

Course Title: THEO 2212 PROPHETIC LITERATURE

Second Term 2015/2016 Tue 10:30am-1:15pm CCT G01
Prof Philip Chia (Email: theo2212chia@gmail.com)

Course Description:

This course covers selected readings from the second portion of the Hebrew bible, the Prophets, in particular the latter prophets, which includes Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets). Historical studies aided with contextual interpretations will be the approach taken in engaging the biblical text, while theological and exegetical studies of the text will interact vigorously with contemporary social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of the public life. Insights and influences from modern literary and critical theories, social sciences and humanities, and various inter-disciplinary approaches will also be introduced in the course of interpretation.

Course Objectives:

1. To learn the content of the Prophetic Literature of the Hebrew bible.
2. To understand historical and contextual interpretations of the prophetic texts.
3. To engage the biblical texts with various dimensions of the contemporary public life.

Course Content and Schedule:

The class will meet three periods each week for lectures and discussion. This course mainly engages textual studies of selected portions of the prophetic literature, in terms of their interpretations, historical and contextual, highlighting themes and issues within the text.

Date	Topics	Key concepts/topics	Readings
Jan 12	Course Introduction, Introduction to prophetic literature	Nabiim, prophetic literature,	Petersen, 1-46; Gordon, 3-28
Jan 19	Overview on Prophetic Literature Scholarship	Reading strategy	Gordon, pp.579-605 Bruce, ch.8
Jan 26	Eighth Century Prophet: Isaiah 1-39	Immanuel passages, International Politics, sacred/secular	Bruce, ch.9-10
Feb 02	Eighth Century Prophet: Isaiah 40-66	Servant's songs; Messianic hope	Petersen, 47-96
Feb 09	Chinese Lunar New Year	/	/
Feb 16	Sixth Century Prophet: Jeremiah, structural overview, message, theology	Literary Structure; LXX/MT textual versions; Jeremiah studies	Petersen, 97-124
Feb 23	Sixth Century Prophet: Jeremiah: temple sermon	Socio-political contexts, theological implication	Petersen, 125-136
Mar 01	Fifth Century Exilic Prophet: Ezekiel	Apocalypticism, prophetic imagination, figuring the speech	Petersen, 137-168

Mar 08	The Book of Twelve: Hosea	Hesed, covenantal love	Petersen, 169-188
Mar 15	The Book of Twelve: Joel, Amos	Social and public justice, judgment	Petersen, 169-188
Mar 22	Mid Term Test	Bruce Chs. 9-10	Lectures
Mar 29	Book of Twelve: Obadiah, Jonah	Rhetorical analysis, Edom, divine love and justice	Petersen, 189-192
Apr 05	Post-Exilic Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	Second temple, priest-prophet relationship, post-exilic ideology	Petersen, 205-214
Apr 12	Theology of the Hebrew Prophets	Hopeful imagination	Brueg, 13-2 6, 151-158.
Apr 19	Second Temple Judea	Special Topic: Jewish Nationalism, Politics	

Bruce = Bruce C. Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, David L. Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* by (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999, 2002). BS1192.5 .T43 1999

Gordon = Gordon, Robert P., ed., *"The Place is Too Small for Us": The Israelite Prophets in Recent Scholarship*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1996. BS1505.2 .P57 1995

Petersen = Petersen, David L. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002. BS1198 .P46 2002 . BS1198 .P46 2002 中譯本：大衛·彼得森著。伍美詩譯。《先知文學導論》。香港：道聲出版社，2007。BS1198 .P4612 2007

Brueg = Brueggemann, Walter. ed. *Hope for the World : Mission in a Global Context : Papers from the Campbell Seminar* Campbell Seminar (2000 : Columbia Theological Seminary). Louisville, Ky. : Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. BV2020 .C36 2000

Freeman, Hobart E. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 1981. 中譯本：傅理曼著。梁潔瓊譯。《舊約先知書導論》。台灣：華神，1986。

McConville J. G. *Exploring the Old Testament: Vol. 4 The Prophets*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2002. [CC BS1140.3.M33 2002] 中譯本：麥康維爾著。紀榮神譯。《先知書》。香港：天道，2008。

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge Outcomes:

- (1) To be able to understand prophetic literature in terms of its historical scholarship and contemporary interpretations.
- (2) To be able to engage the prophetic text with contemporary contextual issues.

Attitude Outcomes

- (1) To develop students' ability to have a critical and yet sympathetic understanding and appreciation of the prophetic literature of the Hebrew bible within the milieu of modern biblical scholarship.
- (2) To develop students' sensitivity to the relevancy of biblical prophetic literature to the public dimension of human life.

Learning Activities

This course mainly consists of lectures and student participations through class discussion and a mid term test.

Lecture (hr) in class	Reading Materials for Mid Term Test (hr) /course	Web-based teaching (hr)	Course Reading (hr)	Written Assignment and project presentation (hr) / course
3 per week	12 hr	1 per week	3 per week	15 hr
M	M	M	M	M

M: Mandatory activity in the course

Assessment scheme

1. Reading Report: (20%) Submission Date: Feb 23, 2016

Read Chapters Eight, Nine and Ten of the book *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* by Bruce C. Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, David L. Petersen (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999, 2002) and write a 2,000 words of summary report reflecting your understanding of the historical background of the Hebrew prophetic literature. May also choose from one of the following.

2. Mid Term Test: (20%) Mar 22, 2016

There will be a mid-term test on the historical background of the prophetic literature. There will be SIX questions out of which FOUR questions to be answered, based on the three chapters of reading materials and class lectures.

3. Term Paper: (50%) Submission Date: May 03, 2016

Write a 4,000 words term paper on the topic: “**The Prophetic Hope**”. Submit a proposed outline by Mar 15. The final paper is to be submitted on May 03. Late submission will not be accepted without prior written approval and may suffer penalty in grade.

Full documentation standard (*The Chicago Manual of Style*) must be strictly observed or suffer grade repercussion.

The paper should cover the following areas:

- (i) The purpose of the book/texts selected for the research topic
- (ii) The relationship between the topic and the book/texts selected
- (iii) The significance of the text and topic in current scholarship
- (iv) The implication of the text and topic for current global, social, political, economy and cultural public environments.

Students must (1) submit all written assignments via the Webpage of the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine (VeriGuide) <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide>; (2) post a copy onto the Blackboard and give **a hardcopy** together with a print out of receipt and (3) signed Academic Honesty Declaration Statement from Veriguide (received via e-mail after you have submitted your assignment) to **prof mail box at Divinity School of Chung Chi College**.

Task nature	Description	Weight
Readings and summary report	Based on assigned reading materials and write a summary report on the socio-political economic historical background of the prophetic books. (2,000 words & due <u>on or before Feb 16, 2016</u>)	20%
Mid Term Test	Answer FOUR Questions out of SIX Questions (Mar 22, 2016)	20%
Written Assignment	Term Paper (4,000 words & due <u>on or before May 03, 2016</u>)	50%

Learning resources for students

Basic readings will be taken from:

Blenkinsopp, Joseph, *Sage, Priest, Prophet: Religious and Intellectual Leadership in Ancient Israel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995.

_____. *A History of Prophecy in Israel*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983, *Revised and Enlarged*, 1996. ISBN: 0664256392

Brenneman, James E., *Canons in Conflict: Negotiating Texts in True and False Prophecy*. New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

- Brueggemann, Walter, *A Social Reading of the Old Testament: Prophetic Approaches to Israel's Communal Life*. Edited by Patrick D. Miller. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994. [BS1192.B75 1994](#)
- _____. *Hope for the world : mission in a global context : papers from the Campbell Seminar* (2000 : Columbia Theological Seminary). Louisville, Ky. : Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. [BV2020 .C36 2000](#)
- _____. *The theology of the book of Jeremiah*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007. [BS1525.52 .B79 2007](#)
- _____. *Hopeful Imagination: Prophetic Voices in Exile*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986. [BS1505.2.B78](#)
- _____. *Hope within History*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1987. [BR115.H5B74](#)
- Coggins, Richard, Phillips, Anthony, Knibb, Michael, eds., *Israel's Prophetic Tradition: Essays in Honour of Peter Ackroyd*. London/ New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982, 1984.
- Davies, Philip R., ed. *The Prophets*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.
- Freeman, Hobart E. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 1981. 中譯本：傅理曼著。梁潔瓊譯。《舊約先知書導論》。台灣：華神，1986。
- Gordon, Robert P., ed., "*The Place is Too Small for Us*": *The Israelite Prophets in Recent Scholarship*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1996. [BS1505.2 .P57 1995](#)
- Grabbe, Lester L., *Priest, Prophets, Diviners, Sages: A Socio-Historical Study of Religious Specialists in Ancient Israel*. Valley Forge: Trinity Press International, 1995.
- McConville J. G. *Exploring the Old Testament: Vol. 4 The Prophets*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2002. [CC [BS1140.3.M33 2002](#)] 中譯本：麥康維爾著。紀榮神譯。《先知書》。香港：天道，2008。
- Petersen, David L., *The Roles of Israel's Prophets*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1981. [BS1505.2.P47 1981](#)
- _____. *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002. [BS1198 .P46 2002](#).
- VanGemeren, Willem A. *Interpreting the Prophetic Word: An Introduction to the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapid, Mich: Zondervan, 1996. 中譯本：范甘麥倫著。湯定民、戎翰譯。《舊約先知書概論》。南帕薩迪納：美國麥種傳道會，2013。
- Wilson, Robert R., *Prophecy and Society in Ancient Israel*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980.
- Other suggested readings will be given in class and through the Blackboard.

Feedback for evaluation

A tailored made mid-term course evaluation and end-of-term university wide course evaluation will be conducted in class. Students' comments and feedback on the course through e-mail or within Blackboard or personal meeting with instructor are always welcomed.

Professors' Contact Details

Professor: Dr. Philip Chia 謝品然 (Divinity School of Chung Chi College)

Department Webpage: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/theology/>

Professor's office Hour: By appointment

Professor's email: theo2212chia@gmail.com

Please use the e-mail and/or Discussion Forum in Blackboard for all course communication

A Facility for Posting Course Announcements

Details for assignment and feedback for written assignment will be posted through the Blackboard or email in due course. All questions with regard to the course could be posted on the discussion forum or via e-mail and/or within the Blackboard.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Students must submit all their written assignments via Veriguide and hand in a hard copy and a print out of receipt and a signed Academic Honesty Declaration Statement. Relevant information on academic honesty and plagiarism can be allocated

via: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty>

For a defense of the course of action taken by Ahaz see Joachim Begrich, *Der Syrisch-Ephraimitische Krieg und seine weltpolitischen Zusammenhänge*, ZDMG 83, 1929 p. 213–237 and against it Karl Budde, *Jesaja und Ahaz*, ib. 84, 1930, p. 125–138 and Procksch, Otto, *Jesaia I*, Leipzig 1930 p. 4 f., 118 f. Cf. also Olmstead, A. T., *History of Palestine and Syria*, New York 1931 p. 449 ff. page 126 note 34 Note the allusion to Ex 20:14.15.16 = Dt 5:17, and of course in Ps 50:7 to Ex 20:2 = Dt 5:6. page 126 note 35 Mowinckel, *Psalmstudien V*, p. 69, 79. page 126 note 36 Bärnkötter 28b. As soon as the prophetic rejoinder 64ff. is detached, as is wrongly done by Lindblom l. c. p. 82, the easy religiousness of the psalm is gone. Only RUB 220.84/month. Prophetic Literature: Hosea. STUDY. Flashcards. HisPainYourGain. Prophetic Literature: Who were the Prophets? True! 27 terms. HisPainYourGain. Prophetic Literature: Jonah. 8 terms. HisPainYourGain. Prophetic Literature: Amos. 18 terms. HisPainYourGain. 31 terms. Jamie_Chambless. chapter 3 theo vocab. 29 terms. bellaaaaa16. The Forms of Prophetic Literature. The prophets employed three main forms of literature in their books: (1) narratives - both biographical (Dan. 1-3), and autobiographical (Jer. 1; Isa.