GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2014
Instructor: Dr. Matthew Neujahr
Course #: THEO 8121
Course Title: Prophetic Books of Ancient Israel
   Israelite Prophecy in Its Near Eastern Context

Content:

This course will provide students with a thorough grounding in the books of the eighth century prophets Isaiah, Hosea, and Micah. In particular, we will investigate the production of the prophetic books of the Bible as part of the wider religious phenomenon of prophecy in the ancient world, particularly as evidenced in contemporary documents from ancient Mesopotamia. Special attention will be given to prophetic message as a response to political reality. Students will be encouraged to explore the interpretive and theological vistas opened when these biblical books (and other ancient prophetic texts) are contextualized as part of a broad expression of the relationship between humans and the divine in the ancient world.

Format:

Seminar

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- At least twice during the semester, each student will be required to make a short presentation on one of the assigned readings for that week, and to facilitate discussion of that reading. Students will also be required to write a research paper of ~15-20 pages due at the end of the semester. Toward the end of the semester, each student will be required to give a short presentation on their paper topic.

Language Pre-requisites:

- None. However, the instructor is happy to meet outside of class time with any students who wish to read the ancient texts we are studying in the original language.