

## **BLS 522 OLD TESTAMENT 2: JOB – MALACHI**

### **4 Credits**

**Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Christopher Creech**

#### About Lecturer

An ordained minister of the Baptist General Conference (USA), Rev. Dr. Christopher Creech has been involved in theological education, having taught for two years at Bible Institute of Colorado and has served as an adjunct faculty in various seminaries and bible institutes in United States, Russia, Estonia and Brazil. He has also served for thirty years in the pastoral ministry in Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado Springs and South Dakota, and has planted a church in Toronto, Canada. Rev. Dr. Creech has been married to Faith for over 30 years and they have one daughter, Rachel, son-in-law, Chris and two grandchildren Tyler and Jackson.

Academic Year : 2009/10, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (Jan 25 – Apr 30, 2010)  
Day & Time : Tuesdays & Fridays, 9.00 – 10.50 am  
Dates : Jan 26, 29  
(dates could be subject to change) Feb 2, 5, 9, 12, 23, 26  
Mar 2, 5, 9, 23, 26, 30  
Apr 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23  
Final Exam to be confirmed on week of Apr 26-30  
Venue : EAST ASIA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
1, Dorset Road, Singapore 219486. Tel: 6291-9744

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## **CLASS SYLLABUS**

#### Class Description

This class covers the Old Testament books of Job through Malachi. It will examine some of the background issues pertinent to these writings, with particular emphasis on their socio-economic, religious, historical, political and cultural contexts and the particular occasion and purpose behind each of these writings. In addition to an overview of each of these writings, a detailed study of selected texts will be conducted to enable the student to better understand some of the key passages and to draw implications for life and ministry.

#### Class Pre-requisites

None

#### Objectives

Regarding the Old Testament books of Job through Malachi, by the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the background of these books.
2. Describe the occasion and purpose for these books.
3. Describe the major argument of each of these books.
4. Demonstrate an ability to block diagram the first major pericope of one of the poetic books of Isaiah, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, or Zephaniah and from that work to develop a series of inductive questions and answers and from those questions and answers to write a sermon or Bible study.

**Textbook**

Arnold, Bill T. and Beyer, Bryan E., Encountering the Old Testament, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999.

**Class Schedule (January 25-April 30, 2010)**

- Tues, 26/1      Session # 1: getting to know one another, syllabus, introduction to outlining and block diagramming. Assignment: reading 281-288, begin reading report, begin work on a block diagram of the first major pericope of one of the above mentioned poetic books of the Old Testament.
- Fri, 29/1      Session # 2: Completion of introduction to block diagramming, historical introduction to the poetic books. Assignment: reading 289-301.
- Tues, 2/2      Session # 3: Job. Assignment: reading 303-312.
- Fri, 5/2      Session # 4: **Quiz # 1**, Psalms. Assignment: reading 313-323.
- Tues, 9/2      Session # 5: **Reading report due**. Proverbs. Assignment: begin new reading report, reading 325-335.
- Fri, 12/2      Session # 6: Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. Assignment: reading 339-352.
- Tues, 16/2      No Class-Chinese New Year
- Fri, 19/2      No Class-Chinese New Year
- Tues, 23/2      Session # 7: **Outline or block diagram due**. Introduction to the Prophets. Assignment: reading 439-449.
- Fri 26/2      Session # 8: **Quiz # 2**, Hosea and Joel. Assignment: reading 451-461.
- Tues 2/3      Session # 9: Obadiah and Amos. Assignment: reading 353-368.
- Fri 5/3      Session # 10: **Reading report due**. Jonah and Isaiah. Assignment: reading 369-381.
- Tues 9/3      Session # 11: Isaiah. Assignment: reading 383-392.
- Fri 12/3      No Class-instructor unavailable
- Tues 16/3      No Class-mid-term break
- Fri 19/3      No Class-mid-term break
- Tues 23/3      Session # 12: **Quiz # 3**. Micah and Nahum. Assignment: reading 393-405.
- Fri 26/3      Session # 13: **Inductive questions and answers due**. Habakkuk and Zephaniah. Assignment: reading 407-416.

- Tues 30/3      Session # 14: Jeremiah and Lamentations. Assignment: reading 417-425.
- Fri 2/4          No Class-Good Friday
- Tues 6/4        Session # 15: **Reading report due.** Ezekiel. Assignment: begin a new reading report, reading 463-473.
- Fri 9/4          Session # 16: **Quiz # 4.** Ezekiel. Assignment: no reading assignment.
- Tues 13/4       Session # 17: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Assignment: reading 427-438.
- Fri 16/4        Session # 18: Daniel. No reading assignment.
- Tues 20/4       Session # 19: **Sermon or Bible study due.** Daniel and summary of the prophets. No reading assignment.
- Fri 23/4        Session # 20: **Quiz # 5, Reading report due.** The prophets and the book of Revelation. Assignment: prepare for final examination.
- Mon 26/4-Fri 30/4      **Final Exam TBD.**

### **Course Requirements**

#### **1. Readings (10%)**

Students are to read the assigned portions of the textbook prior to each class session. This will enhance the student's ability to follow the lectures, foster his/her participation in class discussions, and do well on the periodic quizzes. A report will be filled out before each class in which the student will indicate if he/she has read the material, on what date it was read, and what insights for ministry and/or life have been gained from the reading. This report will be handed into the instructor during sessions 5, 10, 15, and 20.

#### **2. Quizzes (25%)**

A total of 5 quizzes will be given throughout the quarter. (See class schedule for the specific dates). These quizzes are designed to reinforce the student's learning and will be based on the readings and class notes. These quizzes will be taken at the beginning of the class period and will consist of at least 10 objective questions and one bonus question.

#### **3. Outline or Block Diagram (10%)**

Students are required to select any book of the poetic books of the Old Testament from the above-mentioned list. Then, the student is to do a thorough study of the historical, socio-economic, cultural, socio-economic and religious background of the book.

Included in this background study is an understanding of the occasion and purpose in the writing of the book.

Then, using an English translation of the book, the student is to write a block diagram of the first major pericope of the book, without adding or deleting a single word from the translation. Examples of how to do this work will be given in the class.

Each student is to work independently, without input from other students. In addition, no commentary may be used or even viewed in the completion of this project (except for the study of the background).

#### **4. Inductive Questions and Answers (10%)**

From the block diagram, completed in requirement three, the student will design a series of inductive questions and answers for each clause of the first major pericope of the selected book. Examples of how to do this work will be given in class. Once again, no commentary may be used or even viewed in the completion of this project.

Grading will be based on (a) the student's ability to pose a significant number of questions regarding each clause or sentence; (b) the depth of the questions asked; (c) the depth of the answers that are given for each question; and (d) the demonstration that the student has understood the main idea, the authorial intent of the pericope.

#### **5. Sermon or Bible Study (10%)**

The student is to write either a sermon or a Bible study from the pericope of the block diagram that was completed according to steps 3 and 4. If a sermon is written, it must have an introduction and a conclusion as well as explanations, illustrations and applications. If a Bible study is to be written, the study must contain an introduction, questions and possible answers, illustrations and applications, and a final conclusion. Examples of how to do this work will be given in class.

The student who writes a sermon will be assessed on (a) sound exegesis; (b) clear evidence that the block diagram was the source of the sermon; (c) the demonstration of the fact that the student has both understood and based the sermon on the author's intent of the text; and (d) the inclusion of illustrations, applications, an introduction and a conclusion.

The student who writes a Bible study will be assessed on (a) sound exegesis; (b) clear evidence that the block diagram was the source of the Bible study; (c) questions which stimulate discussion and lead the hearer to the conclusions which are evident in the authorial intent of the text; and (d) the inclusion of illustrations, applications, an introduction, and a conclusion.

The student will not be graded for homiletical skill in the structure of the message, or the quality of introductions, conclusions, or illustrations. This type of skill is better graded in the class on Biblical Preaching.

#### **6. Final Examination (35%)**

The final examination will be comprised of at least 50 objective questions. The final exam grading will either be completed in class, time permitting, or graded by the

instructor. Further instructions on the final examination will be given during the class sessions.