BIBL 6121-I1-S2-11 **Robert L. Hubbard, Jr.**
Phone: 773-244-6246 **rhubbard@northpark.edu**
Office: Nyvall N-33A **rev. 11/8/11**

BIBL 6121 INTERPRETING OLD TESTAMENT II: SYLLABUS

Description

This course covers the content and message of the Old Testament's prophetic and postexilic narrative literature and their application to Christian living today. At the end of the course, the student will:

1. Know the content of the books concerned including their major events, characters, and themes.
2. Understand the main critical problems with which scholars have wrestled in studying the books and for which they have proposed solutions.
3. Know the basic cultural background which illumines the meaning of the books.
4. Appreciate the literary beauty of the OT and the relevance of that appreciation for Bible study.
5. Know how to use the principles of hermeneutics and inductive Bible study methods for ministry.
6. Know the main narrative literary genres and how properly to interpret them.
7. Love the OT and its unique contribution to the life and theology of the Church.

Textbooks

Required

The Holy Bible (preferably a modern translation)
E. Lucas, *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Psalms and Wisdom Literature*, Vol. 3 (2nd ed; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003). [PWL]
J. G. McConville, *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Prophets*, Vol. 4 (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002). [GTP]
Susan E. Gillingham, *The Poems and Psalms of the Hebrew Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994).
W.S. LaSor, et al., *Old Testament Survey* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996). [OTS] (on reserve)
William W. Klein, Craig, L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr., *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation* (Nashville: Nelson, 2004). [IBI] (on reserve)
R.L. Hubbard, Jr. "OT Faith II Lecture Notes" (on Bb)

Recommended

D.A. Baker and B.T. Arnold, eds., *The Face of Old Testament Studies* (Grand Rapids: Baker,

1999). (on reserve; below listed as FOTS)
John Bright, *A History of Israel* (4th ed.; Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox, 2000). [HI]
R. E. Clements, *Old Testament Prophecy* (Louisville: WJK, 1996).
Hope Cain Felder, *The Stony Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991).
J. P. Fokkelman, *The Psalms in Form: The Hebrew Psalter in Its Poetic Shape* (Leiden: Deo Publishers, 2002).
_____. *Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide*. Transated by I. Smit. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001).
Susan E. Gillingham, *The Poems and Psalms of the Hebrew Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994). [PWL]
W.S. LaSor, David A. Hubbard, and Frederic W. Bush, *Panorama del Antiguo Testamento* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995). (1981 edition)
_____. *Old Testament Survey* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996).
S. L. McKenzie and J. Kaltner, J., *The Old Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007).
M. Nissinen, *Prophets and Prophecy in the Near East* (Writings from the Ancient World 12; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003).
D. L. Petersen, *The Prophetic Literature: An Introduction* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002).
D. L. Petersen and K. H. Richards, *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1992).
I. Provan, T. Longman III, and V. P. Long, *A Biblical History of Israel* (Louisville: Westminster, 2003).
G. von Rad, *Old Testament Theology*, Vol 2 (New York: Harper & Row, 1962)
D. R. Vance, *The Question of Meter in Biblical Hebrew Poetry* (Lewiston, NY; Queenston, Ont.: E. Mellen Press, 2001).
W. G. E. Watson, *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques* (JSOTS 26; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001).
P. R. Williamson, *Sealed With An Oath: Covenant in God's Unfolding Purpose* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2007).
W. Zimmerli, *The Fiery Throne: The Prophets and Old Testament Theology*. [Ed. K. C. Hanson] (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003).

Office Hours (Nyvall 33A)

The professor welcomes extended conversations with students outside of class. He will gladly arrange appointment times, but the following are his office hours this term:

Mondays & Thursdays 10:30 - noon & Wednesdays 3-5 p.m.

Course Procedures

Course Website: The course materials are available on the course website in Moodle. It contains the instructions concerning various assignments as well as the professor's lecture notes and PowerPoints. Some inductive Bible study groups may choose to meet in a chat room there.

Inductive Bible Study: Students are required to participate in a small group chosen by the instructor. The group is expected to meet at least twice to discuss each of the three assigned biblical passages and to submit a written report. For details, see below and the instructions posted on Bb under Course Information.

Group Skype Call: If it becomes necessary, the instructor reserves the right to schedule an occasional conversation with him by Skype to clarify course matters. To the extent possible, it will be scheduled at a time convenient for class members.

Facebook or Skype Discussion: students will be assigned to Cohorts for discussion of weekly questions. Two options are available:

a. The Cohort may meet on a course Facebook page. If so, they are required to post at least one original comment and one response someone else's comment.
b. The Cohort may meet weekly for at least 1 hour to discuss the week's assigned questions. One member must write and submit a 1-2 page summary of the discussion's key points.

Exams: students are expected to meet deadlines listed below for papers and examinations or to arrange an alternate option with the instructor in advance. If an emergency intervenes, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Bibliography: Besides the Brandel Library catalogue, a good OT bibliography is available at http://www.denverseminary.edu/dj/articles2006/0100/0101.php

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete the following requirements for the class:

a. ***Assigned Readings.*** *Students are expected to complete all of the required readings listed above. They are required to report in writing the percentage of the reading completed (point value:* ***50 points****).* ***Due: reported on the final examination****.*
b. ***Inductive Bible Study Group.*** *Students must participation in at least 90% of the discussions of a small group in order to share in the grade its three written reports earn (point value:* ***75 points*** *[25 points per paper]).*
c. ***Midterm and Final Examinations*** *(point total:* ***200 points*** *[100 points per exam.*
d. ***Response to Gillingham Book.*** *Two page written response (****25 points)****.*
e. ***All course work*** *must be completed by 5:00 p.m. on* ***Thursday May 10th****.*

The student's final grade is based upon the percentage of the total points possible (350) that the student earn. The grade scale is as follows:

A = 93%	*C = 78%*
B = 86%	*D = 70%*

The Semester Schedule

Week	Topics	Reading	Bob's Notes	Due
Week 1 1/16	Course Introduction Introduction: OT Poetry OT Poetic Genres Interpreting OT Poetry	PWL 67-77 IBI 273-319, 351-398	Biblical Poetry Poetry Intro – Parts 1&2 Poetry: Additional Devices	None
Week 2	Introduction to Prophecy The Eighth Cent. Prophets Amos	GTP xi-xxviii G. Tucker, "Prophecy and the Prophetic Literature," in D.A. Knight and G.M. Tucker, eds. *The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters*, pp. 325-68 (on Bb) Amos 1:1-2:16; 3:1-8; 4:1-3, 4-13; 5:4-7, 18-20, 21-24; 6:1-8; 7:1-9, 10-17; 8:1-14; 9:11-15 GTP 133-34, 163-77 (Amos)	Introduction to Prophecy Profit in the Prophets? What Is a Prophet? The Basic Forms of Prophecy Chart: The Dynamics of Prophecy The Eighth Century Prophets Eighth Century Israel & Judah Amos: Amos 1 & Amos 2	None
1/30-2/3	Midwinter Conference Chicago	No Classes		
Week 3 2/6	Hosea Micah	OTS 254-269 (Hosea) , 270-275 (Micah) GTP 135-151, 195-204 Hosea 1-3; 4:1-19; 5:13-6:3; 6:11b-7:7; 8:1-14; 11:1-7, 8-11; 13:1-11; 14:1-9 Micah 1:1-7, 8-9; 2:1-5, 6-11, 12-13; 3:5-8, 9-12; 4:1-5, 11-13; 5:2-4; 6:1-8; 7:1-7, 8-13, 18-20	Late 8th Century Israel Hosea: Hosea 1 & Hosea 2 Micah: Micah 1 & Micah 2	None
Week 4	Isaiah	Isaiah 1:1-3, 4-9, 10-17, 21-26; 4:2-6; 5:1-7; 6:1-13; 7:1-17, 18-25; 8:1-8, 16-9:1; 10:1-4, 5-19; 14:24-27, 28-32; 20:1-6; 28:14-22, 23-29; 29:1-8, 9-14; 30:8-18; 31:1-9; 36:1-37:38; 38 GTP 1-44	Isaiah: Isaiah 1 & Isaiah 2 The Structure of Isaiah	Tuesday:: Inductive Study #1 (Isaiah 31:1-9)
Week 5	Isaiah	Isaiah 2:1-5; 9:2-7; 11:1-9, 10-16; 40:1-11, 12-31; 42:1-4, 5-9; 43:1-7, 16-21; 44:21-23, 24-28; 45:1-7; 49:1-13, 14-21, 22-23, 24-26; 52:7-12; 53:1-12; 55:1-	701 BC: Momentous Moment (Powerpoint) Isaiah: Isaiah 3	

	The Seventh Cent. Prophets Zephaniah Nahum Habakkuk	13; 57:14-21; 58:1-9a, 9b-14; 61:1-4, 5-9, 10-11; 62:1-5, 6-12; 65:17-25; 66:22-24 Zephaniah (all) Nahum (all) Habakkuk (all) OTS 313-322, 322-327, 688-694	Seventh Century Prophets Zephaniah Nahum Habakkuk	
Week 6 **2/27**	The Reign of Josiah Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1:1-19; 2:1-3:1; 3:1-5, 6-14, 15-18; 4:5-8; 5:1-6, 7-13, 14-19; 6:6-8, 10-15, 16-20, 27-30; 7:16-28; 8:4-12, 18-9:1; 10:1-16; 11:1-17, 18-23; 13:1-11, 20-27; 14:1-10, 19-15:2, 10-21; 16:1-13; 18:1-17; 19:1-15; 20:7-13, 14-18 GTP 45-73-	Judah's End The 7th to 6th Century Prophet Jeremiah 1	Tuesday: Inductive Study #2 (Jeremiah 7:1-15)
Week 7 **3/5**	Jeremiah Lamentations	Jeremiah 21:1-10; 22:1-9, 13-19; 23:1-8, 9-12, 13-15, 16-22; 24:1-10; 26:1-24; 28:1-17; 29:1-14; 30:1-3; 31:2-6, 23-34; 32:1-15, 26-41; 36:1-32; 45:1-5; 51:1-5 GTP 75-82 Lamentations (all) OTS 526-531	Jeremiah 2 Lamentations	
13/12-16	Reading Week	No Classes		
Week 8 **3/19**	The Exile Ezekiel Apocalypticism	Ezekiel 2:1-3:21; 4:1-5:17; 7:1-27; 10:1-22; 14:12-23; 16:1-43a; 17:1-24; 18:1-32; 20:1-44; 23:1-31; 24:15-27; 28:1-10, 11-19; 34:1-31; 36:16-36; 37:1-14; chps. 40-48 (skim) GTP 83-107 P. Hanson, "Apocalyptic," in D.A. Knight and G.M. Tucker, eds. *The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters*, pp. 465-88 (on Bb)	Sixth Century Prophets Ezekiel 1 The Exile and Ezekiel (Powerpoint) Ezekiel 2 Prophecy vs. Apocalyptic	Midterm examination Due: by Wednesday March 21 NLT midnight Chicago time

Week 9	Daniel The Restoration Obadiah Joel Haggai	Daniel 1-5; 7-9 Obadiah (all) Joel (all) Haggai (all) GTP 109-32, 179-83, 153-61, 229-38 OTS 566-582, 370-380, 390-399	Daniel Daniel's Composition: Various Views Daniel 2 & 7: Interpretive Chart Obadiah Joel Haggai	
Week 10 **4/2**	Zechariah Fifth Century Israel Malachi Jonah	Zechariah 1:1-6, 7-17; 2:1-13; 4:1-10a; 6:9-15; 8:1-20; 12 Jonah (all) Malachi (all) GTP 239-57, 259-69, 185-94 OTS 400-413, 414-422, 381-389	Zechariah Fifth Century Prophets Malachi Jonah	Tuesday: Gillingham book response paper
Week 11	The "Writings" Psalms	Psalms 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, 37, 42-43, 45, 46, 51, 60, 65, 66, 72 PWL 1-33	The Poetical Books Psalms 1	Tuesday: Inductive Study #3 (Psalm 95)
Week 12 **4/16**	Psalms Israel's Wisdom Literature	Psalms 73, 78, 82, 90, 95, 100, 103, 104, 110, 118, 121, 132, 137, 146, 150 PWL 34-66, 79-90	Psalms 2 Studying a Whole Poem	
Week 13 **4/23**	Proverbs Job	Proverbs 1-9, 10-18, 25-29, 31; Job 1-3, 8-10, 18-22, 29-31, 32-37, 38-40 PWL 91-115, 117-44 OTS, 460-470, 471-496	Proverbs Job	
Week 14 **4/30**	Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Ecclesiastes (all) Song of Songs (all) PWL 145-73, 175-201	Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	

		OTS 497-509, 510-519		
Week 15 5/7	Review Course Evaluation			Final examination Due: Thursday May 10 at 5:00 p.m. Chicago time

Addendum: Extra Credit

Students desiring to improve their final course grade may earn extra points by doing one of the following additional assignments:

300 pages of reading	5 extra points maximum
A field trip, website suggestion, or written lecture report	2 extra points maximum
Book review (5-7 pp.) or term paper (12-15 pp.)	10 extra points maximum

Note: the maximum number of extra credit points a student may earn is 10.

BIBL 6121 **Robert L. Hubbard, Jr.**

INDUCTIVE STUDY: INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose. Since small group Bible study is a common and vital part of local church life today, this course incorporates several inductive studies in order to give students experience first-hand in inductive Bible study methods. (Please note: the assignment aims to cultivate inductive Bible study skills, not skills in Bible research). By "inductive Bible study" one means the study of a Bible passage itself--its contents, teachings, and meaning for today.

Small Groups. Each student must sign up for a study group and participate in its discussion of the assigned Old Testament texts. The group should meet at least twice for an hour to study the assigned text following the Study Procedure below. At its first meeting, one member will volunteer to be the **leader** and a second member the **scribe** only for that specific text. In subsequent studies, a different leader and scribe must volunteer. The leader's role is to: 1) convene the group; 2) lead and facilitate group discussion. The scribe's role is to: 1) take notes of the discussion; 2) to prepare and submit the group's written report of its findings; 3) list the leader, group members who participated, and the scribe on the report's cover sheet. The scribe will earn 4 extra credit points and the leader 2 toward their final grade.

Study Procedure. To begin, a group member should read the text aloud as others follow. The group then is to discuss the text by itself and without any other helps. (References to chapters just preceding and following are allowable). The group must answer the following questions:

1. What are the text's **main structural sections**? (e.g., commission, description of the situation, announcement, conditional promise, etc.)? What is an example of **poetic parallelism** and how does it relate to the context?

2. What is the text's **literary genre** (e.g., prophecy of disaster/hope, woe oracle, summons to repentance, etc.) and what mood or background scenario (if any) does it create?

3. If the text makes an announcement, what **reason(s)** is/are given for God's announced action?

4. What are the text's **main themes** (i.e., what central ideas, attitudes, conduct, etc. seems to be addressed)? Which (if any) verses seem to highlight or express those themes?

5. What is the **purpose** or **intention** of the text (i.e., why was it written or what is its goal)?

6. What **application** flows from the text? (i.e., what might it teach about God, the

Church, or the Christian life today?).

Group Reports. Each group will submit a **written report** of their conclusions for grading and be prepared to discuss them with the entire class. Each report is worth 25 points and should be type-written (5-7 pp.). **Note:** for each student to receive credit, the names of the leader, scribe, and members who took part must be listed on the report's cover sheet.