

# Course Prospectus

## For THL 438 Biblical Prophecy II: Minor Prophets

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## Overview

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Prophecy forms a major part of Scripture, by which holy men of God were inspired to convey the mind of God to His people, past, present and future. The Old Testament Books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel are referred to as the Major Prophets, a classification based on the size of the books and not the content or message of their writings. This section of Scripture provides a useful segue into the study of prophecy in the Bible, helping us appreciate the purposes of prophecy, its relationship to the Law of God and its relevance to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Course description

This course focuses on the writings of the minor prophets, including the background, message, purposes and theme of each. Emphasis is upon the essential message and teaching of each book, shaped by the relationship of the individual prophets with the God of Israel, together with their personality and background. Upon completion, students should be able to use analysis tools to read, understand, and explain these biblical writings.

## Prerequisites and co-requisites

THL212 or consent of instructor.

## Course credit

Three (3) semester hours.

## Instructional Objectives

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On successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the skills necessary for effective Bible study and understanding and explaining biblical passages contextually;
2. Identify the sociocultural world in which the prophets wrote;
3. Appreciate the real purposes of prophecy;
4. Understand the key words associated with prophecy;
5. Provide an understanding of the Minor Prophets and show how their prophecies have been not only fulfilled in the past, but can relate to our lifetime;
6. Deepen one's understanding of history and contemporary world events; and
7. Develop a sense of urgency as prophetic events unfold.

## Your Instructor

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The Instructor of record for this course is Peter G. Nathan. To contact him on course details and issues, please use the email feature on the E-Learning system (Populi) or [pnathan@livinguniv.com](mailto:pnathan@livinguniv.com) . His telephone number is 704-708-2295.

Peter Nathan served as a Lecturer in Theology for seven years at Ambassador College/University. As a faculty member in 1990. He led a group of students to participate in the Tel Mozan Expedition, Syria, which was directed by Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati. His studies at Southern Methodist University focused largely on Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis. Most recently he has completed a Master's program at University of Cambridge focusing on Jewish-Christian relations, with an emphasis on early Church history and the "Parting of the Ways." Subsequent to the time at Ambassador University, he focused on education

of young adults within church communities, providing seminars in biblical studies to help lay a foundation for future roles in the ministry. In addition, he has written and published numerous articles on the identity of the early church, which carefully examined and challenged many of the commonly held assumptions relating to that era of time. The place and use of the Dead Sea Scrolls in understanding the early church environment has been a special interest. Ordained to the ministry of the Church of God in 1973, he has pastored churches in diverse parts of the world and has been deeply involved in ministry to the developing world. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Schools of Oriental Research and the International Patristics Society.

## **Course Protocols**

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### **Technology access**

This course requires web access and the student has to have an established email account. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. One can download the reader free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

### **Students with disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities have a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students having a disability requiring an accommodation should inform the instructor by email (on the course “Info” page click on the instructor’s name and then select “Send Email”).

### **Attendance in this online course**

One of the most vital aspects of the college and university experience is attendance and punctuality in the learning environment. Regularity of attendance is necessary for students to derive maximum benefit from a course and to maintain a satisfactory academic record, whether in an online course or in an on-campus course. We have noticed that students who fall behind in their coursework typically drop out. Therefore, we highly encourage you to complete your assignments on time, as we want you to succeed. Remember Ecclesiastes 9:10: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you go.”

Please be aware that all students who fall behind in an online course and do not complete twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total assignments and other required activities for a course, on or before “Last day to withdraw from a course” without a grade penalty as set forth in the University Academic Calendar, will receive a grade of “W” for it. After that date, the grade will be a “WF” and counted in a student’s GPA. Moreover, an instructor may drop a student from a course whenever the instructor concludes that a student’s class attendance or punctuality endangers the student’s success or places other students at risk.

### **Withdrawing from or dropping this course**

It is the responsibility of a student to drop a course if he or she cannot meet the requirements of the course. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing from it risks receiving a punitive grade for that course. A student who finds it necessary to drop a course after the Late Registration (Drop/Add) Period must notify the Registrar’s Office in writing. Please note the following:

- If a student drops a course on or before the “Last day to withdraw from a course without a grade penalty” as published in the University Academic Calendar, even if his or her work is not of a passing grade, then a “W” is recorded.

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- If a course is dropped after that date, but before the last 21 calendar days of the semester, then the instructor determines the grade. The faculty member will at this time record a grade of “W” if passing (not computed in GPA) or “WF” if failing (computed in GPA).
- Students who drop a course, yet remain in one or more other courses during the last 18 calendar days of the semester, will receive a grade of “WF.”
- Students who completely withdraw from the University at any time during the semester may be given a grade of “W” on all courses.

If students do not initiate the withdrawal process, the instructor is required to initiate the administrative process and to record a grade of “W” or “WF” for the course depending on the date the faculty member drops the student from the course. Students who register for a course as an audit, but then withdraw will be assigned a grade of “W” for the course.

## Textbooks

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Students may order books through the University Bookstore. Other than the Bible, the books used or referred to in this course are commercial publications. They represent the views and ideas of their authors, editors, and publishers. Living University does not endorse these texts nor vouch for their accuracy. We simply employ them in helping you master the content of the course.

### Required Textbooks

Heschel, Abraham J. *The Prophets*. 1<sup>st</sup> Perennial Classics ed. New York: Perennial, 2001. ISBN 9780060936990.

*The Bible* – preferably the New King James Version (also consult other translations).

### Recommended Reference Books

Some additional reference books may be helpful for this course:

Walton, John H. *Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994. ISBN 9780310481614.

Aharoni, Yohanan and Michael Avi-Yonah et al. *The Carta Bible Atlas*. 5th ed. Jerusalem: Carta, 2011. ISBN 9789652208149.

### Recommended Booklets

[\*Armageddon and Beyond\*](#) (LCG)

[\*Prophecy Fulfilled: Gods Hand in World Affairs\*](#) (LCG)

[\*The Bible: Fact or Fiction\*](#) (LCG)

[\*The Middle East in Prophecy\*](#) (LCG)

[\*The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy\*](#) (LCG)

[\*Who Controls the Weather?\*](#) (LCG)

## Course Requirements

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### Due dates and extensions

Submit assignments on or before posted due dates. Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

## Icebreaker assignment

To begin this course, students must complete an Icebreaker assignment, which is the posting of a short autobiography on a class discussion board. The purposes of the Icebreaker are for you to introduce yourself to your classmates, to verify your enrollment in this course, and to promote student interaction. The Icebreaker is due no later than the eighth day of the semester. Students must submit their autobiography post and two reply postings in response to two other classmates. For full credit, all three posts must be submitted by the due date. **This assignment is worth 50 points.**

## Reading assignments

Reading assignments are integrated into the lesson webpages.

## Viewing assignments

This course includes a series of lectures by Peter Nathan. Links to the lectures are included on the respective lesson webpages. Additional material will be posted in the Files section of a lesson on the right side of the lesson webpage.

## Discussion forums

For each discussion forum you will be asked to post your thoughts and insights on the discussion topic. You are invited to comment on the postings of others. This is your opportunity to participate in interactive dialog. In addition to being thoughtful responses, be sure to keep the postings positive and helpful.

## Writing assignments

There is one essay due at the end of the course. Submit your essay utilizing MLA style as set forth in *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide* by Lester & Lester. The Files feature on the “What I Have Learned” assignment submission webpage lets you submit your work so your instructor can have it handy for download, review and grading.

## Quizzes and examinations

Each lesson has an associated online quiz. These range from 10-20 questions. They are open book quizzes and there is no time limit, but under no circumstances are students to print the quiz. An open book quiz is not a workbook exercise. It is a test where the student can consult his or her notes and books. Quizzes are objective tests which may include true/false, matching, and multiple-choice questions covering lectures, readings, vocabulary words, geographical terms and places and discussion topics.

## Course evaluation

Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by email is helpful. Our goal in this course is to facilitate the successful achievement of all instructional objectives by all students. At the end of the course students have the opportunity to assess the course. We want to make e-learning courses as effective as we can. We may also ask some other questions concerning a student’s experience in distance learning to help us improve our program. We appreciate students letting us know how we can improve our products and services for them and other distance learners. Near the end of the semester, an ALERT on your student dashboard will notify you when the evaluation is available for completion. By completing the assessment, you can earn **30 points** towards your final grade. Because the survey is anonymous, in order to have the ascribed points allocated, post a notice in the assignment submission textbox for your instructor noting that you have completed the evaluation.

## Grading

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A course grade will be determined based on the number of points a student has earned over the semester as follows:

- Icebreaker Assignment (50 points)
- Discussion Forums (eight worth 50 points each, for a total of 400 points)
- Quizzes (eight worth 50 points each, for a total of 400 points)
- “What I Have Learned” Essay (100 points)
- Course Evaluation (50 points)
- Total 1,000 points**

Posting an Icebreaker assignment on time at the beginning of the semester is worth **50 points**; completing and submitting a course evaluation at the end of the semester is worth **50 points**. These points could make the difference between an A or B, or passing or not passing.

Grades are in the traditional American style of A, B, C, D, or F. In distance learning we believe that the measure of mastery of course subject matter is completion of 80% of the objectives for a course. That means that we want students to earn at least 800 points in this course. If they do not do so then they have not achieved the level of mastery we would like them to have. We want this course to be competency-based and so it is possible for the entire class to receive an A or B. There is no artificial curving of scores in the assignment of grades. Mastery of the material is what your goal should be.

Grades are assigned as follows:

- A = 900 – 1000 points
- B = 800 – 899 points
- C = 700 – 799 points
- D = 600 – 699 points
- F = below 600 points

## Academic Irregularity

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Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any assignment or examination. An academic irregularity not only includes cheating but also includes plagiarism (taking another’s ideas and/or words and presenting them as if they were your own) and the submitting of the same paper in separate courses without prior consent from the faculty members concerned. In cases of suspected academic irregularity, faculty members are authorized to refuse to grade such papers, in whole or in part, or examinations, and to record each of them as a failure. If an academic irregularity is sufficiently serious, the University may take one or more of, but not limited to, the following actions:

1. Drop the student from the course with a grade of F;
2. Place the student on academic probation; and/or
3. Dismiss the student from the University.

## Course Outline

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### COURSE TOPICS:

Lesson	Topics
1	Welcome and Overview
2	Hosea
3	Joel and Amos
4	Obadiah, Jonah and Micah
5	Nahum and Habakkuk
6	Zephaniah and Haggai
7	Zechariah
8	Malachi