OBST 664  
PRE-EXILIC MINOR PROPHETS  
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Please note that this syllabus may change if the instructor deems it necessary.  

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION  

An examination of Israel’s prophets before the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. Attention is given to their historic setting as well as to their message and theological relevance.  

II. RATIONALE  

The Minor Prophets form a significant part of the prophetic section of the Old Testament canon and contain numerous important prophecies of Messiah and the messianic age.  

III. PREREQUISITES  

There are no prerequisites for this course.  

IV. MATERIALS LIST  

Bible: Version of your choice  


V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES  

The student will be able to:
A. Explain the historical background of the pre-exilic Minor Prophets.

B. Analyze introductory and background issues related to the pre-exilic Minor Prophets.

C. Summarize the message of each of the pre-exilic Minor Prophets and identify key passages from each book.

D. Analyze major interpretive issues in the pre-exilic Minor Prophets.

E. Apply literary insights regarding prophetic literature to the study of prophetic texts.

F. Integrate the theological message of the pre-exilic Minor Prophets into the larger message of the Bible as a whole (with a view toward reading, interpreting, and teaching these books as Christian Scripture).

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Reading: The student is to read each of the pre-exilic Minor Prophets (Hosea, Amos, Micah, Jonah, Obadiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habbakkuk), the corresponding sections from the Walton, and all of the Smith commentary in accordance with the class schedule. The student is also to read the Timmer text before the book of Jonah is covered in class. Other readings from journal articles and other outside sources will be assigned at different times in the course. Readings are to be completed for each segment of the course and cannot be made up at a later date in the course. A portion of the points for each exam will be based on reading completed for the class. Supports Course Objectives A, B, C, D, E, and F.

B. Exams: There will be two exams for the class—a mid-term and a final. The questions will be both objective and essay. The exams are not cumulative.

C. Research Paper: The student will complete a 14-15 page research paper that conforms to Turabian standards that explains in detail (and with good scholarly research) the theological message of one of the books of the Minor Prophets covered in this course. The paper should use a minimum of 12 quality research sources. Supports Course Objectives A, B, E, and F.

D. Bible Study/Lesson on a Passage from the Minor Prophets: The student will write a well-researched Bible study/lesson for a selected passage from the Minor Prophets—this should be a chapter or unit within one of the books studied in this course (email your selection to the professor when you have decided). You should focus on the message of the passage, background or historical issues that are important for understanding the text, interpretive problems or questions, the theological message of the passage (what does it teach us about God, his people, etc), and how the passage is relevant to us today. The paper should be 10-12 pages and should include a bibliography with a minimum of 7 sources used for the paper. Supports Course Objectives A, D, E, and F.
E. **Interpretive Issue Paper**: The student is to write a 7-8 page paper dealing with an interpretive issue from a passage in one of the books of the Minor Prophets covered in this class. The paper should be well-researched and include footnotes and bibliography. The paper must use a minimum of 8 good scholarly sources, and the paper topic must be approved by the professor. The paper is due before the passage is covered in class and must be turned in no later than April 1. Supports Course Objectives D and E.

All written work must reflect a Master’s Level use of the English language and should conform to a near-thesis standard. The following minimum standards must be met:

1” margins, top, bottom, and sides. Page numbers must be included.
12-point standard font
Indent paragraphs 5 spaces or 0.6 inch
No extra-line feed between paragraphs
Section headings in italics
Staple all papers—no paperclips, folders, or fanfold

VII. **Course Grading and Policies**

A. Weight or Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology of Prophetic Book Paper</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Study/Lesson Paper</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Issue Paper</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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B. Scale (in points):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>940-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>920-939</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900-919</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>860-899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>840-859</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>820-839</td>
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<td>700-739</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>680-699</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 680</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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C. Assignment Policies

The following situations are the only legitimate excuses to grant an extension for any assignment.
1. Medical emergency
2. Military Deployment
3. Death in the family

It is the student’s responsibility to provide documentation to substantiate the medical emergency and military deployment. Concerning other extenuating issues, the professor can make exceptions if he/she determines that the circumstances warrant an extension or acceptance of a late assignment. However, if the criteria for a legitimate excuse are not met as stated above, the assignments will be deducted 5% of total points each day it is tardy.

Instructor Availability and Feedback: The instructor will answer most emails within 24–48 hours. In addition, the instructor will reply to some but not all Discussion Board posts.

D. Attendance Policies
The student is obliged to follow the attendance policies identified in the graduate catalog.

E. Academic Misconduct Policies
Academic misconduct is strictly prohibited. See the graduate catalog for specific definitions, penalties, and processes for reporting.

F. Drop/Add Policies
The student is obliged to follow the drop/add policies identified in the graduate catalog.

G. Dress Code
The student is expected to maintain a neat, professional appearance while in class. The code is described in the graduate catalog and may be amended with guidelines by the school of study.

H. Classroom Policies
The use of cell phones will not be permitted. The use of computers is provisional. The student will only be allowed to use a computer if he/she is taking notes during class. Surfing of the web, social networking, or any other activity on a computer that distracts the student from the lecture (in the opinion of the professor) will result in the forfeiture of the privilege of the use of the computer in class. Should one student’s behavior result in the forfeiture of the use of a computer for that student, the entire class may lose the privilege of the use of computers.

I. Disability Assistance
Students with a documented disability may contact the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in Green Hall 2668 to make arrangements for academic accommodations. For all disability testing accommodation requests (i.e. quieter environment, extended time, oral testing, etc.) the Testing Center (Green Hall 2700) is the officially designated place for all tests administered outside of the regular classroom.
VIII. Course Schedule

Class 1: Syllabus Intro
Class 2: Intro to the Prophets
Class 3: Intro to the Prophets
Class 4: Hosea
Class 5: Hosea
Class 6: Hosea
Class 7: Amos
Class 8: Amos
Class 9: Amos
Class 10: Amos
Class 11: Jonah
Class 12: Jonah
Class 13: Jonah (Theology of the Prophetic Book Due)
Class 14: Jonah
Class 15: Mid-Term Exam
Class 17: Micah
Class 18: Micah
Class 19: Micah
Class 20: Nahum (Bible Study Lesson Paper Due)
Class 21: Nahum
Class 22: Obadiah
Class 23: Zephaniah
Class 24: Zephaniah
Class 25: Habakkuk
Class 26: Habakkuk
Class 27: Theology of the Minor Prophets
Class 28: Theology of the Minor Prophets

**FINAL EXAM:** according to university exam schedule
IX. SELECTED COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY


**Hosea**


Amos


Obadiah


**Jonah**


**Micah**


**Nahum**


**Habakkuk**


**Zephaniah**


