied;
3. Sketch the content of the prophetic books, the Psalter, and the Wisdom literature including the representative genres and the theological interests that gave impetus to the formation of the books;
4. Write a clear exposition of a text from the prophetic corpus using the procedure modeled in the course.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:**

- Harold Attridge, ed., *HarperCollins Study Bible* (NRSV), HarperOne, 2006, ISBN: 978-0061228407, \$33.64.
- Jerome F. D. Creach, *Discovering Psalms: Content, Interpretation, Reception*, SPCK/Eerdmans, 2020, ISBN: 978-0802878069, \$26.09.
- William P. Brown, *Wisdom's Wonder: Character, Creation, and Crisis in the Bible's Wisdom Literature*, Eerdmans, 2014, ISBN: 978-0802867933, \$23.22.
- Ellen F. Davis, *Opening Israel's Scriptures*, Oxford University Press, 2019, ISBN: 978-0190948948, \$55.80; Kindle \$18.14.

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

Two tests; one paper (grading to be determined)

**ATTENDANCE:** Required