



School of Arts, Languages & Cultures, Faculty of Humanities
Course Unit Descriptor

23.02.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

Credit Rating	10
Course Unit Title	Old Testament Prophetic Texts
Unit Code	315 (8315 distance learning version)
Unit Level	3
Contact Hours	22 hours (n/a for the distance learning version)
FHEQ Level	6
Teaching Period	Flexible delivery
Teaching Staff	Dr Zoltán Schwáb
ECTS	5

EXTERNAL FACING COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

The unit reflects on the nature of Old Testament prophecy and prophetic literature against the background of prophetism in the Ancient Near East. Students engage in more detailed work on three Old Testament prophetic books, of which two belong to the major and one to the minor prophets. Of the three selected books, a general overview is given in which the historical background and the main theological issues are discussed. Different scholarly opinions and approaches are evaluated and students are required to actively participate in exegesis of selected passages. Opportunities will be provided in class to discuss the present day application of the text, both on an individual and corporate level.

COURSE UNIT OVERVIEW

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AIMS

To introduce students to the prophetic literature of the Old Testament and to develop their skills in exegesis.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Give evidence of ample knowledge of the main prophetic books, including their historical backgrounds and major themes

Intellectual Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Critically discuss the nature of OT prophecy
- Discuss scholarly issues in the study of the prophetic literature

Practical Skills

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Engage in detailed exegesis of prophetic texts with the help of relevant commentaries, to formulate their own opinion and to justify it
- Apply the materials studied to situations in the Church and the world

Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities

By the end of this unit students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate their own views and the views of others
- Demonstrate the ability to undertake independent research and analyse different views

Employability Skills

The generic skills students consolidate in this unit – such as managing information, planning and organising information, thinking innovatively and creatively – are vital in a wide range of graduate employment contexts.

SYLLABUS

1. Special characteristics of the prophets 1
2. Special characteristics of the prophets 2
3. Isaiah (messianic prophecies) 1
4. Isaiah (messianic prophecies) 2
5. Isaiah (creation, monotheism, idolatry)
6. Jeremiah 1
7. Jeremiah 2
8. Ezekiel 1
9. Ezekiel 2
10. Minor prophets 1
11. Minor prophets 2

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

315: Interactive lectures

8315: Distance learning

Unit materials are available at Spurgeon's *Online* to support student learning

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit
Formative:		
• 315: An exposition of a passage from the Major Prophets	10 minutes	n/a
• 8315: An exposition of a passage	Notional 750-1000	n/a

from the Major Prophets	words	
Summative:		
• 315: An essay	3000 words	100%
• 8315: An essay and a learning journal*	3000 words	100% Pass/fail*
* Distance learning students are required to pass this element.		

FEEDBACK METHODS

- Oral feedback in class (315 only)
- Written feedback on formative and summative written submissions within 15 working days

REQUISITES

Available on which programme(s)?	BA in Theology
Available as Free Choice (UG) or to other programmes (PG)?	Core Unit (UG)
Pre-requisite units	103 Reading and Using the Bible or 112 Introduction to the Bible or equivalent
Co-requisite units	n/a

RECOMMENDED READING

- Ahn, John J., Stephen L. Cook (eds.), *Thus Says the LORD, Essays on the Former and Latter Prophets in Honor of Robert R. Wilson* (New York, London: T&T Clark, 2009) [<https://www.perlego.com/book/817804/thus-says-the-lord-essays-on-the-former-and-latter-prophets-in-honor-of-robert-r-wilson-pdf>]
- Davies, Philip R., David J. A. Clines (eds.), *Among the Prophets, Language, Image and Structure in the Prophetic Writings* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993) [<https://www.perlego.com/book/803278/among-the-prophets-language-image-and-structure-in-the-prophetic-writings-pdf>]
- Davis, Ellen F., *Opening Israel's Scriptures* (New York: Oxford University Press USA, 2019) [<https://oxford.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780190260545.001.0001/oso-9780190260545?rskey=IOgKTq&result=8>]
- Day, John (ed.), *Proceedings of the Oxford Old Testament Seminar* (New York, London: T&T Clark, 2010) [<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/817917/4>]
- McConville, J. Gordon, *Exploring the Old Testament, A Guide to the Prophets* (Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2016) [<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/983622/0>]
- Peels, Hendrik G.L., and S.D. Snyman (eds), *The Lion Has Roared: Theological Themes in the Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2012) [<https://www.perlego.com/book/1725384/the-lion-has-roared-theological-themes-in-the-prophetic-literature-of-the-old-testament-pdf?queryID=49af351b4622137446627b82d9999ff2a&searchIndexType=books>]
- Rice, Gene, *Africa and the Bible* (Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2019) [<https://www.perlego.com/book/803278/among-the-prophets-language-image->

and-structure-in-the-prophetic-writings-pdf]

Sweeney, Marvin A., 'The Latter Prophets and Prophecy', in *The Cambridge Companion to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament*, Stephen B. Chapman, Marvin A. Sweeney eds. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016)

[<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/cambridge-companion-to-the-hebrew-bibleold-testament/latter-prophets-and-prophecy/9554BEA4994CDDF93711590B133D594B>]

Troxel, Ronald L., *Prophetic Literature, From Oracles to Books* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012) [<https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/1014387/0>]

Some reliable web resources:

Bible Odyssey (wide range of short articles and videos by biblical scholars):

<http://www.bibleodyssey.org/>

SOTS Wiki (Introductory wiki articles by Old Testament scholars):

<https://sots-ot.wikispaces.com/>

Theology and Ethics (Collection of videos, some of them by biblical scholars):

<https://www.theologyethics.com/2020/05/15/youtube-theology/>

OnScript (Podcast, interviews with theologians, mainly with biblical scholars):

<https://onscript.study/>

Bibliography of works written by black scholars (with links to works that are freely available on-line; please also note that some of these works are available in Perlego and other on-line libraries): <https://ibr-bbr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BlackOTBibliography.pdf>

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY HOURS

22 contact hours (n/a for distance learning version)

PLACEMENT HOURS

N/A

INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS

78 hours (100 hours for distance learning version)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

APPROVAL

Date approved by UGC

Valid from Date (Publishing Date)