

PROPHETS

BIB-D513-01

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2 Credits

Prerequisite: BIB-D502

A study of the origin and development of prophecy in Israel within the context of ancient Near Eastern history. Special attention will be given to the books of the following Classical (i.e. Writing) Prophets and their theologies: Amos, Hosea, the three Isaiahs, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. A close reading of selected texts from Israel's Classical Prophets will round out the course.

Objectives:

1. To know the general content of ancient Middle Eastern prophetic literature, along with the geography and history of Israel and the Middle East from ca. 800 to ca. 100 BCE.
2. To know the general content of Israel's prophetic literature as contained in the "Former Prophets," but especially the "Latter Prophets" ("Classical Prophets," "Writing Prophets") found in the Hebrew Scriptures.
3. To analyze the background, message, and theology of Amos, Hosea, Proto-Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Deutero-Isaiah, and Trito-Isaiah.
4. To analyze the exegetical and hermeneutical aspects of specific passages from Israel's prophetic literature.
5. To explore the "prophetic" in today's world, especially from the perspective of liberation theology.
6. To compare the theologies of the implied authors mentioned in # 3 with both the theologies of the post-exilic real authors of these prophetic books and our present-day theologies.

Procedure: Interactive adult learning models for one 90-minute session per week.

Evaluations: Active presence and participation in class; a brief mid-term exam; one short major paper; presentation of paper.

Required Texts:

McKenna, Megan. *Prophets: Words of Fire*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2001.

Miller, John W. *Meet the Prophets: A Beginner's Guide to the Books of the Biblical Prophets*. New York: Paulist Press, 1987.

Supplemental reading and commentary packets (on paper and CD) will be available ON RESERVE in the Aquinas library at the beginning of the semester.