

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Degree Completion Program**  
**BOTD 538 St. in the Prophets: Preaching from Hosea, Joel, Amos**

**Roger D. Cotton**  
ph.: 417-268-1076  
e-mail: [rcotton@agts.edu](mailto:rcotton@agts.edu)

**October 2005**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An exegetical, theological, and homiletical study of Hosea, Joel, and Amos with special emphasis on relationships and prophetic ministry and practical use of these books in ministry to the church today.

**OBJECTIVES**

Upon the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Outline each book.
2. Preach/teach legitimately and effectively the theological principles underlying any passage in these books, having understood the context in that day.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Required:**

Cotton, Roger D., ed. *BOTD 538 Hosea, Joel, Amos Handouts 2005* (AGTS)

*The Holy Bible: Contemporary English Version*. New York: American Bible Society, 1995.

Stuart, Douglas. *Hosea - Jonah*. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 31. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

**Recommended:**

Hubbard, David Allan. *Hosea: An Introduction and Commentary*. TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Joel and Amos: An Introduction and Commentary*. TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1989.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

Class 1

Amos 1-3

Class 2

Amos 4-9

Class 3

Hosea 1-6

Class 4

Hosea 7-14

Class 5

Joel

## **METHODOLOGY**

Lecture, discussion, readings, researched application project.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Please talk to the professor about any absences.

### 1. FOR CLASS 1:

Goals of the session and the assignments below: to get the student into the book of Amos and OT prophetic books, with a sense of what it is about; to stimulate questions about the meaning and relevance of the book; to establish the approach of the professor for the class; and to equip the students to do the kind of work called for in this course, toward more effective Bible study, including diagramming the flow of thought of a passage and doing word studies.

**HAVE READ:** 1) All of Amos in one sitting, from the CEV (*Contemporary English Version*).

2) The textbook commentary by Stuart, Introduction and commentary through Amos 4.

3) The handouts on Expectations for Graduate Students, prophecy, the Name of God and the Covenant.

4) At least an hour of scholarly reading on biblical prophetic ministry and literature in the ancient Near Eastern context from the bibliography.

**NOTE:** Be prepared for each class to discuss the next passages in relation to the CEV, the commentary, and the handouts (both to be finished by the end of the course), and any other assigned readings according to the class schedule below. All specified readings not in the book of handouts, along with other selected important sources, are on 2 hour reserve at the front desk of the library.

**TURN IN:** 1) Your outline of the message of the book of Amos in about 2-4 major divisions comprised of groups of chapters, with 4-12 total subdivisions among these divisions. Try to make the headings relate the content with the

- theological point of it to people today. For example: II. Amos 3-6 God's Case for Judgment Against His People Israel.
- 2) A list of the major themes you observed in the book of Amos.
  - 3) A 3-4 page researched essay summarizing in your own words the important points you learned about biblical prophetic ministry and literature in its ancient Near Eastern context.

## WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED TO ROGER COTTON

The work must be typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins and the right margin NOT justified, and be proof-read. Your writing should demonstrate good, formal, clear, writing style (see handouts and Strunk and White). For questions about format see Turabian 6th edition. If you need to cite a source you may choose which one of the three citation methods in Turabian you prefer to use: foot notes, end notes, or parenthetical. If the source has been assigned, just put the last name in parentheses with the page number. For assignments with specific readings, no bibliography is needed unless you want the professor to know about additional reading you did. The length may exceed the limit by a page or so. If you do not have it finished when it is discussed in class you shouldn't listen to the discussion. Put the following information at the top of the first page or on a title page: Name, assignment, course, my name, date. Do not put anything but the page numbers at the top of the other pages. No title page is needed for work under 4 pages.

### 2. FOR CLASS 2:

Goal: to finish Amos and its message.

**HAVE READ:** 1) All the related handouts especially Kaiser's chapter on Amos 9.  
2) Stuart on the chapters for this week (do the same each week)

**TURN IN:** 1) A flow of thought, analytical, diagram of your passage (see instructions and samples in handouts and Walter Kaiser's *Toward an Exegetical Theology*, chapters 4 and 8) for the project below for week 5.

2) A 2-3 page, typed, word study (see instructions and examples in handouts) on a significant word in your passage.

### 3. FOR CLASS 3:

Goals: to understand Hosea and its issues and the concept of the covenant lawsuit.

**HAVE READ:** 1) Hosea in one sitting in the CEV.  
2) Any related handouts, especially on *rib*, referring to /covenant lawsuit.  
3) An hour on Hosea 6:1-3 using at least three of the best commentaries in the bibliography in addition to Stuart and Hubbard.

**TURN IN:** 1) Your outline of the message of the book of Hosea in about 2-4 major divisions comprised of groups of chapters, with 4-12 total subdivisions among these divisions. Try to make the headings relate the content with the theological point of it to people today.

2) A list of the major themes you observed in the book of Hosea.

3) A 1-3 page, typed, essay on what you now understand to be the best way to describe the meaning of Hosea 6:1-3.

- 4) A 2-3 page essay on the concept of the *rib* as seen in Hosea explaining what you found to be the best scholarly opinion on it and its relevance for our people's understanding of Hosea and similar passages.

4. FOR CLASS 4:

Goals: to finish grasping the theology of Hosea including the use of metaphors and the NT use of the OT prophets.

**HAVE READ:** 1) The handouts related.

2) Three of the best commentaries on Hosea 11:1-4. besides Stuart and Hubbard.

3) Joel in the CEV in one sitting.

**TURN IN:** 1) A 2-3 page, typed, essay on your summary of what Hosea 11:14 meant in that day and how Matthew used in.

2) Your outline of the message of the book of Joel in about 2-4 major divisions comprised of groups of chapters, with 4-12 total subdivisions among these divisions. Try to make the headings relate the content with the theological point of it to people today.

3) A list of the major themes you observed in the book of Joel.

5. FOR CLASS 5:

Goals: to understand Joel and its principles for Christians today; and to help summarize the lessons and the message of the book, including discussion of what the students have learned in their projects.

**HAVE READ:** Finish all of the textbook commentary by Stuart and all the handouts.

**TURN IN:** A major researched application project on a passage of your choice. This is to be an exegetical, Biblical-theological, study of a passage, theme, or issue in one of the three books with strong application for God's people today. This must demonstrate good interpretive method including the following to qualify for "A" level:

A. Understanding the language of the text(s) through comparing translations and doing some word studies, which include the use of (New) Englishman's Hebrew Concordance (coded to Strong's) or Kohlenberger, John R., III, and James W. Swanson. The Hebrew English Concordance To The Old Testament With The New International Version or a computer program that searches on the Hebrew words, and the New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis.

B. Understanding the significance of the historical and cultural references in the passage(s) through background studies, including Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, and scholarly, exegetical commentaries.

C. Understanding the literary intent of the passage(s) by outlining the flow of thought and studying the literary devices used by the writer. Be sure to turn in your diagram incorporating suggestions from the professor and use it to make observations on the points of the passage.

- D. Understanding the theology intended through analyzing the theological and thematic terms and ideas used in context of the book and the whole Old Testament, and determining the underlying principles intended as the message of the inspired writer. Here again the best commentaries should be consulted, as well as Old Testament theologies, including House, and the essay on the theology of your book in the 4<sup>th</sup> volume of NIDOTTE, and any other related theological studies. Be sure to research journal articles and read at least one for “A” level work.

The choice of passage or theme will be approved through feedback on the diagram due at the second class. If a theme is chosen, one or more of the key passages on it must be diagrammed to total at least 6 verses. If a passage is chosen it should be at least 6 verses long.

There are three choices for method of presentation below. *All three choices require a full bibliography of all sources consulted*, not just cited, and articles in multi-author books (like NIDOTTE) must follow 11.26 in Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> ed. All three choices of presentation should have a strong practical relevance in the conclusions if not the whole presentation.

#### CHOICES FOR METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- 1) Turn in a 5-7 page typed, researched exegetical sermon outline OR a comparable practical application project OR a 9-12 page paper at the last class.
- 2) OR Present to the professor in his office, a detailed 2-3 page outline or summary of your project to be scheduled the week of the last class.
- 3) OR Present in class the highlights in about 20 minutes of a detailed 2-3 page outline or summary of the results of your project. Copies need to be made for each class member so if you want the professor to copy it, arrangements must be made before class.

For a paper the style should conform to Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> ed. with your choice of citation method: footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references (see Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> ed. chap. 10). However, for a sermon outline or other project few citations are expected. Most of those needed will be for explanations to the professor, not to the sermon audience. A list of all sources consulted is needed for proper evaluation of your research. I greatly prefer (required for an A) to see any signed articles from multi-author works, such as NIDOTTE and encyclopedias, listed by author and title of the article rather than the book, (see Turabian 11.26). Also, an outline need not be double spaced throughout, but do **NOT** justify the right margin. Provide a title page but no cover, just staple it.

For a sermon be sure to capsulize your thesis at the end of your introduction in a proposition and a transitional question about that proposition which is answered by the main points of the sermon. The points must come from the text though not necessarily in the same order. The main points must be sentences and the form of the points parallel to

one another. (I recommend the approach of Lloyd Perry in a Manual for Biblical Preaching, the Foundational Pattern, pp. 65-72, 82. see the end of the handouts)

Detailed explanations of significant exegetical decisions behind the sermon need to be written out just as they will be referred to in the sermon. If certain reasons will not be discussed publicly to avoid unnecessary confusion, then they need to be put in some kind of note to the professor set off from the rest of the material. You need to demonstrate the thoroughness and soundness of your exegetical work to the professor if not always to the audience. Be sure to include what the text meant to the readers/hearers of Exodus as well as the principles you see that you want your people to apply to their lives today. You may include brief descriptions of the illustrations you plan to use but it is not necessary.

Write a careful conclusion summarizing how you have established your proposition or answered your question and then suggesting specific applications for our lives today. Be sure to end with something that will effectively impress the message on the hearers' hearts.

Late work may be penalized.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Reading and class participation		10%
Outlines	each	04%
List of themes	each	01%
Essay on prophecy		08%
Diagram of passage		05%
Word study		09%
Essay on Hos 6:1-3		09%
Essay on Hos. 11:1-4		09%
Researched exegetical, biblical-theological, application project		35%

### **RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Achtemeier, Elizabeth. Minor Prophets I. NIBC. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Book of Joel." In The New Interpreter's Bible, ed. Leander E. Keck, 7:299-336. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

Allen, Leslie C. The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.

Alexander, T. Desmond, and Brian S. Rosner, eds. New Dictionary of Biblical Theology. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity, 2000.

Andersen, Francis I., and David Noel Freedman. Hosea: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1980.

\_\_\_\_\_. Amos: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1989.

Archer, Gleason L., Jr. Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

Barker, Kenneth, ed. The NIV Study Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Barton, John. Joel and Obadiah: A Commentary. OTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Beecher, Willis Judson. The Prophets and The Promise. Grand Rapids: Baker, reprint from 1905.

Braun, Michael A. "James' Use of Amos at the Jerusalem Council: Steps Toward a Possible Solution of the Textual and Theological Problems." Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society 20 (June 1977): 113-121.

Bright, John. A History of Israel. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1981.

Brueggemann, Walter. Tradition for Crisis: A Study in Hosea. Richmond, VA: John Knox Press, 1968.

Bullock, C. Hassell. An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books. Chicago: Moody Press, 1986.

Carroll R., Mark Daniel. Contexts for Amos: Prophetic Politics in Latin American Perspective. Sheffield, England: Sheffield, 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_. Amos—The Prophet and His Oracles: Research on the Book of Amos. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Chisholm, Robert B., Jr. Handbook on the Prophets. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Clements, R. E. Prophecy and Covenant. London: SCM Press, 1965.

Cripps, Richard S. A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Book of Amos. London: SPCK, 1969.

Davies, G.I. Hosea. NCBC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

De Roche, Michael. "Yahweh's Rib Against Israel: A Reassessment of the So-Called 'Prophetic Lawsuit' in the Pre-exilic Prophets." Journal of Biblical Literature 102/4 (1983): 563-74.

Finley, Thomas J. Joel, Amos, Obadiah. Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary. Chicago: Moody, 1990.

Garrett, Duane A. Hosea, Joel. NAC. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997.

Gemser, B. "The Rib -- or Controversy -- Pattern in Hebrew Mentality." Supplements to Vetus Testamentum 3: 120-137. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1969.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000.

Griffin, William P. "Commentary on the Book of Joel." In Complete Biblical Library: Old Testament, Vol. 15, Study Bible, Daniel-Malachi, ed. Thoralf Gilbrant and Gregory A. Lint. Springfield, MO: World Library Press, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. The God of the Prophets: An Analysis of Divine Action. JSOT Suppl. 249. Sheffield, England: Sheffield, 1997.

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds. Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament. 2 vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Hasel, Gerhard F. The Remnant. 3d ed. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1980.

\_\_\_\_\_. Understanding the Book of Amos: Basic Issues in Current Interpretations. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991.

Henderson, Ebenezer. The Twelve Minor Prophets. 1858; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980.

Hildebrandt, Wilf. An Old Testament Theology of the Spirit of God. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1995.

Horton, Stanley M. What the Bible Says About the Holy Spirit. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1976.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Commentary on the Book of Amos." In Complete Biblical Library: Old Testament, Vol. 15, Study Bible, Daniel-Malachi, ed. Thoralf Gilbrant and Gregory A. Lint. Springfield, MO: World Library Press, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. Acts. Springfield, MO: Logion, 2001.

House, Paul R. Old Testament Theology. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

- Hubbard, David Allan. Joel and Amos: An Introduction and Commentary. TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1989.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Hosea: An Introduction and Commentary. TOTC. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1989.
- Hummel, Horace D. The Word Becoming Flesh. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1979.
- Janzen, Waldemar. Mourning Cry and Woe Oracle. New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1972.
- Jeremias, Jorg. The Book of Amos: A Commentary. OTL. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1998.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. Toward an Old Testament Theology. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Toward an Exegetical Theology. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Uses of the Old Testament in the New. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Messiah in the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995
- Kidner, Derek. Love to the Loveless: The Message of Hosea. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1981.
- King, Philip J. Amos, Hosea, Micah-An Archaeological Commentary. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1988.
- [Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Dallas: Word, 1993. see OT poetry as well as the genre of prophecy.](#)
- Koch, Klaus. The Prophets: Volume One, The Assyrian Period. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.
- Kohlenberger, John R., III, and James W. Swanson. The Hebrew English Concordance To The Old Testament With The New International Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.
- Laetsch, Theo. The Minor Prophets. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1956.
- Lewis, Jack P. The Minor Prophets. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1966.
- Limburg, J. "The Root Rib and the Prophetic Lawsuit Speeches." Journal of Biblical Literature 88 (1969): 291-304.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Hosea-Micah. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1988.

Mays, James Luther. Amos: A Commentary. OTL Series. London: SCM Press, LTD, 1969.

\_\_\_\_\_. Hosea: A Commentary. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1969.

McComiskey, Thomas Edward. "Amos" In The Expositor's Bible Commentary, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, 7: 269-331. Grand Rapids: Publishing House, 1985.

\_\_\_\_\_, ed. The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary. Vol. 1 Hosea, Joel, and Amos. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992. (authors: McComiskey, Dillard, Niehaus)

[McConville, J. Gordon. Exploring the Old Testament : A Guide to the Prophets. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2002.](#)

McQueen, Larry R. Joel and The Spirit: The Cry of a Prophetic Hermeneutic. Sheffield, England: Sheffield, 1995.

Moo, Douglas J. "The Problem of Sensus Plenior." In Hermeneutics, Authority, and Canon, ed. D.A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge, 179-211. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986.

Motyer, J. A. The Message of Amos: The Day of the Lion. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1974.

Patterson, Richard D. "Joel." In The Expositor's Bible Commentary, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, 7:229-266. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.

Paul, Shalom M. Amos. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.

Perry, Lloyd Merle. A Manual for Biblical Preaching. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1965.

Petersen, David L. The Prophetic Literature : An Introduction. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Polley, Max E. Amos and the Davidic Empire: A Socio-Historical Approach. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Prinsloo, Willem S. The Theology of the Book of Joel. New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1985.

Rad, Gerhard von. The Message of the Prophets. New York: Harper & Row, 1967.

Robeck, Cecil M., Jr. "Prophecy, Gift of: I. Prophetic Speech in the Ancient World." In Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements, ed. Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee, 728-732. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

Rowley, H. H. "The Marriage of Hosea." In Man of God: Studies in Old Testament History and Prophecy, 66-97. New York: Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd., 1963.

Ryken, Leland, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longmen III, eds. Dictionary of Biblical Imagery. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Smith, Billy K. and Frank S. Page. Amos, Obadiah, Jonah. NAC. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

Smith, Gary V. Amos: A Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_. An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets: The Prophets as Preachers. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. The NIV Application Commentary: Hosea, Amos, Micah. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Prophet; Prophecy." In International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, 3:986-1004. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Stuart, Douglas. Hosea - Jonah. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 31. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

\_\_\_\_\_. Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors. 2d ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1984.

Swaim, Gerald G. "Hosea the Statesman." In Biblical and Near Eastern Studies, ed. by Gary A. Tuttle, 177-183. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament. Edited by Botterweck and Ringgren. Incomplete. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Van Gemeren, Willem A. Interpreting the Prophetic Word. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

\_\_\_\_\_. ed. New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Von Orelli, C. The Twelve Minor Prophets. Translated by J. S. Banks. T & T Clark, 1897; reprint, Minneapolis, MN: Klock & Klock Christian Publishers, 1977.

Walton, John H. Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994

Watts, John D. W. Vision and Prophecy in Amos. Expanded Anniversary Edition. Macon, GA: Mercer, 1997.

Webb, William J. Slaves, Women, & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Wolff, Hans Walter. Joel and Amos: A Commentary on the Books of the Prophets Joel and Amos. Translated by Waldemar Janzen, S. Dean McBride, Jr., and Charles A. Muenchow. Edited by S. Dean McBride, Jr. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.

\_\_\_\_\_. Hosea: A Commentary on the Book of the Prophet Hosea. Translated by Gary Stansell. Edited by Paul D. Hanson. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1974.  
Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984.

Wigram. The New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance: Coded to Strong's Concordance Numbering System.

Wright, Christopher J.H. God's People in God's Land: Family, Land, and Property in The Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

\_\_\_\_\_. Walking in the Ways of the Lord: The Ethical Authority of The Old Testament. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity, 1996.

Yee, Gale A. "The Book of Hosea." In The New Interpreter's Bible, ed. Leander E. Keck, 7:195-297. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Roger D. Cotton, June, 2005.