Course Title: THEO 5318 PROPHETIC LITERATURE

Second Term 2015/2016  Tue 10:30am-1:15pm  CCT G01
Prof Philip Chia (Email: theo5318chia@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.

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

1. **Reading Report: (30%) 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 3,000 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 5,000 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](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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task nature</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Readings and summary report</td>
<td>Based on assigned reading materials and write a summary report on the socio-political economic historical background of the prophetic books. (3,000 words &amp; due on or before Feb 23, 2016)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Term Test</td>
<td>Answer FOUR Questions out of SIX Questions (Mar 22, 2016)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment</td>
<td>Term Paper (5,000 words &amp; due on or before May 03, 2016)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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**Learning resources for students**

Basic readings will be taken from:


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: theo5318chia@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
Prophetic Literature: Who were the Prophets? True Prophets. Interpretation. 27 terms. HisPainYourGain. Prophetic Literature: Jonah. 8 terms. HisPainYourGain. Prophetic Literature: Amos. 18 terms. HisPainYourGain. Find study materials for any course. Check these out: Biology. They ran after lovers. What is the third major theme of prophetic literature? The day of the Lord. Amos 5:18-20. The day of the Lord is great and dreadful. What is the fourth major theme of prophetic literature? The Remnant of Israel. Zephaniah 3:12-13. This is evident in European theological orthodoxy, which in America is known as fundamentalism. When fundamentalism is combined with an antitheological bias, as it is, for instance, in its biblicistic-evangelical form, the theological truth of yesterday is defended as an unchangeable message against the theological truth of today and tomorrow. Cism were a genuine kerygmatic theology. In both cases there was an emphasis on the eternal truth over against the human situation and its demands. In both cases this emphasis had prophetic, shaking, and transforming power. Without such kerygmatic reactions theology would lose itself in the relativities of the “situation”; it would become a “situation” itself—for instance, the religious nationalism of the so-called German.