COURSE SYLLABUS
THEO-3115 M01: OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS
FALL 2018

PLACE: St. Louis University, Madrid Campus
TIME: TR 11:00-12:15
PREREQUISITE: THEO-1000 and one 2000-level theology course
CURRICULUM: 3 credits. Fulfills theology requirement for A&S; fulfills cultural diversity core requirement for A&S and Engineering. Service Learning Course.
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Carolina A. Aznar (e-mail: carolinaana.aznar@slu.edu (please, write “HB/OT Prophets 1” as subject title). Office telephone: . 91 554 58 58, ext.: 247
OFFICE HOURS: MW 12:30-13:30, 15:45-16:15 TR 14:45-16:15 in Dr. Aznar’s office at SIH, 3rd floor Room 312

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course studies the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel and the prophetic literature in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. It provides an introduction to prophecy and the prophetic literature in the Near East. It surveys the biblical prophetic books and their main topics in chronological order, paying special attention to the political and socioeconomic context of the Near East and Israel in which they appeared. It reflects on the modern relevance of the prophetic texts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Knowledge
By the end of the semester students will have read all the assigned texts of the Major and Minor Prophets as well as the required related readings and hence:
- will be familiar with the prophetic literature and be able to relate the biblical books to their contemporary historical circumstances in the Near East and Israel and
- will be able to present the main topics of each prophetic book as well as to appreciate the significance of the biblical prophetic texts for contemporary societies, with a focus on social justice matters.

Skills
By the end of the semester students:
- will be able to examine the prophetic texts in their historical setting;
- will start understanding how biblical exegesis is done as well as appreciate its complexity, being able to evaluate the work of different biblical scholars when writing commentaries on biblical prophetic texts;
- will have reflected on theological topics such as covenant, idolatry, justice and righteousness, predilection for the poor, and apocalyptic; and
- will have evaluated examples of the application of prophetic texts to contemporary situations.
Collection of Student Work for University-Wide Assessment

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, the Campus regularly assesses its teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs are kept on file, such as assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. Thus, copies of student work for this course, including written assignments, in-class exercises, and exams may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If students prefer that Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus does not keep their work on file, they need to communicate their decision in writing to the professor.

REQUIRED BOOKS


A reference Bible. For study purposes I recommend The New Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha, but any translation is fine. Bibles in English can be purchased at the campus bookstore.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS


*Additional bibliography (books and articles) will be suggested in class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING RATIONALE**

The final grade will be based on the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unannounced quizzes</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written reflection on service learning activity</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group presentations</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written commentary (midterm)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Class participation** is a part of the final grade. Active participation includes attending class regularly, doing all the biblical and scholarly readings assigned for each class, being able to present and discuss the assigned readings, answering the questions posed by the professor in class, asking and discussing content-related questions when appropriate, and being considerate to one’s classmates, which includes not interrupting and/or mocking them, and taking one’s fair share of discussion time. Notice that students are expected to do the assigned readings for any given day in preparation for (that is, before) the class of that day so they can discuss them in class. Please note: each student needs to bring his/her own Bible to class every day. As a general guideline, students who participate regularly and actively in a way that shows meaningful engagement with the material may receive a participation grade of A. Students with good attendance but less engaged participation may receive a grade of B. Students who are frequently absent, rarely participate, and/or show inconsiderate behavior, may receive a grade of C, D or F, depending on the case. The instructor takes notes on students’ participation, so after three of four weeks into the course, you can ask her how you are doing in this respect.

2. At the beginning of **four** of the classes there will be **unannounced quizzes on Petersen’s book** regarding the characteristics of each of the prophetic books we will see in class (e.g. "In Petersen’s opinion: (1) What sections are there in the book of Micah and what is each section about? and (2) What are the most important topics in the book?"). The grades on the quizzes will be: A for Excellent, B for Good, C for Poor, and F for Unacceptable.

3. Students will do a **service learning activity** according to the guidelines the professor will provide and **write a short reflection on it**. The grades on it will also be: A for Excellent, B for Good, C for Poor, and F for Unacceptable.
4. All students will participate in two group presentations analyzing prophetic texts according to the guidelines the professor will provide. The grades on the presentation will take into account depth of the analysis as well as use of external sources and lack of errors.

5. Students will write a commentary on a prophetic text (midterm) according to the guidelines the professor will provide. The commentary will be six to seven pages long and will require the use and evaluation of at least three scholarly sources. It will be due on October 18. The grades on it will also take into account depth of the analysis as well as use of external sources and lack of errors.

6. Students will take a final exam on Dec. 18. This exam will consist of the identification of the main topics in three prophetic texts as well as an explanation of the main characteristics of the prophets and/or the prophetic books to whom those three texts are attributed. It will allow the students to synthesize the course contents.

7. All students must speak with the professor in her office at some point during the week of Sept. 17-Sept. 20.

8. All students will complete the on-line course evaluation at the end of the semester.

All students in this class have a slu e-mail account (i.e. an e-mail address ending in slu.edu)—both their Banner and SLU-Global accounts are linked to it. Therefore, all e-mail communications between the instructor and the students will take place by using the slu e-mail system. It is each student’s responsibility to get to know his/her slu e-mail address, to make sure it works on the first day of class (T Sept. 4), to check it regularly (or to have the mail from this address forwarded to a preferred account which he/she checks regularly), and to speak with the people at the Registrar’s Office (in Padre Arrupe Hall) if there is any problem with it.

All written assignments must be submitted double-spaced, page-numbered, typed and printed. They must be submitted in class. E-mail submission of assignments is not acceptable and does not count towards the grade (i.e. an e-mailed assignment counts as not submitted) unless the instructor sends the student an e-mail explicitly saying he/she can e-mail his/her assignment. In the written commentary of a biblical text, bibliography and attachments will be placed at the end and will not count towards the page account. Cover pages are not needed.

For bibliography for the assignments, please make sure you check the SLU book catalogue as well as the ATLA, JSTOR and WorldCat (FirstSearch) databases (at http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/library). To use the databases, you will need your SLU-Madrid login and password. If you do not know or have them yet, go to the Registrar’s Office at Padre Arrupe Hall and ask about them. Keep in mind that many of the articles and books found in the ATLA and WorldCat (FirstSearch) Database may be retrieved in Madrid at the libraries of the Universidad Complutense, Universidad Autónoma, Universidad Pontificia de Comillas, Instituto Arqueológico Alemán, and/or the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. But for saving time, look for bibliographic resources on the internet first. You can also find useful articles at Bible Review and Biblical Archaeology Review (http://www.basarchive.org). These are not scholarly journals but popular magazines. However, the authors who write in them are scholars and many of the articles are summarized versions of similar, more detailed articles in scholarly journals. So you can use their articles, especially if you do not have access to the scholarly journal where the original version is published.
GRADING SCALE

The grading scale is as follows:

- Excellent understanding of subject matter and mastery of the skills of the course

- Good understanding of the subject matter and deployment of the skills of the course

The following are general principles concerning grading standards and criteria at SLU:

- **A range** = Superior, exceptional, outstanding with evidence of critical, informed, and creative inquiry that deepens their understanding of essential concepts. This means the student demonstrates depth of insight beyond what is normally expected. Carefully nuanced reasoning and writing, free from material, structural and grammatical error are presupposed in this grade.

- **B range** = Good, ready command of full range of concepts and shows some critical, informed, and creative inquiry that deepens their understanding of essential concepts. This means the student has produced an assignment that is free from material, structural and grammatical errors.

- **C range** = Acceptable, satisfactory ability to describe overall picture and essential concepts. This means the student has completed the assignment in a manner involving no significant errors. Material may not be free from structural and grammatical errors. Nuanced reasoning is not demonstrated.

- **D range** = Below normal expectation. Reasoning is neither carefully nuanced nor coherently presented; writing is insufficient in depth of insight and/or use of texts; presentation is not free from material error in structure, spelling and grammar. This means that the student failed to respond adequately to the assignment and its intentions.

- **F** = Unsatisfactory. The student failed to respond to the assignment: 1) failed to turn in the assignment; 2) did not respond to the assignment as given; 3) submitted work so thoroughly flawed as to indicate that the student did not make a serious effort, 4) plagiarism or cheating involved.

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.
The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost’s Office website at: Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

E-MAIL
Campus and course announcements will often be handled by e-mail. Students should check their “@slu.edu” e-mail regularly. As mentioned, e-mail submission of assignments is not acceptable and does not count towards the grade (i.e. an e-mailed assignment counts as not submitted) unless the instructor sends the student an e-mail explicitly saying he/she can e-mail his/her assignment.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY
Laptops, tablets and mobile phones are acceptable for class work. However, the use of these tools for things such as e-mailing, chatting, text messaging and surfing sites not related to the class is not acceptable and will be penalized (see below).

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PENALTIES
- Repeated unjustified absences: one full letter of the participation grade will be decreased for each three unjustified absences (e.g. from B to C). Please, note that only medical emergencies count as justified absences.
- Missing an unannounced quiz: the quiz will receive zero points (there will be four quizzes, each of them counting four points) unless the student had a justified medical emergency. Quizzes will not be given on official university outings (in case there is any doubt, make sure your professor knows about those).
- Being late and/or failing to bring the Bible to class: one third of the participation grade letter will be decreased for each two days in which any of these situations takes place (e.g. from B- to C+).
- Being late and not being able to complete an unannounced quiz: the student will have to submit the quiz at the same time as everybody else hence getting whatever grade the quiz is good for.
- Unauthorized use of mobile phones, tablets or laptops in class: one third of the participation letter will be decreased each time this happens. Unauthorized use includes e-mailing, chatting, text messaging, and surfing internet sites not related to the class.
- Not visiting with the professor in her office on Sept. 17-20: one third of the assignment letter will be decreased.
- Submitting an assignment late: one third of the assignment letter will be decreased for each day of delay in submitting it. After one week no late submissions will be accepted and the assignment will be graded as 0 (=F).
- Submitting an assignment in the middle of or at the end of the class when it is due: one third of the assignment letter will be decreased.
- Students who missed the introduction on the first day of class (Sept. 4) must stay after class on Sept. 18 for fifteen minutes. Not doing so will be penalized: one third of the student's participation grade will be decreased.
Please, note: If for any reason a student could not submit his/her assignment on time or make it to the final exam, he/she should contact the instructor BEFORE the due date to discuss the situation (the only exception to this are justified medical emergencies).

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/student-resources.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilitieservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student’s eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

TITLE IX STATEMENT

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multilingual Therapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf.
COURSE OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION TO PROPHECY. THE BIBLICAL PROPHETS AND THE PROPHETIC LITERATURE IN THE BIBLE
1. Introduction. What is Prophecy? Who is a prophet?
2. The prophetic literature in the ancient Near East and in ancient Israel. The prophet and his/her relation with the Divine.
   - Petersen’s Ch. 1: 1-18
3. The prophets in ancient Israel and the prophetic literature in the Bible. Prophetic ways of communication
   - Petersen’s Ch. 1: 18-45
4. Prophecy and the history of Israel
   - Petersen’s Ch. 6: 215-226
5. Early Prophets
   - Blenkinsopp’s Ch. II.6
   - 1 Samuel 1-15
   - 2 Samuel 12
6. Elijah and Elisha
   - Petersen’s Ch. 6: 226-234
   - 1 Kings 17-22
   - 2 Kings 1-9

II. PROPHETS IN THE EIGHT CENTURY BCE
7. Historical background. Amos (I). Practice on biblical commentary
   - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 169-176, 184-189
   - Book of Amos
8. Biblical exegesis and hermeneutics. Amos (II)
   - TBA
9. Hosea
   - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 176-181
   - Book of Hosea
10. First Isaiah (I)
    - Blenkinsopp’s Ch. III.12
    - Book of Isaiah 1-12
11. First Isaiah (II)
    - Book of Isaiah 13-39
    - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 193-196
    - Book of Micah

III. PROPHETS IN THE 7TH-BEGINNING OF THE 6TH CENTURY BCE
13. Historical background. Zephaniah and Nahum
    - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 203-205, 196-200
    - Books of Zephaniah and Nahum
    - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 200-202; Ch. 3: 97-103-125
    - Book of Habakkuk
15. Jeremiah (II)
    - Book of Jeremiah: 1-30
16. Service learning project
   - TBA
17. Jeremiah (III)
   - Petersen’s Ch. 3: 125-135
   - Book of Jeremiah: 31-52

IV. PROPHETS DURING THE TIME OF THE EXILE
   - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 189-191
   - Book of Obadiah
19. The Book of Ezekiel (I)
   - Petersen’s Ch. 4
   - Book of Ezekiel: 1-2
20. The Book of Ezekiel (II)
   - Book of Ezekiel: 3-25, 37, 40-43
   - Coogan’s Ch. 23: 404-415
   - Book of Isaiah 40-55

V. PROPHETS DURING THE PERSIAN PERIOD
22. Historical background. Third Isaiah.
   - Coogan’s Ch. 24: 427-428
   - Book of Isaiah 56-66
23. Haggai. First Zechariah (I)
   - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 205-207.
   - Book of Haggai
24. Historical background. First Zechariah (II), Malachi
   - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 207-211
   - Book of Zechariah 1-8
   - Book of Malachi
25. Second Zechariah and Joel
   - Coogan’s Ch. 24: 439-440
   - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 181-184
   - Book of Zechariah 9-14
   - Book of Joel

VI. PROPHETS DURING THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD
   - Petersen’s Ch. 5: 191-193
   - Book of Jonah
27. Daniel. From Prophecy to Apocalyptic
   - Coogan’s Ch. 30: 536-546
   - Dan 1-6; 7

VII. CONCLUSION
28. The biblical prophets and their message

   –
29. Final exam
**COURSE GENERAL SCHEDULE***

Week 1:  
- T Sept. 4  
- R Sept. 6  

Week 2:  
- T Sept. 11  
- R Sept. 13  
- S Sept. 16: Last day to Add/Drop (without “W”). Last day to choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No pass (P/NP) status  

Week 3:  
- M-R Sept. 17-20: Every student must speak with the instructor during office hours  
- T Sept. 18  
- R Sept. 20  

Week 4:  
- T Sept. 25: Practice on biblical commentary  
- R Sept. 27  

Week 5:  
- T Oct. 2  
- R Oct. 4  

Week 6:  
- T Oct. 9  
- R Oct. 11  

Week 7:  
- T Oct. 16: Last day to submit transfer application for Spring Semester  
- R Oct. 18: Written commentary due (Midterm)  

Week 8:  
- T Oct. 23  
- R Oct. 25: Time for service learning project  

Week 9:  
- T Oct. 30  
- R Nov. 1: No class (Día de Todos los Santos)  

Week 10:  
- T Nov. 6: Registration for Spring Semester begins  
- R Nov. 8  
- S Nov. 11: Last day to Drop with “W”  

Week 11:  
- T Nov. 13  
- R Nov. 15  

Week 12:  
- T Nov. 20  
- R Nov. 22  

Week 13:  
- T Nov. 27  
- R Nov. 29  

Week 14:  
- T Dec. 4:  
- R Dec. 6: No class (Día de la Constitución)  

Week 15:  
- T Dec. 11  
- R Nov. 13: Last day of class  

Week 16:  
- T Dec. 18: Final Exam (12:00-15:00)  

*PLEASE, NOTE: The dates in this general schedule are tentative. They depend on class progress and circumstances and will be matched to the topics in the course topic list according to the instructor’s indications.*