



TYNDALE
University College

RLGS 3143: T&I: JONAH – MICAH – NAHUM IN THE XII

Winter 2010; Mon & Wed, 2:30–3:45 PM; Room: 1001

Dr. Daniel R. Driver, ddriver@tyndale.ca, 416.226.6620 x2201
Office #1107, Hours Mon & Wed, 9:45–11:30 (or by arrangement)
Website: www.tyndale.ca/~ddriver

Commuter Hotline — 416.226.6620 x2187

Class cancellations due to inclement weather or illness will be announced/posted here.

mytyndale.ca — This course has resources pages which are meant to enhance your learning experience and which you may need to use to complete some assignments. It is where I will post news items, notices and marks. Log in often with your **mytyndale.ca** username and password.

Mailboxes — Every student is responsible for information communicated through the student mailboxes (a mailbox directory is posted beside the mailboxes). Assignments will be returned here.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Text and Interpretation (RLGS 3143, 3153, 3163, 3173, 3183, 3193, 3203, 3213 . . .)

Each course in this series examines the literary structure, narrative development, authorial purpose and interpretation of a book in the Hebrew Bible in its historical context, with an effort to discover the continuing relevance of that book in the development of Judeo-Christian theological understanding. Prerequisites: RLGS 1013 and RLGS 1023. Offered annually.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Exciting new developments have taken place in scholarship on the prophets as a corpus of sacred literature, particularly in what is called “The Book of the Twelve” (aka, the minor prophets). The purpose of this course is to become familiar with trends in research on The XII in general, and on three particular prophets amidst The XII, namely, Jonah, Micah and Nahum. An alternate title for the course could be “Three in Twelve” — although with the caution that no special significance is assigned to our three prophets except as exemplars of individuals in fellowship. Put differently, in language from the ancient Christian hymn *Te Deum* (via the BCP):

The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee,
the Father, of an infinite Majesty,
thine honourable, true, and only Son,
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

Appropriate to our setting at Tyndale, our ultimate goal is to hear from three in that “goodly fellowship” as single and united witnesses to the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Christopher R. Seitz, *The Goodly Fellowship of the Prophets: The Achievement of Association in Canon Formation* (Acadia Studies in Bible and Theology; Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009) [ISBN 978-0801038839]. Abbrev.: **Seitz**
2. James D. Nogalski and Marvin A. Sweeney, eds., *Reading and Hearing the Book of the Twelve* (SBL Symposium Series; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2000) [ISBN 978-0884140214]. Abbrev.: **R&H**
3. Marvin A. Sweeney, *The Twelve Prophets (Vol. 2): Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi* (Berit Olam series; Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2000) [ISBN 978-0814650912]. Abbrev.: **Sweeney**
4. Robert C. Hill, trans., *Theodoret of Cyrus: Commentary on the Prophets Vol 3: Commentary on the Twelve Prophets* (Brookline, Mass.: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2007) [ISBN 978-1885652768]. Abbrev.: **Theodoret**

IV. SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS: (Available on reserve, online, or both)

1. Elias Bickerman, *Four Strange Books of the Bible: Jonah, Daniel, Koheleth, Esther* (New York: Schocken Books, 1967). [BS 1200.B5 1967] Abbrev.: **Bickerman**
2. Marvin A. Sweeney, *The Twelve Prophets (Vol. 1): Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah* (Berit Olam series; Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2000). [BS 1560.S94 2000]
3. James W. Watts and Paul R. House, eds., *Forming Prophetic Literature: Essays on Isaiah and the Twelve in Honor of John D.W. Watts* (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1996). [BS 1505.2.F67 1996] Abbrev.: **FPL**
4. Paul L. Redditt and Aaron Scharf, eds., *Thematic Threads in the Book of the Twelve* (Berlin / New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2003). [BS 1560 .T428 2003] Abbrev.: **TT**
5. Francis Watson, *Paul and the Hermeneutics of Faith* (London / New York : T&T Clark, 2004). [BS 2650 .52 .W38 2004] Abbrev.: **Watson**

V. COURSE EVALUATION:

1. Each week will commence with a **reading quiz**. These are designed to ensure that you have read the assigned material carefully. Quizzes may not be made up in the case of absence, though in special cases they may be taken in advance. The final exam will also hold you responsible for the content they cover. If you miss a quiz, see a classmate.
2. For the second class of each week, on Wednesdays, you must produce a page of **notes and reflections** based on your reading of and around assigned biblical chapters. (Most weeks will concentrate on just one chapter, though there are exceptions.) These will provide a basis for seminar-style discussions. How should this preparation be done?
 - a. Read the seminar text closely and carefully. Read it several times, in fact. Look for distinctive language, themes and images, and stay alert to intertextual connections between the main passage and other biblical literature. Jot down your observations.
 - b. Consult the two assigned commentaries, Sweeney and Theodoret. These do not have to be read as intensively, but they should be read well, and they should inform your reflections and notes. One good approach might be to read the chapter(s) twice, making some preliminary notes, then to read one commentator, the text again, and then the other commentator, before filling out the notes. We have an example of a recent commentator (Sweeney) and an ancient one (Theodoret), so it would be appropriate to make observations about their representative preoccupations.

- c. Your notes can be handwritten or typed. In either case they should fill about a page (double spaced if typed). To help with consistent evaluation, devote a single, clean sheet to each seminar. Bundles of six will be collected and assessed at the midterm (17 Feb), and again near the end of the semester (7 Apr). As a rule, late submissions are not acceptable.
3. The final exam will be held during exam week, 15–22 April 2010 (including Saturdays), as scheduled by the Registrar.
4. The semester's work will be weighted as follows, though the instructor reserves the right to adjust the balance as necessary:

Reading Quizzes	25%
Notes: Weeks 1–6	20%
Notes: Weeks 8–13	20%
Final Exam	35%

Students are responsible to keep a backup print copy of all assignments.

VI. COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Note that all numbers in the reading assignments below refer to chapters. Surnames refer to essays or books by authors from the supplementary texts (see above). If books, chapters are specified.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Secondary Readings (Mondays)</u>	<u>Seminar Assignment (Wednesdays)</u>
1 (11 Jan)	Syllabi and Introductions	All twelve of The XII
2 (18 Jan)	<i>R&H</i> 1: Petersen; <i>R&H</i> 2: Redditt	Jonah 1
3 (25 Jan)	<i>R&H</i> 3: Schart; <i>R&H</i> 4: Sweeney	Jonah 2
4 (1 Feb)	<i>R&H</i> 5: Jones; Watson 2	Jonah 3
5 (8 Feb)	Ben Zvi in <i>FPL</i> ; Bickerman	Jonah 4
6 (15 Feb)	<i>No class Mon (Family Day)</i>	Micah 1–2; Notes DUE
8 (1 Mar)	<i>R&H</i> 10: Biddle; <i>R&H</i> 12: Cuffey	Micah 3–4
9 (8 Mar)	Seitz Introduction; <i>R&H</i> 9: House	Micah 5–6
10 (15 Mar)	Seitz 1; <i>R&H</i> 6: Rendtorff	Micah 7
11 (22 Mar)	Seitz 2; Christensen in <i>FPL</i>	Nahum 1
12 (29 Mar)	Seitz 3; Zapff in <i>TT</i>	Nahum 2
13 (5 Apr)	Seitz 4–Conclusion; Ego in <i>TT</i>	Nahum 3; Notes DUE
14 (12 Apr)	Review; <i>Evaluations</i> ; READING DAYS (13–14 Apr); The final exam will be held during exam week, 15–22 April 2010, as scheduled by the Registrar.	

Students are responsible to keep a backup print copy of all assignments.

VII. FURTHER BIBLIOGRAPHY:

On particular books in The XII, consult the bibliographies (“For Further Reading”) at the end of each chapter in Sweeney’s commentary, volumes 1 and 2.

For literature on The XII as such, note the three convenient anthologies listed above. In addition to *R&H* (2000, required), see *FPL* (1996) and *TT* (2003). Only a selection from this output has been assigned, and much of the rest is also of interest. A few other recent titles are worth highlighting:

1. Stephen Chapman, *The Law and the Prophets: A Study in Old Testament Canon Formation* (FAT 27; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2000). [BS 1135 .C48 2000]
2. Rolf Rendtorff, *The Canonical Hebrew Bible: A Theology of the Old Testament* (ET by David Orton; Leiden: Deo, 2005). [BS 1192.5.R4613 2005]
3. Marvin A. Sweeney, *Form and Intertextuality in Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature* (FAT 45; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005). [BS 1505 .52 .S93 2005]
4. Christopher R. Seitz, *Prophecy and Hermeneutics: Toward a New Introduction to the Prophets* (STI; Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007). [BS 1505.52.S45 2007]
5. Karel van der Toorn, *Scribal Culture and the Making of the Hebrew Bible* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007). [BS 1130.T66 2007]

And there is more English-language literature on the history of interpretation:

1. Alberto Ferreiro and Thomas C. Oden, eds., *The Twelve Prophets* (Ancient Christian Commentary; Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2003). [Ref BS 491.2.A523 v.14 2003]
2. Yvonne Sherwood, *A Biblical Text and Its Afterlives: The Survival of Jonah in Western Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000).
3. George Adam Smith, *The Book of the Twelve Prophets: Commonly Called the Minor* (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1900). [BS 1560.S64 190]
4. C. Von Orelli, *The Twelve Minor Prophets* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1893). [BS 1560.O7 1893]
5. Carl Friedrich Keil, *The Twelve Minor Prophets* (Keil d. 1888; ET by James Martin; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949). [BS 1560.K44 1949]
6. John Calvin, *Commentaries on the Twelve Minor Prophets* (Calvin d. 1564; ET by John Owen; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1950). [BS 1560.C3413 1950]
7. Cyril of Alexandria, *Commentary on the Twelve Prophets* (Cyril d. 444; ET by Robert C. Hill; Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2007–2008). [BS 1505.53.C9713 – two vols]
8. Theodore of Mopsuestia, *Commentary on the Twelve Prophets* (Theodore d. 428 or 429; ET by Robert C. Hill; Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2004). [BS 1560.T43 2004]