PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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HB 600 Exegesis of the Hebrew Bible: Prophets & Justice
Spring 2014
Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Professor: Dr. Lisa Davison
Johnnie Eargle Cadieux Professor of Hebrew Bible
Phone: 918/270-4607
E-mail: Lisa.Davison@ptstulsa.edu

Prerequisites: HB 500 Intro to the Hebrew Bible or PC 500 Interpretation Matters

Course Description: This course is intended to help students in all Masters programs “act as responsible biblical interpreters critically informed by current historical, literary and theological scholarship in the field of biblical studies.” As an exegetical course in the area of Biblical Studies, the course is designed to help students “be fluent in biblical interpretation . . . pay attention to interpretive concerns (e.g., historical context, literary character, etc.) . . . [and] use the Bible with an awareness of scholarly understandings as a resource for thinking about the issues and concerns of everyday life.” To this end, the course will include an introduction to exegesis and the variety of methods utilized in interpreting a biblical text (e.g., form criticism, rhetorical criticism, ideological criticism, etc.), along with opportunities to practice these methods on a variety of texts from the Hebrew Bible. Special attention will be given to the role of the prophet in Ancient Israel, the texts of the 8th century prophets of the Hebrew Bible (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah, & Isa 1-39), and the concept of “justice” at work in these biblical voices. By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Employ different exegetical methods when working with texts of the Hebrew Bible.
2. Identify the characteristics of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible.
3. Define what it means to call someone a “prophet”.
4. Name and briefly describe the 8th Century Prophets (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah & Isa 1-39) of the Hebrew Bible.
5. Provide an explanation of “justice” as understood by the 8th Century Prophets of the Hebrew Bible and their own definition of “justice”.
6. Write an exegesis of a text from one of the 8th century prophets utilizing at 3 different exegetical methods.
7. Demonstrate how the fruits from their exegesis of a biblical text can be applied to different ministerial contexts.
Approach: This is an upper level seminar course; therefore, a foundational knowledge of the Hebrew Bible will be assumed (i.e., historical/cultural background, literary genres, etc.). The class sessions will entail both lecture by the professor and class discussion. Class discussions will be open, honest, and respectful; all opinions will be respected and derogatory language toward another person will not be tolerated. [Behavior or attitudes that are disrespectful of another person, professor or student, will result in significant lowering of the offender’s grade.] All participants will covenant together to agree to disagree without hostility.

Required Texts: In addition to these books, a few readings from other sources will be assigned and made available to the students, either on Blackboard (Bb) or in class. [The reading assignments are indicated in the course schedule using the abbreviations provided for each text.]


Assignments: The requirements of the course are listed below, along with their respective values for the final course grade and (where appropriate) the dates on which the assignment is due. All students are expected to turn in assignments on (or before) the provided dates. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless prior permission has been granted by the professor. Such extensions will only be approved for emergency situations.

1. Class Participation [20% of final grade]: Every student is expected to attend all scheduled class sessions. Attendance implies more than just being present during the class period. All students are expected to complete reading/writing assignments (as appropriate) and to participate in class discussions. To be counted “present”, students must have a bible with them
in class.

2. **In Class Presentation [15%]:** Every student will present an exegetical examination of an 8th century prophetic text for the class. Instructions for this assignment will be provided in class. Presentations are due on the appropriate date in the semester (to be determined by the professor).

3. **Contemporary Application [20%]:** Every student will choose one from the following options to compose: a Sermon based on an 8th century prophetic text; a Worship Service utilizing/focusing upon an 8th century prophetic text/s; or an Educational Experience/Lecture based on a text (or texts) from an 8th century prophet. Instructions for this assignment will be provided in class. Applications are due to the professor no later than **4 pm [Central] on May 8, 2014. Late applications will not be accepted.**

4. **Exegesis Paper [50% of final grade]:** Students will choose a text from one of the 8th century prophets (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah, & Isaiah 1-39) and write a 15-20 page exegesis paper on that passage. Further instructions will be given in class by the professor. Papers (hardcopies) are due to the professor no later than **8:30 am on May 4, 2011. Students planning to graduate at the semester’s end must turn in papers on April 27, 2011 by 4 pm. Late papers will not be accepted. This is the paper you should include in your Student Portfolio.**

Please let me know right away if you are having difficulties of any sort (academic or otherwise) that are interfering with your work in class. It is much easier to work out difficulties early on than it is to deal with weeks of fuzzy understanding, accumulated missed assignments, missed classes, etc.

**Grading:** Letter grades will be determined based on the following scale. Students should also consult their *Student Handbook* for information on what constitutes “A work”; “B work”; “C work”; “D work”; and “F work”.

- “A” range = 90-100
- “B” range = 80-89
- “C” range = 70-79
- “D” range = 60-69
- F = 59 and below

**A+ = 98-100**

**A = 94-97**

**A- = 90-93**

**B+ = 87-89**

**B = 84-86**

**B- = 80-83**

**C+ = 77-79**

**C = 74-76**

**C- = 70-73**

**D+ = 67-69**

**D = 64-66**

**D- = 60-63**

**Helpful Hints:** Extra credit does not exist in the course. Make use of the credit available. "Trying hard" is usually necessary, but not sufficient, to create good work. In short, the professor cannot base a grade on "effort"; the grade is based on the submitted product.
**Accommodation for Individuals with Disabilities:** Phillips Theological Seminary is committed to providing equal access to its programs of graduate professional education for all qualified students with learning, physical, medical, and/or psychological disabilities. The Seminary aims to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with a disability (based on clinical documentation) to ensure their access and participation in Seminary programs. For details, see “Disabilities Policies and Procedures” in the PTS Student Handbook. The PTS Student Handbook is located on the PTS website (www.ptstulsa.edu): go to Worship & Community tab and select Student Handbook.

**Academic Honesty:** Integrity is a basic principle of academic work. All students are required to be familiar with the PTS policies regarding “Academic Misconduct”. Dishonesty in student work (including, but not limited to: cheating and plagiarism) will not be tolerated in this course. Students who are found guilty of academic misconduct will receive at least a grade of “F” on the assignment in question and have a letter sent to the Dean explaining the situation. Other, more serious consequences are possible as described in the Student Handbook (www.ptstulsa.edu).

**Attendance:** “At PTS, class attendance and engaged participation are very important. Every member of the faculty and student community is, in fact, both teacher and learner. Therefore, a class absence means more than merely a missed delivery of educational content. It also means the irrecoverable loss of a unique dialogical ‘learning-through-teaching’ opportunity for oneself and others. In view of this understanding, PTS has an established Attendance Policy that states: Any student who misses 20% or more of the class contact hours for a course, for any reason, cannot pass or successfully audit that course. The intention of the policy is not to be punitive, but to recognize that students should retake courses for credit if they miss a significant number of the class contact hours” (PTS Student Handbook). For this class, **not fulfilling the Forum requirements for more than 2 weeks will exceed the acceptable number of absences and will result in a grade of “F” for the course.**

**Other Policies:** All written work should follow Turabian formatting. Assignments may NOT be faxed to the seminary. Unless previously arranged with the professor, all assignments (except online work) are to be turned-in to the professor at the beginning of the class session in which they are due. Students are required to use “Just Language” (as covered in class) for all written work. Out of respect for the class, all cell phones must be turned-off during the session. In emergency situations, phones may be left on vibrate, but students must notify the professor before class.

**Course Schedule:** The professor reserves the right to alter this schedule if pedagogical concerns necessitate such a change. This includes, but is not limited to:
adding/deleting assignments, rearranging topics, and changing due dates for assignments (only if it is to the students’ benefit).

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| 1/30  | Introductions  
Reading Location  
What is exegesis? | H&H Ch 1 |
| 2/6   | The Text as Propaganda  
Cultural Hermeneutics | H&H Ch 11; Following {Moodle}  
“Dancing Around Life”;  
“Canaanites, Cowboys, & Indians”; “Reading the Bible from an African Perspective”;  
“Ethics, Bible, Reading As If” |
| 2/13  | Who is a Prophet? | Heschel “Intro”, Part I Ch 1 & Part II Chs 1-4 & pp 627-32 |
| 2/20  | Establishing the Text  
History In/Behind the Text  
8th Century BCE Israel & Judah | H&H Chs 2-3; JSB pp 2062-2076  
Premnath “Intro” & Chs 1-3 |
| 2/27  | Oral Stages of the Text  
Sources Behind the Text  
Traditioning the Text | H&H Ch 6-7; TBA |
| 3/6   | The Text as Literature | H&H Chs 5, 8, & 10; |
| 3/13  | Other Methods  
Putting It All Together | H&H Chs 12-13; Gossai Chs IV & V |
| 3/20 & 27 | CONCENTRATED COURSE WEEKS  
NO CLASSES |
<p>| 4/3   | What is “justice”? | Gossai Ch VI; Heschel Part I Ch 11 |
| 4/10  | Amos &amp; Hosea | Heschel I Chs 2-3; Premnath Ch 4; TBA |
| 4/17  | EASTER RECESS – NO CLASS |</p>
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<td>Isaiah of Jerusalem</td>
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<td>Contemporary Prophets</td>
<td>Heschel Part II Chs 5-7 &amp; 11-16; <em>Daring to Speak in God’s Name</em>, pp 116-171 {Moodle}</td>
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<td>5/15</td>
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