

**OT 813 PROPHETS BOOK STUDY (BOOK OF THE TWELVE)**  
**FEBRUARY 4–MAY 6**  
**MONDAYS, 1:00PM – 3:45 PM**  
**SPRING 2019**

Last revised: October 16, 2018

**Missio Seminary exists to produce missional Christian leaders-  
men and women who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who  
communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition,  
and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.**

## **INSTRUCTOR**

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Website: [narrativeofplace.com](http://narrativeofplace.com)

Office Hours: by appointment via Skype, phone, or in person in my office in the MacRae House (to the left when you enter and up the stairs). Contact me by email or voice mail to schedule an appointment.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course we study the twelve “minor” prophets and their “major” message. The focus is on the historical, canonical, geographical, and theological perspectives of the minor prophets (Hosea to Malachi). Using course readings, Hebrew translations, and class discussions, we will analyze the intertextual connections within each of the books and the canon and discuss the theological implications for the life of the church in our modern, global context.

## **PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR**

The minor prophets pack a mighty punch! Yet war poetry, swarming hoards of locusts, vengeance, and the dreadful “Day of the Lord” can be difficult texts to understand. How do we bring such important texts to the church? These prophets call God’s people to account for their actions while also assuring the people of God’s unfailing love and comfort. The often ignored minor prophets offer a vision of God’s sovereignty over the nations and speak compellingly of God’s judgment and mercy. Come join me as we humbly engage these powerful texts.

~ Cyndi Parker

## **SYLLABUS**

This syllabus provides an overview of the course and course requirements. Students are responsible to know the content of the syllabus and follow the course schedule. Questions about the syllabus or schedule should be emailed to the professor promptly and will generally be answered in an email to the entire class so that everyone is informed.

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the term and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as course needs arise.

## PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
<b>Goal 1:</b> Students will live grace-based lives increasingly characterized by wisdom, the fruit of the Spirit, and love for God and others.	1. Achieve a better understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to follow him into the world. 2. Develop professional behavior towards one's work, student community, and professional community.
<b>GOAL 3:</b> Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Bible & its missional perspective and their ability to humbly interpret and apply it in light of history, culture, and genre.	3. To define prophecy and the purposes for the prophetic voice. 4. To survey the historical framework within which the minor prophets spoke/wrote. 5. To articulate the "major" message of each "minor" prophet. 6. To conscientiously apply biblical texts in preaching & ministry.

## COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS

ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS*	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME
Reading and Open Book Quizzes + Guided Discussion	2, 3, 4, 5	20	40
Attendance, Preparation, Participation	All	10	
Online Forums+Lamentations Response	1, 2, 6	10	10
Timeline of Prophets and Politics	4	10	5
Rough Draft of Parts 1–3 of Exegetical Paper	1, 2, 4, 6	10	20
Final Exegetical Paper	1, 2, 4, 6	20	20
Final exam	2, 3, 4, 5	20	10
Total estimated time on homework		100%	105 hrs

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY IN ADDITION TO CLASS SESSIONS*	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME
Videos	1, 6		3.0
Total			3 hrs
*These required assignments involve instruction comparable to what occurs in the classroom (lectures, presentations, and instructor-led activities such as discussions, debates, and collaborative work. They should be completed on the due dates listed in this syllabus.			

**Note:** All assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the syllabus and no later than the final due date for the course listed in this syllabus by permission of the instructor. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work. See “Completion of Course Work” below.

## REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS

**NOTE:** Hyperlinks to Amazon.com are placed here for your convenience. Please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell the same item for cheaper prices (check out [bookbutler.com](http://bookbutler.com) for comparative prices). Please shop around! In addition, some sites offer ebook rental prices for a limited number of weeks. These may also be cost effective. Just be sure to buy the right edition and recognize some of the smaller sellers may not deliver books in a timely fashion.

### Books:

Hebrew Bible

Brueggemann, Walter. [The Prophetic Imagination](#). Second Edition. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2001.

Fuhr, Richard Alan and Gary Yates. [The Message of the Twelve](#). Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2016.

Matthews, Victor H. [The Hebrew Prophets and their Social World](#), Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.

### Videos:

Videos will be posted on e-Campus

## RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Elizabeth Achtemeier, [Preaching from the Minor Prophets](#).

Elizabeth Achtemeier, [New International Biblical Commentary: Minor Prophets I](#)

Daniel Berrigan, [Minor Prophets: Major Themes](#)

Joseph Blenkinsopp, [A History of Prophecy in Israel](#). Revised Edition.

Walter Brueggemann, [The Prophetic Imagination](#). Second Edition.

Richard Alan Fuhr Jr. and Gary Yates, [The Message of the Twelve](#).

John Goldingay and Pamela Scalise, [Minor Prophets II](#).

Daniel J. Hays, [The Message of the Prophets](#).

James C. Martin, John A Beck, and David G. Hansen, [A Visual Guide to Bible Events](#).

James D. Nogalski, [Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets](#).

Anson Rainey and Steven Notley, [The Sacred Bridge](#)

Ronald L. Troxel, [Prophetic Literature: From Oracles to Books](#).

## COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

### Attendance Policy and Grades

We have a limited amount of time together in class. I expect all of us to respect each other’s time and effort to arrive on time despite our busy schedules. For the sake of professionalism, I will take attendance at the beginning of class.

**Participation points will be deducted for every late arrival or missed class. The student is responsible for all material covered in class (even for excused absences!).**

Students are also expected to login to the E-campus course site regularly and participate in the course activities in a timely manner. If you know you are going to be absent from the course site for more than three or four days, please notify the instructor and group members (if applicable) in advance. Nevertheless, recognize that your grade may be lowered for tardiness or absences at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance in this course constitutes both 1) coming to class and 2) logging in to the E-campus course site and

participating in the online or out-of-class activities assigned throughout the course. Students are responsible for reading and familiarizing themselves with the material posted on the E-campus course site throughout the course.

Student usage of the course site is tracked by the E-campus software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who need to be absent from the course site for three or more days during a discussion forum activity or required web conference should email the professor in advance of the absence (see Attendance Policy and Grades in this syllabus). Students may email the instructor at any time if they have questions about the course.

### **Completion of Course Work**

All assignments must be handed in to pass the class. All course work should be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic administration committee. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the last class of the term. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the last day of classes. Variance forms for this purpose are available in the academic office or on BTS' website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted.

### **Policies and Procedures**

*Late Work:* Assignments submitted after the time specified on the syllabus will automatically be deducted **3 points** for every late day. All assignments must be completed to pass the course.

*Online submissions:* Assignments that are requested for submission online should be formatted in the following way: Heading with Student's name, Professor's name, Assignment's Name. One inch margins. Single spaced. Use Times New Roman 12pt. font (or something similar). Present your paper in a professional way.

*Printed paper submissions:* Assignments should include a heading on the first page with the Student's name, Professor's Name, Assignment's Name. Do not use a title page. The paper should be 1.5 space with 1" margins and 12pt. Times New Roman font. Please number the pages and include a Bibliography.

*Rubrics:* All rubrics for submitted assignments will be posted online. Also note the added articles for helpful hints for writing successful essays.

*Plagiarism:* In this class we follow the seminary's policies on plagiarism as outlined in the Student Handbook. Remember, if you use someone else's words, put them in quotations and cite the source in a footnote. If you refer to someone else's idea, even if you summarize, you must cite the source. ***Do not cut and paste full paragraphs***. Each essay is to be your own work and not a long series of quotes from others.

*Disability Accommodation:* Missio Theological Seminary complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you believe you have a condition which will require accommodation, please refer to the Student Handbook and follow the procedures outlined. Please review this syllabus carefully and make an appointment with the professor to discuss any assignments for which you believe you will need accommodation according to the arrangements made with the dean.

*Student Laptop Security Statement:* MTS recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they are being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use. Contact the Academic Office if you have any questions about this statement.

### **ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND GRADING**

### **Open Book Quizzes**

One open book quiz is required of each book from our reading list. The Reading Quizzes will be available on the e-Campus website, and you can take them anytime during the second half of the course. You do not have to take them at the same time. They are open book, but it is to your advantage to have completed the reading before trying to take the quizzes.

### **Online Forums**

Discussion questions about a given subject are due according to the calendar below. This is not a formal writing assignment (can be more like a journal entry). The paper is your chance to pause and think about how the Old Testament text is relevant to Christian thought and formation. Papers receive a “Pass+” for thoughtfulness and for references to the biblical text *and to our reading material*, a “Pass” for a “fine” answer that is completed on time, “Pass-” for a late assignment, and a “Fail” for not turning the reflection paper in.

### **Lamentations Response Paper**

The instructions for this exercise will be posted online.

You will write a one page, single spaced response paper.

This is counted as a Forum, but the student will give the response directly to me so the paper is not public.

### **Timeline of Prophets and Politics**

Construct a timeline that fits onto one page. The student has creative license to design the timeline as s/he would like. Information that must be included is as follows: Each minor prophet; origin of prophet (Israel or Judah); which nation they are addressing; significant international events; and superpower influencing Israelite politics.

The timeline must be hand drawn. Use different colors to make information obvious at a glance. (Examples will be shown in class)

\*This project will help give you background information necessary for the third section of your exegetical paper and will also be information evaluated in the final exam.

### **Exegetical Paper**

Each student will chose a passage from a list distributed in class. There are five required sections to the paper.

Students will hand in a rough draft version of the first half of the paper (sections 1–3), which will be graded and handed back. Corrections need to be made according to my feedback and then turned in with the final two sections.

Detailed explanations of how to successfully complete an exegetical paper will be given in class and posted online.

*Section 1:* Translation of the Hebrew text into English.

*Section 2:* Discussion of the author of the text and also his cultural and geographical context.

*Section 3:* A description of the historical-cultural backdrop presupposed in the text.

*Section 4:* Literary Context including two word studies

*Section 5:* Theological reflections on the text. The student will present the key theological emphases of the text.

This means the text’s distinctive perspective on: (1) what it means to be in relationship to God, to other members of the community of faith, and to the creation; (2) God’s relationship to his people, the nations and the creation; (3) the values and virtues (or their opposites) that the text seeks to inculcate. Similarly, these reflections may include thoughts regarding how this text shapes our understanding of such issues as one’s individual identity and calling. It may seek to bring the text into dialogue with other biblical texts. It may include the student’s personal response, on a variety of levels, to the ideas in the text

Please read “[How to Write an A+ Research Paper](#)” for helpful guideline for writing an excellent paper. Although your are writing an exegetical paper, many of these steps remain the same.

**Guided Discussion:** The ThM students will make a presentation about Brueggemann’s book, *The Prophetic Imagination*. Following the presentation, the students will guide the rest of the class in a discussion on provocative themes and issues from the book.

### **Final Exam:**

The final will be comprehensive and taken in class on Monday, May 6. A review sheet will be handed out in class prior to the exam.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

\*This is a rough draft schedule, and topics may change. Please refer to our e-Campus website for up-to-date assignments and due dates.

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE TODAY	IN CLASS	OUTSIDE-OF-CLASS OR ONLINE
February 2		<b>Topic: Introduction to the Book of the Twelve; Superpowers in the ANE; Introduction to the Library</b>	Read: Book of Hosea (any translation) Reading Guide: Female Imagery in Hosea Select passage for exegetical paper and begin your translation.
February 11		<b>Topic: God as a Rejected Lover ~ Hosea</b>	Complete: Timeline of Prophets and Politics Respond: Online Forum
February 18	Timeline of Prophets and Politics Forum: Female Imagery in Hosea	<b>Topic: What is Restoration? ~ Hosea</b>	Read: Book of Amos (any translation)
February 25		<b>Topic: Social Justice ~ Amos</b>	Respond: Online Forum
March 4	Forum: What about the Poor?	<b>Topic: The Lord Roars from Zion ~ Amos</b>	Read: Book of Micah (any translation) Watch Video Interview: Social Criticism
March 11	Reading Quizzes now available online ~ due by <b>April 22 at 11:59 pm.</b>	<b>Topic: Social Criticism ~ Micah</b>	Catch up on all Reading!
March 18		<b>Topic: Serving the Community</b>	Read: Jonah, Nahum and Obadiah (any translation) Reading Guide: "Enemies"
March 25	Rough Draft: Exegetical Paper sections 1-3	<b>Topic: Lord of the Nations ~ Jonah, Nahum, Obadiah</b>	Read: Habakkuk (any translation) Do Lamentations Exercise
April 1	Response: Lamentations	<b>Topic: Visions of Woe and Humble Prayers ~ Habakkuk</b>	Read: Joel and Zephaniah (any translation)
April 8	Forum: Day of the Lord	Topic: Great and Terrible Day of the Lord ~ Joel, Zephaniah	Read: Haggai and Zechariah (any translation)
April 15		<b>Topic: Post-exilic Prophecy ~ Haggai, Zechariah</b>	

April 22		<b>No Class Happy Easter!</b>	Read: Malachi (any translation) Complete: Exegetical Paper
April 29	Final Exegetical Paper Due Group Presentation and Guided Discussion on <i>The Prophetic Imagination</i>	<b>Topic: Post-exilic Prophecy ~ Malachi</b>	Complete all Reading Quizzes Prepare for the Final Exam
May 6	All Reading Quizzes due by this date or earlier.	Final (in class)	

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. **Academic Policies:** Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the Academic Catalog and all requirements concerning their degree programs. See the e-campus home page.
2. **Course Syllabus:** Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should email the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See above under “completion of course work” for policies on course extensions.
3. **E-campus Course Site:** Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email [helpdesk@biblical.edu](mailto:helpdesk@biblical.edu) and include their student ID# in their correspondence.
4. **Academic and General Integrity:** As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the Academic Catalog. See the Academic Catalog for more information on plagiarism and policies related to cheating and plagiarism.

## GRADING SYSTEM

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain the grade point average designated for his or her program.

A	4.00	93.0–100	Excellent
A-	3.67	90.00–92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0–89.9	
B	3.00	83.0–86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0–82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0–79.9	
C	2.00	73.0–76.9	Fair

C-	1.70	70.0–72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0–69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0–66.9	
D-	0.70	60.0–62.9	
F	0.00	0.0–59.9	Failing