

## BETHEL SEMINARY SD

### OT 503—Isaiah-Malachi Course Syllabus, Spring 2008

Instructor: Daniel Watson [Office #225 Ext. 224]  
Time: Tuesdays, 7:15-10pm *d-watson@bethel.edu*

#### Content and Purpose

This course provides a survey of the prophetic literature of the Old Testament. The purpose is to give students an understanding of *the forward-looking hope* which characterizes the latter part of the OT canon as it is seen and expressed in the messages of the writing Prophets—thereby setting the stage for the coming of Him who was to be its fulfillment. Particular attention will be given to the nature/function of the prophetic ministry and the contribution of the prophetic books to Old Testament theology.

#### Textbooks

1. The Bible, in any standard version (avoid paraphrases or overly “contemporary” translations).
2. Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer, *Encountering the Old Testament: a Christian Survey* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999)
3. John H. Walton and Andrew E. Hill, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000)
4. Walter Kaiser, Jr., *Toward an Old Testament Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978)
5. John Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*, rev. and exp. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994)
6. Recommended: Phillip Johnson, *Reason in the Balance: the Case against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995)

## Requirements

Advisory: The provisions of this syllabus are subject to reasonable modification over the course of the term at the discretion of the Instructor. Any such changes will be duly announced and once announced supersede any affected provisions of this syllabus. All questions regarding course requirements should be brought to the Instructor.

1. Faithful, punctual, and active attendance.
2. You are *required* to read over the course of the term:
  - a. Isaiah-Malachi
  - b. Arnold and Beyer, *Encountering*: 339-476
  - c. Walton and Hill, *Survey*: 403-570
  - d. Kaiser, *Theology*, 182-269
  - e. 100+ pages of journal articles of your choice on the biblical books covered in this course, at least 1 article per biblical book. An annotated report of this reading is due by the last class meeting. The Core Course Syllabus Supplement contains a representative list of appropriate journals as well as a sample annotated entry.
3. There are two written exams, a Midterm and a Final, administered online using Blackboard. The exams are based upon the Bible, classroom discussion, and textbook reading. They consist of two sections, short answer and short essay. Students are allowed to use a Bible but no other resource.
4. A compilation of your study into an Expository Study Notebook (ESN). The heart of this project is an organized arrangement of your notes for each biblical book covered in the course, with sections on Background, Content, Message (corresponding to the Lecture Outline). This will be supplemented by written notes for the “Key terms, Person/Places” and responses to the “Study Questions” for the corresponding chapters in Arnold-Beyer, *Encountering*. You may include any other material (handouts given in class, things you find on your own) which enhances understanding of the course subject. Submission Deadline: 5pm Friday 13 June 2008. WARNING: Any paper which fails to meet the deadline is completely at the mercy of the Instructor.

## Grades

1. Your course grade is the average of three assignment grades: the two exams and the ESN (the journal article reading report is Pass/Fail).
2. Each assignment receives a number score from 0 to 4.0, using the scale listed in the Seminary catalog under “Academic Information and Policies”). The score is reached by combining an objective calculation regarding the number of your errors with subjective consideration regarding the nature of your errors. This system is designed to assess the *quality level* of your work in the judgment of the instructor. Some errors are minor, some are major, and above a certain minimal level *how many* things you get right is less important than *what kinds* of things you get right.
3. Extensions seldom are granted and should not be sought unless actually needed. The Instructor reserves the right to grant or deny such requests at discretion, basing such decisions on perceptions about *actual inability* to complete an assignment versus *simple failure* to do so. For an official extension to be granted, the student must sign a written agreement (the “Incomplete Contract” form) to submit the missing work by a designated date. No extension is granted beyond 31 August 2008. There should be no presumption on the part of students that similar cases will be treated similarly. Each situation is evaluated on a case by case basis.
4. Students who require special arrangements for course participation due to disability should promptly contact either the Instructor or the Access Coordinator for the Bethel Office of Disability Services (see the *Student Handbook*, p. 22).
5. As all Christian learning is to be ruled by a reverence for Truth, students are expected to observe the principles and precepts of academic integrity set forth in the Seminary catalog.

**Course Schedule** (projected but flexible)

Apr 1—Orientation; the Importance of Worldviews to Methodology; the OT  
Philosophy of History; an Historical Overview

Apr 8--Introduction to Prophecy; the Place of the Prophetic Books in the Canon; the  
Interpretation of the Prophetic Books; the Chronology of the Prophetic Books

Apr 15—The Assyrian Era I: Jonah, Amos, Hosea

Apr 22--The Assyrian Era II: Isaiah and Micah

Apr 29—Assyrian II, cont'd *Midterm Exam Period: April 30-May 9*

May 6—Reading Week: No Class

May 13--The Babylonian Era I: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

May 20--The Babylonian Era II: Jeremiah-Lamentations, Obadiah

May 27--The Babylonian Era III: Daniel and Ezekiel

Jun 3—The Persian Era I: Haggai and Zechariah

Jun 10—The Persian Era II: Joel and Malachi *Final Exam Period: June 11-20*

**REMEMBER:** ESNs due by Friday 5pm June 13