

## 123.715 Eighth Century Prophets Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Distance Learning

Semester 2, 2015  
NQF Level: 7, 15 credits

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

- a) Introduction to Old Testament prophecy and prophetic language.
- b) Theology and themes in eighth century prophecy with special reference to Amos.
- c) Issues relating to the understanding and interpretation of Amos.
- d) The contribution of prophecy, and eighth century prophecy in particular, to Old Testament ethics.
- d) Exegetical method as particularly related to Hebrew prophetic language.
- e) Detailed exegesis from the English or Hebrew text of Amos 1-9.
- f) Hermeneutical issues arising from the above material and procedures.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS

#### *English Option:*

Note that the standard English Bible text for essays is either the NRSV or the NIV 2011 edition.

#### 1. Online Discussion Forums

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	3, 5
<i>Due Dates</i>	11:55pm Sunday, end of semester weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
<i>Percentage Weighing</i>	20%
<i>Length</i>	1500 words in total

In six lessons, you will find Assessment Exercises which require you to post a reading reflection of 200 words on the Online Discussion Forum for that lesson. The readings are articles from the *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 38 (1995) and the Bible. In addition to those postings, for each assessment exercise you are required to make at least one further posting of at least 50 words, which interacts with what your online tutor and other students have said. The interaction responses must be posted within seven calendar days of the due date for the initial posting.

#### 2. Thematic Essay

<i>Learning outcomes</i>	1, 3, 4
<i>Due Date</i>	11:55pm Sunday, end of semester week 7
<i>Percentage weighting</i>	40%
<i>Length</i>	2500 words

Write a 2500 word essay on one of the following themes. Within that, include a brief (no more than 200 words) analysis of the relevance of the theme to the church today.

- The basis of the call for justice in the eighth century prophets, with suggestions on the sense in which that call might function as a paradigm for our own day.
- The theme of covenant in the eighth century prophets.

- Amos' vision for the surrounding nations as reflected in his oracles uttered against those nations.

### 3. Exegetical Essay

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	2, 3, 4, 5
<i>Due Date</i>	11:55pm Sunday, end of study week 1
<i>Percentage Weighing</i>	40%
<i>Length</i>	3000 words

Write a 3000 word exegetical essay on the English text of Amos 8. As well as giving attention to key words and phrases, significant grammatical and syntactical constructions, and (where applicable) important textual or translational points, your exegesis of the passage should identify the setting, main literary features, and key themes in the context of the book of Amos, and indicate how the word of God in Amos may become the word of God today.

### Hebrew Option:

Note that the Hebrew text for all translation and exegesis is *Biblical Hebraica Stuttgartensia* Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1969/77.

### 1. Online Conferencing Tutorials

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	6
<i>Due Dates</i>	To be set by tutor in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
<i>Percentage Weighting</i>	20%
<i>Word Count</i>	As specified below

This assessment consists of two parts:

a) *Six live Hebrew tutorials*

You will participate in six audio tutorials with your Hebrew tutor where you will read from the Hebrew text and discuss textual and grammatical insights. These sessions will be based around set passages in Amos and will operate live using Laidlaw's *Adobe Connect Pro* online conferencing tool. Your tutor will advise you of the details of these tutorials. To best participate in these online tutorial, you will need a web cam, and also a headset with microphone. To access the tutorial, you will not need specialised software, you only need click on a link given on Moodle.

b) *Two translations from the Hebrew Text of Amos*

For two of the six tutorials you will submit written critical translations, as indicated in the learning guide.

### 2. Thematic Essay

<i>Learning outcomes</i>	1, 3, 4
<i>Due Date</i>	11:55pm Sunday, end of week 7
<i>Percentage weighting</i>	40%
<i>Length</i>	2500 words

Write a 2500 word essay on one of the following themes. Within that, include a brief (no more than 200 words) analysis of the relevance of the theme to the church today.

- The basis of the call for justice in the eighth century prophets, with suggestions on the sense in which that call might function as a paradigm for our own day.
- The theme of covenant in the eighth century prophets.
- Amos' vision for the surrounding nations as reflected in his oracles uttered against those nations.

### 3. Exegetical Essay and Translation

<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<i>Due Date</i>	11:55pm Sunday, Study Week 1
<i>Percentage Weighing</i>	40%
<i>Length</i>	2500 words

This assignment consists of two parts:

- a. Write your own translation of the Hebrew text of Amos 8. Footnotes should highlight any major textual variants. The translation section does not count towards the word count of the essay.

**AND**

- b. Write a 2500 word exegetical essay on the Hebrew text of Amos 8. As well as giving attention to key words and phrases, significant grammatical and syntactical constructions, and (where applicable) important textual or translational points, your exegesis of the passage should identify the setting, main literary features, and key themes in the context of the book of Amos, and indicate how the word of God in Amos may become the word of God today.

## CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

### *English Option:*

#### 1. Online Discussion Forums

Before beginning your first online discussion, please see the grading grid (rubric) on the “online discussion grading guide and indicative mid-semester feedback” for further details on how these criteria will be applied.

- Engagement with material
- Constructive engagement with others
- Structure and presentation
- Timeliness

#### 2. Thematic Essay

- Extensive *coverage* of relevant content
- *Clarity* of understanding
- Advanced *integration* of ideas
- Advanced coherence, development and presentation of *argument*
- Depth and perception evident in *critical analysis and reflection*
- Breadth and quality of *reading and research*, utilisation of appropriate resources
- *Communication and presentation*: clarity, format, spelling and grammar
- *Referencing*: annotation and bibliography

#### 3. Exegetical Essay

- *Textual*: Key issues of translation and textual variation are identified.
- *Literary*: The methods by which meaning is conveyed are discerned.
- *Context*: The passage is understood in terms of its literary and historical context.
- *Critical Discernment*: The major exegetical issues are selected and discussed.
- *Significance*: The contribution of the passage towards a wider message is perceived.
- *Integration and Reading*: The insights of scholars are integrated into the treatment.
- *Style and Organisation*: The argument is illumined by a clear structure.
- *Communication and presentation*: Accurate and fluent use of English (spelling and grammar), format.
- *Referencing*: Appropriate footnote and bibliographic conventions are used.

## Hebrew Option:

### 1. Online Conferencing Tutorials

- *Participation*: Quality of participation in the tutorials, including timely presentation of translation samples and insightfulness in discussion.
- *Accurate Translation*: That the translation is true to the Hebrew text, yet appropriate for English speech today.
- *Critical Notes*: That the translation is well supported with notes.
- *Textual Analysis*: Key textual issues, such as syntactical constructions and manuscript variants, are identified and incorporated into the translation.

### 2. Thematic Essay

- Extensive *coverage* of relevant content
- *Clarity* of understanding
- Advanced *integration* of ideas
- Advanced coherence, development and presentation of *argument*
- Depth and perception evident in *critical analysis and reflection*
- Breadth and quality of *reading and research*, utilisation of appropriate resources
- *Communication and presentation*: clarity, format, spelling and grammar
- *Referencing*: annotation and bibliography

### 3. Exegetical Essay and Translation

- *Accurate Translation*: That the translation is true to the Hebrew text, yet appropriate for English speech today.
- *Critical Notes*: That the translation is well supported with notes.
- *Textual Analysis*: Key textual issues, such as syntactical constructions and manuscript variants, are identified and incorporated into the translation and exegesis.
- *Literary*: The methods by which meaning is conveyed are discerned.
- *Context*: The passage is understood in terms of its literary and historical context.
- *Critical Discernment*: The major exegetical issues are selected and discussed.
- *Significance*: The contribution of the passage towards a wider message is perceived.
- *Integration and Reading*: The insights of scholars are integrated into the treatment.
- *Style and Organisation*: The argument is illumined by a clear structure.
- *Communication and presentation*: accurate and fluent use of English (spelling and grammar), format.
- *Referencing*: Appropriate footnote and bibliographic conventions are used.

## LEARNING HOURS (English option)

a)	Work on learning guide:	36 hours
b)	Online Forum Discussions:	25 hours
c)	Thematic Essay:	44 hours
d)	Exegetical Essay:	45 hours
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>150 hours</b>

## LEARNING HOURS (Hebrew option)

a)	Work on learning guide:	36 hours
b)	Online Forum Discussions and Translation:	25 hours
c)	Thematic Essay:	44 hours
d)	Exegetical Essay and Translation:	45 hours
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>150 hours</b>

## TEXTBOOK:

The **textbook** for this course is:

Smith, Gary V. *The NIV Application Commentary: Hosea/Amos/Micah*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

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**Students enrolling in the Hebrew option are required to have the Logos Original Languages edition. HALOT is also highly recommended.**

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- Andersen, Francis. I. and David Noel Freedman. *Amos: A New Translation with Notes and Commentary*. AB 24A; New York: Doubleday, 1989.
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