

## **PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER**

The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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HB 503 8<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets (Exegesis)  
Spring 2010  
Wednesday  
8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Professor: Dr. Lisa Davison  
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**Prerequisites:** HB 500 Intro to the Hebrew Bible or its equivalent

**Course Description:** This course is intended to help students in all Masters programs “act as responsible biblical interpreters critically informed by current historical, literary and theological scholarship in the field of biblical studies.” As an exegetical course in the area of Biblical Studies, the course is designed to help students “be fluent in biblical interpretation . . . pay attention to interpretive concerns (e.g., historical context, literary character, etc.) . . . [and] use the Bible with an awareness of scholarly understandings as a resource for thinking about the issues and concerns of everyday life.” To this end, the course will include an introduction to exegesis and the variety of methods utilized in interpreting a biblical text (e.g., form criticism, rhetorical criticism, ideological criticism, etc.), along with opportunities to practice these methods on a variety of texts from the Hebrew Bible. Special attention will be given to the role of the prophet in Ancient Israel, the texts of the 8<sup>th</sup> century prophets of the Hebrew Bible (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah, & Isa 1-39), and the concept of “justice” at work in these biblical voices. By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. *Employ* different exegetical methods when working with texts of the Hebrew Bible.
2. *Identify* the characteristics of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible.
3. *Define* what it means to call someone a “prophet”.
4. *Name* and briefly *describe* the 8<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah & Isa 1-39) of the Hebrew Bible.
5. *Provide* an explanation of “justice” as understood by the 8<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets of the Hebrew Bible and their own definition of “justice”.
6. *Write* an exegesis of a text from one of the 8<sup>th</sup> century prophets utilizing at 3 different exegetical methods.
7. *Demonstrate* how the fruits from their exegesis of a biblical text can be applied to different ministerial contexts.

**Approach:** This is an upper level seminar course; therefore, a foundational knowledge of the Hebrew Bible will be assumed (i.e., historical/cultural background, literary genres, etc.). The class sessions will entail both lecture by the professor and class discussion. Class discussions will be open, honest, and respectful; all opinions will be respected and derogatory language toward another person will not be tolerated. [Behavior or attitudes that are disrespectful of another person, professor or student, will result in significant lowering of the offender's grade.] All participants will covenant together to agree to disagree without hostility.

**Required Texts:** In addition to these books, a few readings from other sources will be assigned and made available to the students, either on Blackboard {Bb} or in class. [The reading assignments are indicated in the course schedule using the abbreviations provided for each text.]

Berlin, Adele & Marc Zvi Brettler, eds. *The Jewish Study Bible*. Oxford, 2004.  
ISBN 0-19-529754-7 [JSB]

Hayes, John & Carl Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook, 3<sup>d</sup> Edition*. Westminster/John Knox, 2007. ISBN 0-664-22775-9 [HH]

Heschel, Abraham. *The Prophets*. HarperCollins Publishers, 2001.  
ISBN 0-06-093699-1 [Heschel]

Premnath, D. N. *Eighth Century Prophets: A Social Analysis*. Chalice Press, 2003. ISBN 0-8272-0817-0 [Premnath]

**Assignments:** The requirements of the course are listed below, along with their respective values for the final course grade and (where appropriate) the dates on which the assignment is due. All students are expected to turn in assignments on (or before) the provided dates. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless prior permission has been granted by the professor. Such extensions will only be approved for emergency situations.

1. Class Participation [15% of final grade]: Every student is expected to attend all scheduled class sessions. Attendance implies more than just being present during the class period. All students are expected to complete reading/writing assignments (as appropriate) and to participate in class discussions. To be counted "present", students must have a bible with them in class. In addition to the stated percentage of the final grade, attendance will influence the final grade calculations in the following ways:

- One point will be deducted from the final grade for each late arrival.
  - Each student is allowed to miss one class with no negative impact on the final grade.
  - Five points will be deducted from the final grade for a second absence.
  - Any student with 3 or more absences cannot pass the class. [See PTS Attendance Policy below.]
2. **Assignments** [35% of final grade]: Throughout the course, different assignments will be given to evaluate students' exegetical skills and understanding of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BCE Prophets. Students are required to complete assignments by the stated due dates. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**
  3. **Exegesis Paper** [50% of final grade]: Students will choose a text from one of the 8<sup>th</sup> century prophets (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah, & Isaiah 1-39) and write a 15-20 page exegesis paper on that passage. Further instructions will be given in class by the professor. Papers (hardcopies) are due to the professor no later than **8:30 am on May 4, 2011. Students planning to graduate at the semester's end must turn in papers on April 27, 2011 by 4 pm. Late papers will not be accepted.**

**Grading:** Letter grades will be determined based on the following scale. Students should also consult their *Student Handbook* for information on what constitutes "A work"; "B work"; "C work"; "D work"; and "F work".

"A" range = 90-100	A+ = 98-100	A = 94-97	A- = 90-93
"B" range = 80-89	B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86	B- = 80-83
"C" range = 70-79	C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76	C- = 70-73
"D" range = 60-69	D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66	D- = 60-63
F = 59 and below			

**Accommodation for Individuals with Disabilities:** Phillips Theological Seminary is committed to providing equal access to its programs of graduate professional education for all qualified students with learning, physical, medical, and/or psychological disabilities. The Seminary aims to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with a disability (based on clinical documentation) to ensure their access and participation in Seminary programs. For details, see "Disabilities Policies and Procedures" in the *2009-2010 Student Handbook*, pp 17-18. The *Student Handbook* is located on the PTS website ([www.ptstulsa.edu](http://www.ptstulsa.edu)): go to Worship & Community tab in far left column; select *Student Handbook*. Policy is found on PDF pages 22-23. Please contact Belva Brown Jordan, the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services, for consultation.

**Academic Honesty:** Integrity is a basic principle of academic work. All students are required to be familiar with the PTS policies regarding "Academic Misconduct". Dishonesty in student work (including, but not limited to: cheating and plagiarism) will not be tolerated in this course. Students who are found guilty of academic misconduct will receive at least a grade of "F" on the assignment in question and have a letter sent to the Dean explaining the situation. Other, more serious consequences are possible as described in the *Student Handbook* ([www.ptstulsa.edu](http://www.ptstulsa.edu)).

**Attendance:** "Class attendance and participation are important. Any student who misses 20% or more of the class contact hours for a course, for any reason, cannot pass or successfully audit that course. The intention of the policy is not to be punitive, but to recognize that students should retake courses for credit if they miss a significant number of the class contact hours" The Attendance Policy is found in The *Student Handbook* ([www.ptstulsa.edu](http://www.ptstulsa.edu)).

**Other Policies:** All written work should follow Turabian formatting. Assignments may NOT be faxed to the seminary. Unless previously arranged with the professor, all assignments (except online work) are to be turned-in to the professor at the beginning of the class session in which they are due. Students are required to use "Just Language" (as covered in class) for all written work. Out of respect for the class, all cell phones must be turned-off during the session. In emergency situations, phones may be left on vibrate, but students must notify the professor before class.

**Course Schedule:** The professor reserves the right to alter this schedule if pedagogical concerns necessitate such a change. This includes, but is not limited to: adding/deleting assignments, rearranging topics, and changing due dates for assignments (only if it is to the students' benefit).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
1/25	Introductions What is exegesis?	H&H Ch 1
2/2	The Text as Propaganda Cultural Hermeneutics	H&H Ch 11; Following {Bb} "Dancing Around Life"; "Canaanites, Cowboys, & Indians"; "Reading the Bible from an African Perspective"; <i>Return to Babel</i> pp 57-72
2/9	Establishing the Text History In/Behind the Text	H&H Chs 2-3; JSB pp 2062-2076

2/16	Oral Stages of the Text Sources Behind the Text Traditioning the Text	H&H Ch 6-7, <i>Each</i> pp 35-57
2/23	The Text as Literature	H&H Chs 4-5
3/2	Structures Within the Text	H&H Chs 9-10; "The Death of Isaac: Structural Analysis of Gen 22" {Bb}
3/9	Who is a Prophet? 8 <sup>th</sup> Century BCE Israel & Judah	Heschel "Intro", I Ch 1, II Chs 1-4, & pp 627-632
3/16 & 23	CONCENTRATED COURSE WEEKS NO CLASSES	
3/30	Other Methods Putting It All Together	
4/6	Amos & Hosea	Heschel I Chs 2-3; Premnath "Intro" & Chs 1-3
4/13	Micah & Isaiah of Jerusalem	Heschel I Chs 4-5; Premnath Ch 4 & "Conclusion"
4/20	EASTER RECESS – NO CLASSES	
4/27	What is Justice?	Heschel II Chs 5-7
5/4	Contemporary Prophets	<i>Daring to Speak in God's Name</i> , pp 116-171*
5/11	New Insights & Future Directions	