

Course Syllabus

Course Number & Title: 117 Old Testament Prophetic Literature

Semester: Fall 2026

Professor: Dr. Scott Hollander

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Course Description: Isaiah through Malachi. The prophetic office; prophetic themes in the pre-exilic, exilic, and post-exilic periods; prophetic proclamation in the covenant and legal context; Messianic prophecies; judgment, restoration, and eschatology. 3 hrs.

Delivery: In-person, 16-week semester schedule

Course Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Objectives:

The student will:

1. Evaluate the role of the Old Testament prophets as God's covenant messengers and compare their ministry with that of the pagan prophets of Israel's surrounding nations.
2. Analyze the purpose, structure, and theological contribution of the Latter Prophets within the Old Testament canon and explain their relationship to the broader redemptive narrative of Scripture.
3. Identify the historical setting and chronological development of the prophetic period and compare the distinctive messages and emphases of the writing prophets.
4. Explain the historical background, major themes, and contents of each of the writing prophets and Lamentations, and interpret significant New Testament citations and applications of these books.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate and defend the canonicity and historicity of the Old Testament prophetic books using biblical and historical evidence.
2. Analyze the New Testament authors' use of the Old Testament prophets and evaluate its significance for biblical theology and the proclamation of the promised Messiah.
3. Identify key passages and theological themes within the Old Testament Prophets and construct concise outlines that summarize the message and structure of each prophetic book.
4. Analyze the prophets' teaching concerning God's kingdom, the coming Messiah, and future redemption, and evaluate its implications for a biblical understanding of eschatology.

Course Requirements

1. Required Texts

- a. C. Hassell Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books* (Moody, 2007).
- b. George N. H. Peters, *The Theocratic Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus, the Christ*, 1884. This title is available as an eBook on books.google.com and on Kindle.
- c. W. J. Dumbrell, *Covenant and Creation* (Paternoster Press, 1984).
- d. All the OT prophetic books. These should be read throughout the term, as class discussions focus on particular books.

2. Recommended Texts

For Bullock's text, you may substitute one of these texts:

O. P. Robertson, *The Christ of the Prophets* (P&R, 2004).

Robert Chisholm, Jr., *Handbook on the Prophets* (Baker Academic, 2009).

3. Course Schedule

Session	Date	Lecture
1	9/3	Course Outline & Introduction
2	9/10	Jonah, Amos, Hosea
3	9/17	Micah, Intro to Isaiah, Isaiah
4	9/24	Exam 1
	10/1	No class (ARTS meeting)
5	10/8	Nahum, Zephaniah
6	10/15	Habakkuk, Jeremiah
7	10/22	Ezekiel
8	10/28	Lamentations
9	11/5	Midterm Exam

Session	Date	Lecture
10	11/12	Obadiah, Daniel
11	11/19	Haggai, Zechariah
	11/ 26	Thanksgiving Recess
12	12/3	Joel, Malachi
13	12/10	Student Presentations
14	12/17	Final Exam

Assignment Descriptions

1. Required Reading

Reading assignments are due at the time of the three exams. They are as follows:

EXAM I

- C. Hassell Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*, Introduction and Part 1
- George N. H. Peters, *The Theocratic Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus, the Christ*, Vol. 1, Props. #1-4, 16-22; 24-26; 30-48

EXAM II

- C. Hassell Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*, Part 2
- George N. H. Peters, *The Theocratic Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus, the Christ*, Vol. 1, Props. #49-52; 56-63; 66-68
- W. J. Dumbrell, *Covenant and Creation*, chpt. 5: pp. 164-205

EXAM III

- C. Hassell Bullock, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books*, Part 3
- All the OT prophetic books. These should be read throughout the term, as class discussions focus on particular books.

2. Exams

- Exam over Introductory Material, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, & Micah
- Exam over Isaiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, & Lamentations
- Final Exam over Obadiah, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, Joel, & Malachi

3. Memory Work

From the following list of key verses, choose five for recitation. Please follow the suggested verse schedule outlined in the Course Schedule above. A worksheet is provided to record the memory work. The completed worksheet is due December 10th.

Isaiah 53:6	Jeremiah 33:3-4	Lamentations 3:22-23	Ezekiel 36:26-27	Daniel 4:34b-35	Hosea 6:1, 3
Joel 2:12-13	Amos 8:11	Obadiah 15	Jonah 2:9	Micah 7:18-19	Nahum 1:7-8
Habakkuk 3:18-19	Zephaniah 2:3	Haggai 2:6-8	Zechariah 12:10	Malachi 4:2-3	

4. Term Paper

You will write an 8- to 10-page research paper in accordance with WRS writing standards, including footnoted facts and quotations (double-spaced, SBL formatting, and 12-point font, etc.), submitted as a Word® document by December 10th, with a topic and bibliography list submitted by October 27th. Grammar, sentence structure, and writing style are formal.

The bibliography should include at least five non-Internet references. Students are expected to complete all assignments using their own knowledge and skills. Students may use AI tools for brainstorming, outlining, grammar suggestions, or idea generation. AI may not generate substantive portions of submitted work. Any AI assistance must be acknowledged in a statement accompanying the assignment describing the tool used and how it contributed (i.e., cite the program, prompt(s), and how you used the information provided). Unauthorized AI use constitutes academic misconduct.

You will present your paper to the class on December 10th, in a 10-minute explanation of your thesis, findings from the sources, and your conclusion. This will replicate a teaching or preaching opportunity from your study of the subject.

Take time to review and revise your paper for clarity and organization. The following five (5) components may provide the structure for your paper:

- 1) Introduction: What is your thesis statement or problem question? What are the key facts about the problem or discussion? (about 1 paragraph)
- 2) Connections Between Sources: How are your sources connected? Consider the arguments and ideas presented by the authors and what similarities or differences may exist.
- 3) Connections to the Course: How are your sources connected to the concepts we have explored within this course? Consider how the sources may reinforce or diverge from other things you have been learning.

- 4) **Developments in Your Thinking:** How do these sources shape your thinking? In this section, consider how the sources may influence your understanding and opinions of the topic you researched, and the concepts covered within this course.
- 5) **Conclusions:** What do you think? Present your thoughts on the arguments and ideas presented in your sources, including your assessment of the evidence provided to support these arguments and whether you believe it is relevant. Consider well-proven points or flaws. (about 1 paragraph)

5. Class Participation

You will participate in detailed class discussions on several aspects of the biblical books and the background of the Old Testament Prophetic Literature.

Grading

- 3 Exams @ 60%
- Reading and Reading Annotations Journal @ 20%
- Paper @ 15%
- 3 Memory Verses @ 2%
- Attendance/class participation @ 3%

Course Resources

1. *Course Website* – <https://wrs.edu/117>
2. *Library Resources* – To access library resources, please check the library check-out computer for availability or ask the librarian or administration for assistance. Digital resources are available at https://www.wrs.edu/assets/docs/Library_Resources.pdf.
3. *Writing Resources* – The WRS Style Guide, research paper template, and SBL Student Supplement are available at <https://wrs.edu/student-center/student-handbook-and-resources>

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117 Old Testament Prophetic Literature—Memory Worksheet

From the following list of key verses, choose three for recitation.

REFERENCE	DATE	LISTENER INITIALS
Isaiah 53:6		
Jeremiah 33:3-4		
Lamentations 3:22-23		
Ezekiel 36:26-27		
Daniel 4:34b-35		
Hosea 6:1, 3		
Joel 2:12-13		
Amos 8:11		
Obadiah 15		
Jonah 2:9		
Micah 7:18-19		
Nahum 1:7-8		
Habakkuk 3:18-19		
Zephaniah 2:3		
Haggai 2:6-8		
Zechariah 12:10		
Malachi 4:2-3		