I. Textbooks


   In this course I will be using the *New Oxford Annotated Bible* (NRSV), 4th edition. This is an excellent study Bible which provides a good introduction to each book of the Bible and also good study notes.

   Students are required to bring their Bible to class each week. Reading from another student’s Bible is not allowed. Students will be required to read the book of Amos during the quarter.

   Students are also expected during the quarter to read and compare the book of Amos in the NRSV with at least in another version (KJV, NIV, ESV, NLT, NASB, JB, GNB, NEB).


4. Selected articles available on Moodle.

5. Blog articles available on Moodle.

II. Class Objectives

1. This course will help students gain an understanding of the content and message of the book of Amos.

2. The course will provide students with guidelines for the interpretation of the biblical material in its literary, historical, and theological contexts.
3. The course will help students preach and teach from the book of Amos to meet the needs of today’s society.

III. Class Requirements

1. Students are expected to attend all meetings of the course, unless hindered by circumstances beyond their control.

2. Each student will be allowed to miss 20% of the classes. Anyone who misses more than 2 classes will fail the course.

3. Students are expected to make preparation for each class meeting by reading the pages assigned in the textbooks. Students are also expected during the quarter to read and compare the book of Amos in the NRSV with at least in another version (KJV, NIV, ESV, NLT, NASB, JB, GNB, NEB).

4. Students must write a one page (single space) summary of each chapter of Amos, detailing the content of each chapter. In your review, emphasize one or two new things learned from reading what Mays wrote. The reviews will be worth 1/3 of the grade.

5. Each student will be required to write two 7-8 pages papers during the quarter. Each paper will be worth 1/3 of the grade. Each paper shall be 7-8 pages (minimum) in length and will be due on Monday, October 20, 2014 and on Monday, November 17, 2014.

6. Students must present a 3-page review of the book *The Message of Amos*. The review will be due in class on Monday, December 1, 2014. The review will be counted with the chapter reviews.

IV. Grading

1. The total amount of points to be given in class is 300.

2. Each paper will be worth 1/3 of the grade.

3. The grade for reading and reviewing the textbook and the text of Amos will be worth 1/3 of the grade.

4. No incomplete will be granted for this class. An incomplete may be granted (at the discretion of the professor) in case of a dire emergency.

5. Grading scale:

   A = 100-95  
   A- = 94-90  
   B+ = 89-87
B = 86-83
B- = 82-80
C+ = 79-77
C = 76-73
C- = 72-70
D+ = 69-67
D = 66-63
D- = 62-60
F = 59 and below

V. Office Hours

I am available to students who wish to discuss any problem related to class work, research paper, or any other matter related to personal problems or seminary work. This quarter my office hours are:

Monday 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

It is very important that you call my office and make an appointment before you come to see me. If you cannot come in at these times, please call and make an appointment to see me at another time. You can also contact me at any time by email: cmariottini@faculty.seminary.edu.

VI. Lessons and Readings

September 22 The Eighth Century: Historical Introduction to Amos (Read Mays’ introduction to Amos).
September 29 Amos Chapter 1 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 1)
October 6 Amos Chapter 2 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 2)
October 13 Amos Chapter 3 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 3)
October 20 Amos Chapter 4 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 4)
First Paper is due today
October 27 Amos Chapter 5 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 5)
November 3 Amos Chapter 6 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 6)
November 10 Amos Chapter 7 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 7)
November 17 Amos Chapter 8 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 8)
Second Paper is due today
December 1 Amos Chapter 9 (Read Mays’ discussion of Chapter 9)
Book Review is due today
VII. Seminary Policies

POLICIES FOR ALL MASTERS CLASSES

NOTE: All communications from the seminary will go to your seminary email account. Contact ithubelpdesk@seminary.edu if you need help forwarding your seminary email address to your personal email address.

As a seminary community we hold integrity/hospitality as core values. Individuals are able to do their best work and thinking when their peers are fully present and engaged. We expect each person to both participate in class and carefully listen to others with the belief that everyone’s contribution is equally important. Therefore, the following policies have been established in order to provide clarity in regard to attendance expectations and relationships in the classroom.

Class Attendance Policy
It is expected that students will attend and participate in all class sessions. Failure to attend at least 80% of class sessions is grounds for automatic failure. A professor may set other attendance expectations. Students are always expected to communicate with a professor in advance if they will be absent. Attendance expectations are higher for online and intensive courses (see syllabus for specific requirements).

Class Tardiness Policy
The third time a student is late to the start of class, it will be counted as a class absence. It is also expected that students will return from a break by the time specified by the professor.

Late Work Policy
If a student cannot complete the work for a course by the due date listed on the syllabus, they must submit a “Request for a Grade of Incomplete” form to the Registrar by 4:30 of the last day of the term. The form must be signed by the instructor and Dean of Students. The professor may set stipulations and grade reductions. In the absence of a formal request form, the student will receive a grade based upon work completed by the last day of the term.

Turabian Format
All papers, including footnotes and bibliography, must be submitted in the correct format according to Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th ed., 2013.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the act of passing off as one’s own the words or ideas of someone else without providing proper acknowledgement or documentation. See the “Academic Honesty Policy” in the Seminary Catalog for more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Electronic Format
Unless otherwise specified by the professor, all work submitted electronically must be in a Word document format (.doc, .docx).

Technology Use in the Classroom
Unless it is directly tied to note-taking or research for the class, students are expected to refrain from using cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices during class.
Course Evaluation in Moodle
Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at http://moodle.seminary.edu in order to receive a final grade for the course. The evaluation will be open for one week starting the last day of the term. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to moodlehelp@seminary.edu.
Research Paper

Basic information about your research paper:

1. Each student will be required to write two 7-8 pages papers during the quarter. Each paper will be worth 1/3 of the grade. The paper shall be 7-8 pages (minimum) in length and will be due on Monday, October 20 and on Monday, November 17, 2014.


3. The paper should be typed with double space and 12pt type and with 1 inch margin on all sides. You must use Times New Roman font in the preparation of your paper.

4. The research paper also must follow the guidelines found in How to “Write an A+ Research Paper.” These guidelines will be distributed in class. Read the guidelines before writing your paper.

5. Plagiarism. In this class we follow the policies of the seminary on plagiarism as outlined in the Northern’s catalog.

6. Submission of the paper. You must submit your paper by email. You must use Word format. Email address: cmariottini@faculty.seminary.edu

7. Students who fail to present the research paper on the due date will lose a letter grade for the paper.

8. Selection of the topic:
Select three topics from the list below. You will be assigned your first two topics. In case a topic is already taken, you will be assigned your third topic or will be asked to select a different topic.

Topics will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis. Send me an email with your selection.

**Topics for the Research Paper**

1. Amos: The Man and The Message
2. Amos’ Background: The Eight Century B.C.
3. The Theology of Amos
4. Peasant Life in the Eighth Century B.C.
5. Amos and the Problem of Social Oppression
6. Social Tyranny in Ancient Israel
7. The Poor in the Book of Amos
8. The Day of Yahweh
9. The Oracles Against the Nations in Amos
10. The Rich in the Book of Amos
11. Amos’s Criticism of Society
12. Amos’s Criticism of the Cultus
13. The Covenant Concept in the Book of Amos
14. Social Justice in the Message of Amos
15. Amos and Wisdom
16. The Call of Amos
17. Amos and Liberation Theology
18. The Visions of Amos
19. The Message of Amos and Today's Society
20. Amos as a Model for Christian Ministry

21. The Call of Amos

22. The Lord’s Judgment on Israel (Amos 2:6-8)

23. Justice and Righteousness (Amos 5:24)

24. The God Who Repents (Amos 7:1-6)

25. The Restoration of Israel (Amos 9:11-15)