

**BIBHB-603 Prophetic Books: The Book of Amos
January Term 2023**

January 9, 2023 to January 20, 2023
9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Room

Professor: Cheryl B. Anderson
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Course objectives:

- * greater knowledge of the book of Amos and its canonical and historical settings
- * development of exegetical skills and the application of those skills to sermon preparation and scholarly writing
- * ability to recognize, understand, and act towards contemporary issues of social justice
- * familiarity with a bible study resource on Amos and ability to use it in church and academic settings

Accessed on October 9, 2022

The HarperCollins Study Bible (2006), ISBN-13: 9780060786847, Price: \$40.49 with 10% discount at amazon.com **OR**

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, Fifth Edition (2018), ISBN-13: 9780190276072, Price: \$25.55 with 36% discount at amazon.com.

Bruce C. Birch, *Hosea, Joel, and Amos* (Westminster Bible Companion series), Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997. **ISBN-13** 978-0664252717, available at amazon.com for \$22.64 with 9% discount.

John Barton, *The Theology of the Book of Amos* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012). **ISBN-13**: 978-0521671750, available at amazon.com (Kindle) for \$20.49.

Carolyn J. Sharp, *Old Testament Prophets for Today* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009), ISBN-13, 978-0-664-231781, available at amazon.com (Kindle) for \$9.99.

Additional required readings will be posted on the course Moodle site.

Course expectations:

- completion of reading assignments before each class
- active and informed participation in class sessions
- punctual and regular attendance at all class sessions

Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. It is expected that you will give your full attention to the lectures and discussions in the class. To facilitate your engagement with the class, cellphones and earpieces must be turned off and put away, and your laptops should be used only for taking notes.

Our class discussions will supplement and integrate the readings rather than repeat that material. For this reason, missing a class damages the learning process and this damage is particularly true in a summer school course. Consequently, more than one absence will result in a lowering of your final grade. If you have to miss a class for any reason, please inform me in advance by telephone or email.

Furthermore, before the class starts, students should read through the book of Amos at least once and think about choosing a pericope that will be the basis for the exegetical assignment and a sermon or a lecture.

Academic Policies

All students are required to abide by the academic policies detailed in the [Academic Handbook](#) for the current academic year. The following policies are of particular importance to the successful completion of one's coursework:

Writing

- Academic integrity and [plagiarism](#): (See 19-20 Handbook, 12, 78-83) All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Repeated incidents of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may result in dismissal from the school.
- Writing and citations: The *Turabian Manual for Writers* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* footnote/bibliography format provide the standard formats for all introductory courses. Basic information on these formats is available online [here](#). In advanced courses an instructor may require another style guide appropriate to the discipline (such as APA). (19-20 Handbook, 84)
- Writing Support: The Writing Center at Garrett-Evangelical offers programs to support all students' theological research and writing. See <https://www.garrett.edu/student-life/student-services> "Writing Center" for more detailed information.

Attendance and Class Participation

- Inclusivity/Diversity: The basic commitments of the seminary to mutual love and searching for the truth in Christ lead to a principle that in the classroom and in course assignments, persons are always to be respected and ideas are to be freely discussed.... All participants in the teaching-learning process have an obligation to honor and respect varying perspectives on relevant issues.

(See 19-20 Handbook, 9)

- Attendance and lateness policies: Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions (e.g., more than 2 classes in the weekly schedule, a proportionate amount for other class formats) should not expect to pass the class. (19-20 Handbook, 19)
- Some faculty may limit on the usage of electronic devices such as cell phones during class. At the least, all cell phones should be silenced during the whole of a class session.

Academic Accommodations

- Student accommodations for documented conditions should be developed and requested before the beginning of the semester. See the *Accessibility, Special Needs, and Disabilities* policy and process set out in the Academic Handbook (19-20 Handbook, 12). Such accommodations are developed in consultation with the Registrar.
- Extensions: For Masters students, extensions, if granted, are normally for four weeks following the last day of class in spring and fall semesters or the final due date for coursework for January and summer terms. Extensions may not exceed three months following the end of the term. (19-20 Handbook, 20)

Grading:

Consistent and active participation in class discussions (including leading discussions on books, articles, bible study, and exegetical methods)	25%
Lectionary assignment	25%
Sermon/lecture	25%
Brief analytical paper	25%

All assignments must be submitted to receive a final grade in the course. Furthermore, all assignments must be submitted on the date specified. Requests for extensions are strongly discouraged. Any extension granted for any assignment may result in the lowering of grade for that assignment.

Sermon/Lecture assignment

Sermon/lecture delivery takes place in class and has two components. One component is an oral report that includes information about the research conducted, actual or intended audience, and any reflections you may have about the process of developing the presentation. The second component is delivering your message. The content should be about 10-15 minutes in length. With the oral report, the delivery should take about 20 minutes altogether and there will be about 10 minutes of discussion afterwards. In other words, each person will have about 30 minutes for the presentation. Ideally, all sermons/lectures will be given during the second week of class and, if possible, on the day that the pericope is covered in the Birch commentary (if applicable). (25% of the grade)

As part of your sermon/lecture preparation, you will write a brief exegesis paper on the text (not more than 4-5 pages double-spaced). Any issues concerning textual variances, translations, redactions, and so forth are to be covered. In addition, the final section of your exegesis should include possible preaching themes based on your research. The assignment can be presented during any class session, but preferably on the day that the text is covered in the readings from Bruce Birch's commentary. You may submit the written paper on the last day of class. If you want to work specifically on a text from Amos that is included in the common lectionary, this is the list of texts from which to choose: 5:6-7, 10-15; 5:18-24, 6:1a, 4-7; 7:7-15; 7:7-17; 8:1-12; 8:4-7. (25% of the grade)

Brief analytical paper

The paper should analyze the message of Amos and that of another 8th century BCE prophet: Hosea, Micah, or Isaiah of Jerusalem. A comparison can be based on a theme that appears in both (for example, references to women) or on a particular word (for example, transgression). An attempt should be made to relate the texts to their probable socio-historical contexts and a contemporary context. A proposed paper topic must be submitted in writing before the end of the January term. Due date: Monday, February 3, 2023. Length: 6-8 pages double spaced for MDiv students and 10-15 pages for MTS students. (25% of the grade)

Assignment Schedule

January 9

Birch, Introduction, 165-172.

Sharp, Chapter 1: What is a Prophet, 1-18.

Barton, Theology of Amos, Chapter 1

Ngan, "Amos" in the *Global Bible Commentary*, edited by Daniel Patte (Nashville: Abingdon, 2004), 277-285.

Erickson, "Amos" in the *Women's Bible Commentary*, 3rd edition, edited by Carol Newsom, Sharon Ringe, and Jacqueline Lapsley. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012, 312-318.

Robertson, "Amos," in the *Africana Bible*, edited by Hugh Page, Jr., and others (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009), 172-179.

January 10

Birch, Amos 1:1-2

Sharp, Chapter 2: Early Prophets, 19-32.

Barton, Theology of Amos, Chapter 2

January 11

Birch, Amos 1:3-2:16

Sharp, Chapter 3: Amos, 33-40.

Barton, Theology of Amos, Chapter 3

Shveka, "'For A Pair of Shoes:' A New Light on an Obscure Verse in Amos' Prophecy" *Vetus Testamentum* 62 (2012): 95-114.

January 12

Birch, Amos 3:1-5:27

Sharp, Chapter 4: Hosea, 41-48.

Barton, Theology of Amos, Chapter 4

Irwin, "Amos 4:1 and the Cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria: A Reappraisal."

Catholic Biblical Quarterly 74 (2012): 231-246.

January 13

Birch, Amos 6:1-14

Sharp, Chapter 5: Micah, 49-56.

Barton, Theology of Amos, Chapter 5

January 17

Birch, Amos 7:1-9; 8:1-3

Sharp, Chapter 6: Isaiah, 57-69.

Barton, Theology of Amos, Chapter 6

Holmgren, "Priests and Prophets: Spirituality and Social Conscience," *Worship* 79 (July 2005): 304-316.

January 18

Birch, Amos 7:10-17

Sharp, Chapter 7: Jeremiah, 70-78.

Barton, Theology of Amos, Chapter 7

Johanna Stiebert, "Women's Sexuality and Stigma in Genesis and the Prophets," in *Grant Me Justice: HIV/AIDS and Gender Readings of the Bible*, edited by Musa Dube and Musimbi Kanyoro (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004), 80-96.

January 19

Birch, 8:4-14

Sharp, Chapter 8: Ezekiel, 79-88.

Alvarado, "Facing Corruption Today in Light of the First Testament (Amos 8:1-7)" *Latin American Theology*, Vol 12 no. 2 (2017): 29-44.

January 20

Birch, 9:1-15

Sharp, Chapter 9: Other Minor Prophets, 89-104.

Biddle, "Sinners Only? Amos 9:8-10 and the Problem of Targeted Justice in Amos." *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 43 no. 2 (Sum 2016): 161-175.

Sadler, "Can A Cushite Change His Skin? Cushites, "Racial Othering and the Hebrew Bible." *Interpretation* 60/14 (2004): 386-403.

****Final sermon/lecture assignments are due at midnight today****

Final Papers are due on February 3, 2023