2013

CLAS 174 Ethical Living in the Hebrew Bible: Hebrew Readings in Wisdom Literature and the Prophets

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Ethical Living in the Hebrew Bible:  
Hebrew Readings in Wisdom Literature and the Prophets  
THEO 394 / CLAS 174 (Spring 2013)  
10:00 am - 11:15 am, TR  
Hinkle Hall 201

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Office hours:  T TH 11:30am – 12:30pm, Schott 809

**Course Description**

This course will take an inductive approach to Biblical Hebrew at the undergraduate level. Phonological and morphological principles will be reviewed (grammatical forms will also be discussed and analyzed as they arise in the reading). Participants will gain greater proficiency in Hebrew vocabulary, idioms, and syntax. THEO 273 / CLAS 173 is a prerequisite. The specific content of the Hebrew readings will consist of select Scriptures that speak of how to live the ethical life, as seen from the perspective(s) preserved in the Hebrew Scriptures. To this end students will read together, in Hebrew, a good many key passages drawn from the Wisdom Literature (Qoheleth, Proverbs, and some ‘wisdom Psalms’) and the Prophets (especially Amos, Jonah, Micah). We will also consider a few key texts from the Torah itself.

**Goals and Objectives**

This course focuses on Classical Hebrew for students of the Old Testament who want to read and translate the Hebrew Bible, use a critical edition, and consult dictionaries, grammars, concordances, and commentaries. By the end of this course students will be able to:

- articulate essential categories of ethical living, as seen from the perspective(s) preserved in the Hebrew Bible itself
- recognize and discuss the human experience of God and the doctrines and rituals related to texts translated in this course
- articulate a more sophisticated understanding of Classical Hebrew syntax
- develop skills in critical thinking and effective communication

**Text Books**

R. Fuller and K. Choi, *Invitation to Biblical Hebrew: A Beginning Grammar* (textbook), and  

**Graded Assignments**

*Faithful class participation is vital.* Your final grade is determined by your overall average score from translation exercises, two *précis* on ethics in the Hebrew Bible, and the final exam.

**Grading Scale**