

## **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary**

*"I am the Lord, this is my name." Isaiah 42:8)*

*SS 623 The Historical Books and Prophetic Literature*

Winter, 2012

Three credits

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### **I. Course Description**

"Part one will examine the Deuteronomic History, especially the Books of Samuel, Kings and Maccabees. Special attention will be given to King David, the Elijah-Elisha cycles and how Maccabees reflect the theology of late Judaism. Exegesis of selected passages. Part two will include an introduction to the nature of prophecy, the relationship between prophecy and Israel's institutions, and the formation of the prophetic books. Selected passages from Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel will be examined. Special emphasis will be given to the themes of covenant, social justice and eschatology. Prerequisite: SS 511" (*Catalog*)

### **II. Course Objectives - Rationale**

It is the objective of the Sacred Scripture department to give the student an overview and introduction to each book of the Bible over the course of the program. Of course not every book can be examined in depth, nor even can each book be treated equally. However, at the end of each course the student should have a familiarity with the books covered. He/She should also be able to see how the books considered in a particular course relate to the Bible as a whole.

### **III. Required Texts**

The only required text is the Bible itself. Any modern English language translation may be used. Different translations are encouraged and will sometimes be referred to in class to show how certain passages may be interpreted due to how they are translated. Recommended books will be mentioned in class.

### **IV. Church Documents**

It is presumed that the student is familiar with the following Church documents:

1. Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. *Providentissimus Deus*
3. *Divino Afflante Spiritu*
4. *Dei Verbum*
5. *Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*

## V. Assignments

A pastoral project related to the course material will also be assigned. Details will be given in the first class. The project may be in outline form. Project approval (topic and audience) is due by 7 February (by class time). The finished project is due by 13 March (by class time). Assignments are to be submitted electronically (see above for email address). No extensions will be given.

## VI. Attendance

In accord with the academic norms of the seminary program and because the material will be presented by way of lectures along with discussion, attendance at all classes is expected of seminarians. Exceptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Lay students have the option of attending lectures or hearing them online, at their own choice.

## VII. Examinations

Four written essay style exams will be given throughout the course.

Dates for these exams are:

31 January

28 February

27 March

1 May

The examinations are not cumulative. Once an exam is taken on a section of the course, that material is finished. Hence, the final exam of the course, taken during exam week, will cover only the subject matter treated since the last exam. Examinations take place in the first half of the regular class time; lectures resume in the second half. Options for online student examinations will be presented in class.

## VIII. Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated by the average of the four exams and the pastoral project totaled and averaged evenly.

## IX. Academic Integrity

“Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Violations in this area are considered a serious offense and may result in failing grade and/or dismissal from the program.” (*Catalog*)

## X. Availability

Office hours by appointment. I am available every day of the week and throughout most of the day. Please email, call or simply see me in class to arrange a mutually convenient time. My office is on the first floor, north side of the east wing of the SAC.

## XI. Course of Study

### A. The Historical Narrative

1. the formation of the historical narrative
2. the Deuteronomistic school (DTR)
3. Joshua and Judges
4. I and II Samuel
5. I and II Kings
6. I and II Chronicles
7. Ezra and Nehemiah
8. I and II Maccabees
9. Ruth

### B. The Prophetic Literature

1. The nature of prophecy
2. The prophetic message
3. The relationship of the medium to the message
  - a. metaphor, gesture and life experience
  - b. the pastoral implications
4. The Prophetic Books: Introduction, Themes, Theology
  - a. Amos
  - b. Hosea
  - c. Isaiah      Deutero-Isaiah      Trito-Isaiah
  - d. Jeremiah
  - e. Lamentations
  - f. Baruch
  - g. Ezekiel
  - h. Daniel
  - i. Jonah
  - j. Micah
  - k. Nahum
  - l. Habakkuk
  - m. Haggai
  - n. Zechariah                      Deutero-Zechariah
  - o. Malachi
  - p. Obadiah
  - q. Joel
  - r. Zephaniah

## XII. Select Bibliography

Students are encouraged to use the many on-line resources available through the campus library or any other modern library.

The following works are especially recommended :

*Anchor Bible*

*Anchor Bible Dictionary.*

Boadt, Lawrence. *Reading the Old Testament.* New York: Paulist press, 1984.

Breuggemann, Walter. *Theology of the Old Testament.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.

*Elenchus of Biblica.* Rome: Pontifical Biblical Press.

*Hermaneia*

*Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*

Jensen, J. *God's Word to Israel.* (rev. ed.) Wilmington: Glazier Press, 1984.

*Old Testament Message Series*

*Sacra Pagina*

*The New Jerome Biblical Commentary.*

