

BST 531 The Prophets

Fall Semester 2020-21

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

<u><i>On-campus section:</i></u>
First day of class: Friday 11 th Sept. 2020
Last day of class: Friday 04 th December 2020
Final exam: projected (18 th December)

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

<u><i>On-campus section:</i></u>
NTC campus: St Francis room - 1:15 – 4:05 pm

Instructors Name: Stéphane Saulnier, Ph.D.
Office: 2-05 (NTC campus)
Office Hours: Mondays 2:45 – 4.00 pm or by appointment
Telephone: 780 392 2450 ext. 2210
Email: stephane.saulnier@newman.edu
Skype: Stepsaulnier1

Course Description

This course considers the Canonical corpus of the Old Testament traditionally referred to as the Prophets. The literature is investigated as a distinct body and in relation to the Canon of Scripture, with particular emphasis given to historical (pre-exilic), literary (including text critical), exegetical and theological questions. The relationship between the Israelites and God—as portrayed by the biblical prophets—is explored from the perspective of messianism and ‘new covenant theology’. The seminar component of this course will invite students to engage, at a level pertinent to their program of study, with contemporary issues raised by the literature at hand.

Prerequisite: BST 400 Introduction to Sacred Scripture and their Interpretation.

Course Objectives

This graduate level core course aims to develop further students’ critical and analytical skills necessary for the study of Scriptures, in the present case the prophetic books of the OT. The course will focus in particular on the history, genre, themes and theology encountered in this material. The course is text-based, therefore a *significant* amount of time will be spent reading and digesting the primary sources. The instructor will adopt a student-centred, constructivist approach which favours

the major principles of andragogy. With this in mind the course focuses on academic learning outcomes that target primarily the cognitive domain of learning. Within this cognitive domain of learning, learning outcomes are designed to address the following six categories: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. By the end of the course you will have engaged with a variety of tasks and assignments that will allow you to build upon and further hone the critical thinking skills introduced in earlier scripture courses in the program.

M.DIV. Program Students

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The program shall foster sound knowledge of the revelation of God in creation, in Israel, and in the person of Jesus Christ as witnessed to by Scripture and the Church's Tradition.
- b) **Cultural Context** - The program shall foster an evangelical discernment of the 'signs of the times' to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - The program shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity, as a personal response to being a disciple of Jesus Christ and as a dimension of public witness.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** - The program shall foster theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world.

MTS Program Students

- a) **Intellectual Formation** - The program shall foster a survey knowledge of theology in the following four areas; Foundational Theology, Sacred Scripture, Systematic Theology, and Moral/Spiritual Theology

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

1. In this course you will engage critically with contemporary scholarly debates surrounding a number of historical and theological issues.
2. In this course you will analyse two texts in depth, summarizing the pertinent history of interpretation of these texts and formulating your own interpretation applying the catholic principles of biblical interpretation.
3. By the end of the course you will be able to identify and explain a number of implicit connections between the Prophets on one part, and the New Testament on the other.
4. In this course you will explore and synthesize the biblical presentation of the biblical theme of 'New Covenant'.

Human and spiritual outcomes:

By the end of the course each student should be able to identify areas and articulate ways in which the course has contributed to their overall human and spiritual development, possibly including but not limited to the following:

- A contemplative, spiritual, liturgical formation that will gain an additional dimension resulting from a greater acquaintance with the Prophetic literature of the Canon of Scripture.
- A greater awareness of their human maturing in light of their self-immersion in these sacred texts.
- An ability to identify ways in which the course has contributed to equip them to embrace the pastoral role that will be theirs as lay people or ordained ministers.
- An ability to identify ways in which the course content has nurtured a self-awareness of their role in the social aspect of their chosen ministry.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

As per the *NTC 2020-2021 Academic Calendar*:¹

All undergraduate courses, including Intersession and Summer session courses, shall require the following:

- One 15-20 page research paper or the equivalent in the form of student presentations, book reports, and/or short reflection papers. The total amount of written work including exams cannot exceed 35 pages.
- One final examination or two term examinations. Exams may be oral, written in class or 'take home'. Oral exams should be 15-20 minutes in length.

Please provide a word count in the footer of each of the written assignments. As a rule of thumb, a variation of +/- 10% of the required word count is acceptable.

<u>On-campus section:</u>
Two class presentations (30 mn each) (40%)
Two exegetical papers (2500 words each) (40%)
Oral exam (20%)
Final grade:
Presentation 1 (20%) + Presentation 2 (20%) + Exegetical paper 1 (20%) + Exegetical Paper 2 (20%) + Oral Exam (20%)

- **Two class presentations: length: 30 minutes each – 40 % of final grade.**
Each student will introduce two Prophetic book to the class – a schedule will be drawn up after the first session: (details will be circulated in class)
 - One minor prophet – 30 minute presentation
 - One major prophet – 30 minute presentation
- **Two exegetical papers: length: 2,500 words each – 40 % final grade.**
The first paper will be on a text from Isaiah; the second will be on a text from either Jeremiah or Ezekiel. Each exegetical paper is due in hard copy at the start of class on the week it is scheduled for - the method to be applied is Benedict's 'Method C'.
- **One Final Oral exam: 20% final grade.**
The oral exam will last 15 minutes. Final exam topic will be circulated two weeks prior to the final exam.
Please note that, as per NTC academic policies, the oral exams will be audio recorded.

Textbooks

** A Catholic Study Bible (latest edition of the RSV or NRSV or NAB)²

B.W. Anderson, *Contours of Old Testament Theology* (Fortress Press: 1998)

J. Bergsma and B. Pitre, *A Catholic Introduction to the Bible – The Old Testament* (Ignatius Press: 2018)

J. Blenkinsopp, *A History of Prophecy in Israel* (Westminster John Knox: 1996)

D. Gowan, *Theology of the Prophetic Books – The Death and Resurrection of Israel* (Westminster John Knox: 1998)

¹ Available at <http://www.newman.edu/Admissions/AcademicRegulations.aspx#CourseWork>

² Students who belong to another Christian denomination are of course free to use the version commonly in use for the liturgy or worship in their church.

Recommended Reading

Benedict XVI – Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 2010).
Catechism of the Catholic Church (Libreria Editrice Vaticana: 1994)
Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church - Christ Our Pascha (Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church: 2016)
 International Theological Commission – *Theology Today: Perspectives, Principles and Criteria* (2011).³
 Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana; 2002).

In addition you are encouraged to consult the following for your exegetical work:

- Modern commentaries:
 Students will consult the modern commentaries in the following series:
 - *Berit Olam* series.
 - *Anchor Bible Commentaries*.
- Ancient commentaries:
 As well as the three modern commentaries, students will consult **two** ancient commentaries of their choice.

Course Requirements

<u>On-campus section:</u>
Attendance and participation to all sessions (College Policy applies). Weekly contributions to Forum Discussions – as per schedule. Careful reading of the materials in preparation for class. Each student is to attend one individual tutorial.

Late Submission Policy.

Late submissions are accepted for a fee: 10% off the grade per day late, up to a maximum of THREE days. Beyond this delay an automatic Fail grade is allocated (49% for completed assignments; 0% for non-completed assignments). In case of attenuating circumstances, the submission of supporting evidence (doctor's note and the like) automatically suspends the application of this policy. PLEASE avail yourselves of the Incomplete Grade Policy

Course Schedule

Week 1 [09/11]	Historical context of Biblical Prophecy
Week 2 [09/18]	Amos
Week 3 [09/25]	Hosea
Week 4 [10/02]	Micah
Week 5 [10/09]	Isaiah 1-39

³ Full text available on the Vatican website.

Week 6 [10/16] Jeremiah 1-29

Week 7 [10/23] Jeremiah 30-52

Week 8: [10/30] Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Jonah

Week 9: [11/06] Ezekiel, Daniel

Reading Week [11/12]

Week 10: [11/20] Isaiah 40-55

Week 11 [11/27] Isaiah 56-66

Week 12: [12/04] Joel, Zechariah, Malachi

Final Oral Examination -. This will be scheduled during exam week, as defined by the Registrar's Office (projected date: 18 December)

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the **Student Handbook** in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the **Student Handbook** in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Graduate Studies			
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	
Excellent	A+	4.0	90% +
	A	4.0	85% to 89%
	A-	3.7	80% to 84%
Good	B+	3.3	77% to 79%
	B	3.0	73% to 76%
	B-	2.7	70% to 72%
Adequate	C+	2.3	67% to 69%
	C	2.0	63% to 66%
	C-	1.7	60% to 62%
Fail	D+	1.3	55% to 59%
	D	1.0	50% to 54%
Fail	F	0.0	0% to 49%

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

2. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
3. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
4. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the **Academic Calendar** for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work

- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the **Academic Calendar** for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the **Student Handbook** for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)