Course Profile

Course # and Title: RHS 401
Course Title: Religious heritage: Scripture. Israel’s Prophets
Instructor: Dr. Klaus-Peter Adam
Semester/Year: Spring 2021

Short Description (1-2 Sentences):
An overview on the prophetic writings in the Hebrew Bible, starting with the latter prophets Isaiah – Malachi, with a brief overview of the books from Joshua-2Kings, the so-called former prophets.

Delivery Mode: Synchronous on Zoom (discussion 1.5 hours) and asynchronous (lecture, discussion forums, quizzes) on LMS, depending on COVID 19 status, class will have an option to meet onsite Tues, 2:30-4pm room, TBD

Course Rationale and Description
(Why do we offer this course? Which of LSTC’s degree program learning outcomes does it address?):

This course introduces to a diverse and highly political part of the biblical heritage, the prophets. It introduces to some aspects of prophetic writings, to their development and the interpretation of this integral part of Israel’s religious tradition. The course covers selected prophetic books, beginning with the latter prophets and their books, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah, II-Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Jonah. By way of reading and studying the prophetic books this course gives an overview on the prophetic movement.

Participants will develop the ability to think contextually about the prophets’ witness about their theologies, and about their movements and their books. They will be able to creatively engage the prophets in a pluralistic world in ways that are culturally sensitive. The course includes the Protestant/Lutheran hermeneutics of the prophets, 20th century hermeneutics and 21st century contextual approaches to scripture: gender, feminist (“pornoprophetics”), womanist, mujerista, post-holocaust readings.

It introduces models of preaching and of teaching prophets in a parish context. Participants will learn to effectively communicate and embody the witness of scripture and to demonstrate knowledge of the prophets. We will consider how to preach prophetic texts and how to adequately communicate the prophets’ message as part of the Christian heritage in a way that is faithful to scripture, ecumenically sensitive and intellectually defensible.

Finally, on the basis of this course participants will reflect on: What does it mean to be a prophetic church?
This course is for students in the MDiv and MA and MAM programs, usually after having worked on the Pentateuch.

Course Learning Outcomes (Learners will be able to):
(What difference will this course make to students’ knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices?)
By the end of the semester students will be able to

- display methodological skills in interpretation and use methodological tools of biblical exegesis
• use analytical tools, such as a concordance (in print or via Accordance), various translations, commentaries for scholars and preachers.
• discuss the literary forms of prophetic books and transformations of their foci.
• explain prophetic identity in antiquity and relate it to prophetic movements today.
• discuss social reality in ancient Israel from the 8th century through the Hellenistic period.
• juxtapose contemporary social questions to the social realities in Ancient Israel and Judah.
• clarify models of the interpretation of the prophets in Christianity: in antiquity, during the 16th century Reformation, in 19/20th century Lutheran/Protestant theology,
• discuss contextual translations and approaches to prophetic literature in the 21st century: e.g. feminist/gender, post-holocaust, liberation theology readings.
• present models of thinking prophetically and to develop strategies to reflect on prophecy today and on preaching prophets in 21st century western society.

Strategies for Learning):
(How shall we go about achieving these outcomes?)
• Attendance.
• Reading the required biblical texts and other assigned readings.
• Exegetical discussion in class.
• Book report.
• Weekly quiz, discussion forum on fundamental aspects of the prophetic books and their interpretation.
• 12-15-page paper (at least 5,000 words) on one text from the Prophets or a bible study for an adult audience of similar length.

Assessment :
(How shall we know if we—students and instructors—have been successful in achieving the outcomes?)
• Thoughtful oral feedback during classroom discussions and small group work in class.
• Written evaluation of the style, the structure, and the descriptive accuracy of the book report, namely the content and methodological approach of the book.
• Criticism of the methodology and the content and further advice on bibliography for the exegetical paper.
• Individual academic mentoring for students with particular interests.

Bibliography:
Any modern translation of the bible, such as the NRSV, New American Bible, New International Version, or Tanakh (Jewish Publication Society).
Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS) if you know Hebrew.

Participants are not required to purchase any textbook. Main bibliography will be posted on the course site or will be accessible through JKM library. The first three titles include overviews on prophecy and prophetic books.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>ISBN# (Required)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History of Prophecy in Israel. Revised and enlarged, Louisville KY:</td>
<td>J. A. Blenkinsopp</td>
<td>9780664256395</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012 (sections on the prophets).</td>
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Further secondary literature (available in JKM library):


Additional information:

1100 East 55th Street * Chicago, IL 60615-5199 * 773-256-0700