

B424: 8th Century Prophets

McCormick Theological Seminary

Spring 2024

Instructor: Jina Kang, PhD

Modality: Remote

Synchronous Meeting: Thursday, 6:00 – 8:50 p.m., CST *via* Zoom

Course Description: This course explores the books of Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah (1-39) in both their ancient 8th century and modern contexts. With justice as the overarching theme of this course, we will closely examine how these prophetic voices described, assessed, and responded to what was perceived as unjust in their world. As a learning community, this class will engage in critical conversations with these ancient prophetic voices as a way of imagining justice with contemporary communities.

Prerequisite(s): Students enrolled in this course must have satisfactorily completed B300 – Introduction to Biblical Studies (IBS) *prior* to the start of this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe the 8th century social, political, economic, and theological setting of the books of Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah (1-39).
2. Explain the role of prophets in ancient Israelite society and religion.
3. Assess conceptualizations of justice in ancient contexts by utilizing critical methods of interpretation.
4. Formulate innovative strategies of imagining justice in conversation with ancient texts.

Degree Level Learning Outcomes:

1. *Think critically* about the role of prophets in conceptualization of justice in ancient settings.
2. *Construct theological meaning using Christian traditions* by critically engaging with the biblical text as a way of assessing how Christian communities imagine justice.
3. *Exhibit cross-cultural competence* through attentiveness to how interpretations and application of prophetic texts reflect the concerns of and impact different communities.
4. *Exhibit pastoral imagination* by constructing strategies for bringing contemporary communities in conversation with ancient prophetic voices.
5. *Lead just and sustainable communities* by thoughtfully and creatively imagining justice through critical and faithful engagement with the biblical text.

Course Format

This is an online course with both weekly synchronous meetings and asynchronous activities on Alexandria.

- *Synchronous Meetings:* Generally, this class will meet for weekly synchronous meetings on Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:50 p.m. (CST). The Zoom links to access this meeting will be available on Alexandria.
- *Asynchronous Activities:* This course includes asynchronous activities as a part of its design. The specific requirements for each week are posted in the corresponding week's module on Alexandria. These asynchronous activities are designed to prepare students for class discussions, introduce materials, as well as to expand on discussions/topics. These activities are not optional, but are required and integral to your engagement in this course.

Course Activities: Detailed instructions and grading rubrics for these activities are available on the course Alexandria page.

1. Attendance and Participation
2. Worksheets

3. Synthesis Journal
4. Synthesis Project

Required Readings:

1. A Study Bible*
2. Stulman, Louis and Hyun Chul Paul Kim. *You Are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2010. (ISBN: 9780687465651; \$18.00) *E-book available through JKM Library
3. Brueggemann, Walter. *The Practice of Prophetic Imagination: Preaching an Emancipating Word*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012. (ISBN: 9780800698973; \$25.00) *E-book available through JKM Library
4. Additional readings available on Alexandria.

*Students are required to have access to a Study Bible in this class. A list of recommended Study Bible is available on the course Alexandria page.