



Minor Prophets Online OT 785Z

Please be sure to read and familiarize yourself with ALL sections in this syllabus.

Welcome to the course, **Minor Prophets**. Although I cannot welcome you personally as in a face-to-face class, I am available to discuss any aspect of this course through whatever communication medium is most convenient for you. I wish you the best as you begin this journey through the Minor Prophets.

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Meeting Location: Online

Course Description

This course examines the history, content, milieu, text, structure, and theological meaning of each book of the Minor Prophets. Detailed attention is given to ethical and doctrinal themes within each book.

Course Goals

A. General Mission of Erskine Seminary

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to “educate persons for service in the Christian Church.” Towards this mission, the Book of the Twelve will be taught. This includes how to read the Twelve in its ancient Near Eastern cultural setting, the distinctive message of the books, its contribution to the Bible as a whole admitting the light of the NT that points to Christ, and the prophets as seen in the context of the whole counsel of God that includes its relevant and practical value to believers today.

B. Goals of this Course

1. This course will expose the student to the historical background to the Book of the Twelve. Many of the scholarly issues surrounding the book should become clear, and the various approaches to the book should become familiar to the student.
2. The importance of the Twelve in the formation of our contemporary theology, character, and wisdom will be placed before the student.

Course Materials

All course materials (except required texts) are available to the student in the online classroom.

Various resources will be posted, including:

- 2 unpublished essays by Schwab
- 2 examples of student exegesis on Zechariah
- Kline's book, *Glory in Our Midst*
- A sign-up sheet for the exegesis paper
- Two published articles from Malachi on tithing

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD and Amazon) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

- James Boice, *The Minor Prophets*. Two volumes. Baker, 1986.
- Timothy Keller, *Ministries of Mercy*. Zondervan, 1989.
- Selected readings from Meredith Kline, *Glory in Our Midst*. Two unpublished essays:
 - Schwab, "Paul's Use of Deut 30:11 – 14 in Rom 10:5 – 10," 1994.
 - Schwab, "The Old Greek Isaiah 40:1 – 11 and its Use by the Gospel Writers," 1995.
- Two articles by Andreas J. Köstenberger and David A. Croteau in the *Bulletin of Biblical Research*:
 - "Will a Man Rob God?' (Malachi 3:8): A Study of Tithing in the Old and New Testaments." *BBR* 16.1 (2006): 53 – 77.
 - "Reconstructing a Biblical Model for Giving." *BBR* 16.2 (2006): 237 – 260.
- The twelve minor prophets in the Bible
 - The student is required to reread the selected portions of the Bible in this semester
 - Previous readings of the selected material are not sufficient to meet this

Recommended Resource

Online students have access to the Erskine Library. You can access online services at <http://www.erskine.edu/library/>. Though you may wish to check out books via interlibrary loan, the online database has a number of articles and resources available for download. As an Erskine Seminary student, you have

access to the ATLA Religion database which has 500,000 citations of articles and books. Subjects covered include: Biblical Studies, Theology, Church History, Pastoral Care, Ethics, etc. About 150,000 of these records have full-text articles attached. You can access the online database by logging into your account using your student identification number.

Course Components

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through six learning components.

The first is the **Lecture Component**. The student will view the e-lectures, make detailed notes, and prepare from these notes to be examined.

The second is the **Reading Component**. The student will read the assigned materials, make detailed notes, and prepare from these notes to be examined.

The third is the **Collaborative Component**. The student will participate in guided online discussions via a discussion board. Each student is expected to actively participate. 10% of your grade will be based on online participation.

To ensure completion of Lecture and Reading components, the student will prepare for the **Exam Component**, worth 15% of your total grade.

1. First Exam 20%. The Exam will cover material presented in e-lectures or assigned to be read.
2. Second Exam 20%. The Exam is not cumulative but will cover all material after the First Exam.
3. Third Exam 15%. The Final exam is not cumulative and will cover all material after the Second Exam.

The fifth is the **Response Component**. This component will comprise 15% of your total grade. The student will produce the required lists and outlines.

The sixth is the **Reflective Component**. The Paper comprises 20% of your total grade.

The Paper is due on the scheduled date.

The student will lose one grade point for each day it is late.

Please note: Successful completion of this distance learning course will require that you set your own schedule and discipline yourself to stay on the schedule. I recommend that you begin the course by watching the e-lectures. The time constraints of this course are self-imposed to a large degree. However, if you are working toward degree completion, please keep in mind the Seminary's expected time frame for degree completion. Consult the most recent Seminary *Catalog* for specific time frames in your degree program. Each course assignment identifies the time required for completion, all

things being equal. Some variation in time required to complete an assignment is to be expected due to a variety of factors.

Course Grading Criteria and Scale

- A Level Work = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.
- B Level Work = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.
- C Level Work = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.
- D Level Work = Inadequate mastery of basic facts and information presented in the course; insufficient or inappropriate use of common terms and language indicating an inadequate grasp of the material; and an inferior ability to analyze and judge proposals, ideas or concepts.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Grade	Value	GPA	Grade	Value	GPA
A	95-100	4.0	C-	78-79	1.7
A-	93-94	3.7	D+	76-77	1.3
B+	91-92	3.3	D	72-75	1.0
B	88-90	3.0	D-	70-71	0.7
B-	86-97	2.7	F	0-69	0.0
C+	84-85	2.3			
C	80-83	2.0			

The actual assignment of a letter grade will take into consideration the performance of the class as a whole (i.e. you will be graded on a curve).

When a student fulfills the *minimum stated requirement*, the assigned letter grade will be a B. To achieve a higher grade, the student must perform at a higher level than the minimum stated requirement.

Course FAQs

1. It is strongly recommended that all assignments be submitted via electronic mail.
2. Please use Microsoft Word.

3. All assignments should be clearly marked with name, assignment number and date. Failure to include this information will result in a returned assignment.

Course Platform

Erskine Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). According to the ATS Standard 10.3.4.3, “Institutions shall ensure that distance education programs provide appropriate opportunity for collaboration, personal development, interaction among peers within a community of learning, and supervised field or internship opportunities when appropriate to the degree program.” It is with this stipulation that the Virtual Campus has implemented a web-based learning platform which will serve to provide a number of collaborative learning experiences.

Course Assignments

Lateness will carry a penalty of 1% for every day late. Postings will not be accepted late.

MODULE #1. All work for the first module is due four weeks from the start of the semester. The exam will be offered that date. Please make arrangements now for that date to be clear. The professor will contact you further regarding exam details.

	Lectures	Assignments
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book of the Nine • Prophecy about Prophecy • Formation of the Twelve • Structure of the Twelve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Hosea</i> and outline it • Boice, “Hosea” • Read <i>Zech 1:7 – 17</i>, then Kline 1 – 6 • Keller 9 – 32 • Post responses to discussion board (mostly to Keller) (1%)
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot of the Twelve I • Plot of the Twelve II • Theology of the Twelve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Joel</i> and outline it • Boice, “Joel” • Kline: <i>The Myrtles</i> 15 – 30 • Keller 207 – 224 • Post responses to the discussion board (mostly to Kline) (2%)
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex and Marriage • Spiritual Adultery • The Passion of Yahweh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Amos</i> and list sins he mentions • Boice, “Amos” • Read <i>Zech 1:18 – 21</i>, then Kline 57 – 68 • Keller 35 – 79 • Post responses (1%)

Week 4	Use this week to study for the open-book 1 hour exam	First Exam worth 20% The Hosea and Joel outlines, and the Amos list, are due. Also, please indicate which section of Zechariah you are planning to write on. See choices below.
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Lists and Outlines

- Hosea: create a detailed outline of the book of Hosea
- Joel: create a detailed outline of the book of Joel
- Amos: create a detailed list of all of the sins the prophet decries
- Obadiah: create a paragraph that summarizes the message of the prophet
- Jonah: create a detailed outline of the book of Jonah
- Micah: create a detailed list of all of the sins the prophet decries
- Nahum/Habakkuk: outline these two books as if they were one
- Zephaniah: create a detailed outline of the book of Zephaniah
- Haggai: create a detailed outline of the book of Haggai
- Zechariah: create a detailed outline of the book of Zechariah
- Malachi: create a detailed outline of the book of Malachi

Zechariah Paper

Overview: The student will pick one of the following texts and meditate upon it throughout the semester, producing an insightful paper as a result of this study. A sign-up sheet will be posted on line. Here are the texts that will be listed, all passages from Zechariah:

1:1 – 6 everything the prophets said, happened	8:18 – 23 they will take hold of the robe of a Jew
1:7 – 17 a man among the myrtle trees	9:1 – 8 I will guard my Temple
1:18 – 21 four horns and four blacksmiths	9:9 – 13 Behold your king is coming to you
2:1 – 5 a man with a measuring line	9:14 – 17 the divine warrior
2:6 – 13 the exiles are called home	10:1 – 11:3 as though I had never rejected them
4:1 – 14 a lampstand and two olive trees	11:4 – 17 worthless shepherds
5:1 – 4 a flying scroll	12:1 – 14 they will see Me whom they pierced
5:5 – 11 a woman in a basket	13:7 – 9 awake O sword against my shepherd
6:1 – 8 four chariots	14:1 – 11 he will stand on the Mount of Olives
6:9 – 15 crowning Joshua	14:12 – 19 the nations will worship
7:1 – 14 was it really for me you were fasting?	14:20 – 21 everything will be Holy to the LORD
8:1 – 17 Be strong and finish the task!	

MODULE #2. All work for the second module is due eight weeks from the start of the semester. Please make arrangements now for that date to be clear. The professor will contact you further regarding exam details.

	Lectures	Assignments
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yom Yahweh • Of Locusts and Men • Multiple-Lens Approach • Overturning Sun, Moon, and Stars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Obadiah</i> and write a paragraph summarizing it • Read <i>Jonah</i>; outline it • Boice, "Obadiah, Jonah" • Read <i>Zech 3:1 – 10</i>, then Kline 97 – 117 • Keller 80 – 105 • Post responses (1%)
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covenant Lawsuit • Idolatry • The Diaconate and God's Promises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Micah</i>, outline it • Boice, "Micah." • Kline 117 – 127 • Schwab: the two posted essays • Post responses (mostly to Schwab) (1%)
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Older will Serve the Younger • Noah • The Sea • The Qiqayon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Nahum & Habakkuk</i>; outline them as one book • Read <i>Zephaniah</i>; outline it • Boice, "Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah." • Read <i>Zech 4:1 – 14</i>; then Kline 131 – 141 • Keller 106 – 119 • Post responses (1%)
Week 8	Use this week to study for the open-book 1 hour exam	Second Exam worth 20% Paragraph on Obadiah, outlines of Jonah, Zephaniah, and Nahum-Habakkuk, and list of sins from Micah due. Also, please give a progress report on your Zechariah paper. Remember to use Kline and Boice.

MODULE #3. All work for the third module is due twelve weeks from the start of the semester, including the exam and the reflection paper. The professor will contact you further regarding exam details.

	Lectures	Assignments
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rib against Judah • New Testament Use of the Old • The Babylonian Collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Haggai</i>; outline it • Boice, "Haggai" • Kline: Spirit and Messiah 163 – 173 • Keller 123 – 173 (~10 pages a day) • Post responses (mostly Keller) (1%)

Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crumbling Acrostic • Theodicy • Justification by Faith • The Reformation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Zechariah</i>; outline it • Boice, “Zechariah.” • Kline: King of Glory 219 – 238 • Keller 174 – 193 • Post responses (1%)
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HZM Corpus • David’s House • Who Sent Who? • Night Visions • Full Circle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Malachi</i>; outline it • Boice, “Malachi.” • The two <i>IBR</i> articles, “Will a Man Rob God?” and “Reconstructing a Biblical Model for Giving.” • Keller 194 – 206, 225 – 233 • Post responses (mostly on the articles) (1%)
Week 12	Use this week to study for the open-book 1 hour exam and work on the final Reflection paper	Outlines of Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi due. Exegesis Paper due. Third Exam (15%)

Relevant Institutional and Class Policies

SEMINARY POLICIES: Click this link and read carefully as part of this syllabus contract:

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSStudents.pdf