



Prophets—BIB-D513
Fall Semester 2013
On campus class: Tuesdays 1:00-3:30 PM
Rabbi Barry R. Friedman
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Course Description:

A study of the origin and development of prophecy in Israel/Judea within the historical context of the ancient Near East. Our study will include the three major prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel as well as a selection of the Twelve Minor Prophets. Interpretation of the prophetic books will emphasize the historical-critical method and the traditional rabbinic/ Jewish interpretation of prophets, prophecy, and the prophetic message and legacy. Since the prophets provide a fundamental message of Jewish self-understanding and were functioning within the context of a Jewish milieu, we will approach the text from a Jewish historical, intellectual, and faith perspective. A close reading of selected prophetic texts will round out the course.

Aquinas Mission: This course advances the Aquinas Mission to educate men and women to preach, to teach, to minister, and to lead.

Course Objectives:

- Engage in close reading of Biblical passages.
- Study Biblical commentaries to understand traditional Jewish insights into the text.
- Read articles using modern critical methods of understanding the prophets in their historical and social setting.
- Examine one Biblical passage or prophet in great depth.
- Experience personal intellectual and spiritual growth.

Expectations:

- Close reading of all materials assigned.
- Open and forthcoming class discussion.
- Creative and respectful reflection on classmates' comments.
- Deep examination into one Biblical passage for class presentation.
- Thoughtful and well written research paper and reflection paper.

Requirements:

- Active participation in all class activities.
- Demonstration of knowledge of assigned reading materials and depth of comprehension and reflection through the quality of oral and written work.

Course Evaluation:

- Class attendance.
- Active participation in all class activities.
- Demonstration of knowledge of assigned reading materials and depth of comprehension and reflection through the quality of oral, written, and online work.

Required Texts:

1. Berlin, Adele; Brettler, Marc Zvi; Fishbane, Michael (editors), The Jewish Study Bible: featuring The Jewish Publication Society TANAKH Translation (Hardcover), Oxford University Press, 2004. ISBN: 0195297512. (In this class, we will use the abbreviation JSB to refer to this text.) Throughout this course, whenever we study Biblical texts in JSB and other editions of the Bible, the assignment includes reading all accompanying commentaries.
2. Heschel, Abraham Joshua, The Prophets, (Paperback), Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2001. ISBN: 0060936991.
3. Other readings will be posted on the Web site.