

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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**TITLE:** Prophetic Literature

**TERM:** F **YEAR:** 20119 [September to December 2011]

**PROFESSOR:** Shawn W. Flynn

**REGISTRATION:** UNLIMITED

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will explore the prophets of Israel from their historical contexts, identify distinct types of prophecy present in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, explore the development of prophecy as a phenomena and genre and identify major theological themes present in the prophets like: the presence/absence of God (through the divine word and divine spirit), the role of sin and ethical life, and differing versions of restoration. Attention will be paid to Israelite prophets’ relation to similar/different ancient Near Eastern figures and the unique Israelite prophetic contributions to expressions of God (particularly shifts from polytheism to monotheism). Basic methods of exegesis will be reinforced, as well as attention to a Catholic framework for interpreting scripture in Church documents. Finally, the use of the prophets in the Lectionary will be discussed.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

After careful attention to readings and assignments the student should be able to:

- Understand the historical contexts of prophetic books and how to use that information for interpretation.
- Have a basic understanding of different stages of prophetic expression in Israelite history.
- Articulate the major theological themes of various prophetic books.
- Have a sense and some competence in exegetical method and its associated tools related to the prophetic corpus.
- Be able to creatively use Prophetic literature to design a multi-day retreat.
- Be able to apply the results of exegesis to faith and articulating the faith in various preaching ministries, in particular the use of Prophetic literature in the lectionary.

**PREREQUISITES:** Introduction to the Old Testament

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Joan E. Cook, *Hear O Heavens and Listen O Earth: An Introduction to the Prophets*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2006.

A modern English translation of the Bible such as the *New Revised Standard Version* or the *New American Bible (The Catholic Study Bible*. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press, 2006.)

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

Participation:	10%
Retreat Assignment	30%
Essay	30%
Final Exam	30%

## ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *A History of Prophecy in Israel*. Revised and Enlarged Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996
- Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *Sage, Prophet and Priest: Religious and Intellectual Leadership in Ancient Israel*. Louisville: John Knox/Westminster Press, 1995.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *The Prophetic Imagination*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.
- Dempsey, Carol J. *The Prophets: A Liberation-Critical Reading*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000.
- Gordon, Robert P. *The Place Is Too Small For Us*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1995.
- Just, Felix. S.J. "Catholic Church Documents related to Biblical Studies"  
<http://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/index.html>
- King, Philip J. *Jeremiah. An Archaeological Companion*. Westminster John Knox Press: 1993.
- Malamat, Abraham "Prophecy at Mari" in Chaim Cohen, Avi Hurvitz and Shalmon M. Paul (eds), *Sefer Moshe: The Moshe Weinfeld Jubilee Volume*. Eisenbrauns, Winona Lake 2004.
- Nissinen, Martti, Robert Kriech Ritner, Choon Leong Seow, Peter Machinist. *Prophets and Prophecy in the ancient Near East*. Writings from the Ancient World 12: Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- Mayes, Andrew "Prophecy and Society in Israel," pp. 25-42 in *Prophets' Vision and Wisdom Sages: Essays in Honor of R. Norman Whybray on His Seventieth Birthday* (ed. H. A. McKay and D. J. A Clines; JSOTSup 162; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1993).
- Nissinen, M. "What is Prophecy? An Ancient Near Eastern Perspective," 17-37 in *Inspired Speech: Prophecy in the Ancient Near East. Essays in Honor of Herbert Huffmon*. T & T Clark, 2004.
- Parker, Simon B. "Official Attitudes Toward Prophecy at Mari and in Israel." *Vetus Testamentum* 43.1 (1993): 50-68.
- Petersen, David L., *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- Sweeney, Marvin A. *The Prophetic Literature, Interpreting Biblical Texts*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- Weinfeld, Moshe. "Ancient Near Eastern Patterns in Prophetic Literature" pages 32-49 in Chaim Cohen, Avi Hurvitz and Shalmon M. Paul (eds), *Sefer Moshe: The Moshe Weinfeld Jubilee Volume*. Eisenbrauns, Winona Lake 2004.
- Wilson, Robert R. *Prophecy and Society in Ancient Israel*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1980.