



COURSE INFORMATION:

Title: **Prophecy, Shamanism and Scripture**



uafprophecy.blogspot.com (official course website—required)



twitter.com/uafprophecy (extra credit—optional)

- Meeting Times/Dates: Fall 2012 (Aug 31 – Dec 12), Mon–Wed–Fri 11:45am–12:45pm
- Location: BRKS 104A, UAF Main Campus
- Department/Number: RELG F193 [TO1] (CRN 77872)
- Credits: 3 (three)
- Prerequisites: none

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Name: Dr. Paul Korchin

Office Location: none (adjunct faculty)
Telephone: **907-374-8870** (before 10pm)

Office Hours: by appointment
E-Mail: **pdkorchin@alaska.edu**

COURSE READINGS / MATERIALS:

Textbook: *Prophecy and Society in Ancient Israel*
Author: Robert R. Wilson
Publisher: Fortress Press: Minneapolis MN, 1980

Textbook: *Life of a Galilean Shaman: Jesus of Nazareth in Anthropological-Historical Perspective*
Author: Pieter F. Craffert
Publisher: James Clarke & Co: Cambridge UK, 2008.

Supplementary Readings: Relevant texts, articles, and audio/visual materials will be provided via the course website and/or photocopied handouts.

Supplies Required: Computer with internet access (available @UAF, CTC campuses).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introductory exploration into the phenomena of prophecy and shamanism as they are conceived and manifested within the textual and cultural traditions of Judaism and Christianity. Comparative evidence is considered from ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean sources, and modern insights from cultural anthropology and cognitive psychology are brought to bear upon the Biblical materials, in efforts to situate their prophetic and/or shamanistic features within social scientific models of culture and mind.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES:

By the conclusion of this course the diligent student will possess a solid foundational knowledge about the religious, political, and social dynamics involved with prophecy and shamanism in Biblical traditions. The attentive student will gain insights into various shared as well as distinctive behaviors and/or beliefs which delineate prophetic and shamanistic phenomena. The dedicated student will acquire useful analytical constructs by which to describe and explain scriptural understandings about modes of mediation between the human and spirit worlds.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Within the classroom this course will undertake a lecture–seminar format, featuring presentations and questions by the instructor designed to engage students in productive considerations and discussions about the materials and topics at hand. Visual media will be incorporated (chiefly PowerPoint slides) to provide a more vivid context for reflection and conversation. Beyond the classroom this course will maintain blogging and micro-blogging sites in order to foster a more sustained and vibrant intellectual dialogue about prophetic and shamanic relationships. Postings will include relevant multimedia sources, class discussion threads, and course logistics.

COURSE CALENDAR:

- **FRI 8/31** **INTRODUCTION & ORIENTATION**
Course logistics, policies, structure, goals
- **MON 9/3** **NO CLASS SESSION [LABOR DAY HOLIDAY]**
- **WED 9/5** **DEMONIZING SHAMANISM**
Discussion—Constructs & (mis)Construals
Assignment—Narby & Huxley, *Shamans Through Time* (pdf)
online posts & feedback

- **FRI 9/7** **ROMANTICIZING PROPHECY**
 Discussion—Constructs & (mis)Construals
 Assignment—Wilson, *Prophecy & Society* 13–42 (pdf)
 online posts & feedback
- **MON 9/10** **REIMAGINING SHAMANISM**
 Discussion—Paradigms & Prospects
 Assignment—Winkelman, *Shamanism as Neurotheology* (pdf)
 Wilson, *Prophecy & Society* 42–62
 online posts & feedback
- **WED 9/12** **CONTEXTUALIZING PROPHECY**
 Discussion—Paradigms & Prospects
 Assignment—Wilson, *Prophecy & Society* 62–88
 online posts & feedback
- **FRI 9/14** **THE ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD (I)**
 Discussion—Views from Egypt
 Assignment—*Prophecies of Neferty* (pdf)
 Wilson, *Prophecy & Society* 124–128
 online posts & feedback
- **MON 9/17** **THE ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD (II)**
 Discussion—Views from Mesopotamia
 Assignment—*Oracles to Zimri-Lim & Esarhaddon* (pdf)
 Wilson, *Prophecy & Society* 89–124
 online posts & feedback
- **WED 9/19** **THE ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD (III)**
 Discussion—Views from Transjordan & Cisjordan
 Assignment—*Deir-‘Alla Inscription* (pdf)
Numbers 22–24 (pdf)
 Wilson, *Prophecy & Society* 129–134
 online posts & feedback
- **FRI 9/21** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—SAMUEL & NATHAN (I)**
 Discussion—Cultivating a Prophet
 Assignment—*1-Samuel 1, 3* (pdf)
 Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 169–184; 263–266
 online posts & feedback
- **MON 9/24** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—SAMUEL & NATHAN (II)**
 Discussion—Royal Advocates
 Assignment—*2-Samuel 7, 12; 1-Kings 1* (pdf)
 online posts & feedback
- **WED 9/26** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—ELIJAH & ELISHA (I)**
 Discussion—Royal Adversaries

Assignment—*1-Kings 17–19, 21; 2-Kings 1* (pdf)
Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 192–212
online posts & feedback

- **FRI 9/28** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—ELIJAH & ELISHA (II)**
Discussion—Passing the Torch
Assignment—*2-Kings 2, 4–5, 8* (pdf)
online posts & feedback
- **MON 10/1** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—AMOS & HOSEA (I)**
Discussion—The Emergence of ‘Classical’ Prophecy
Assignment—Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 300–306
online posts & feedback
- **WED 10/3** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—AMOS & HOSEA (II)**
Discussion—Insiders or Outsiders?
Assignment—*Amos 7–9* (pdf)
Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 266–270
online posts & feedback
- **FRI 10/5** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—AMOS & HOSEA (III)**
Discussion—Ethical Clarions
Assignment—*Hosea 1–3* (pdf)
Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 226–231
online posts & feedback
- **MON 10/8** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—ISAIAH (I)**
Discussion—Confident Critic
Assignment—*Isaiah 6–8* (pdf)
Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 270–274
online posts & feedback
- **WED 10/10** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—ISAIAH (II)**
Discussion—Prophecy and Monotheism
Assignment—*Isaiah 44* (pdf)
Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 213–219
online posts & feedback
- **FRI 10/12** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—ISAIAH (III)**
Discussion—The Suffering Servant
Assignment—*Isaiah 42, 49, 50, 52–53* (pdf)
online posts & feedback
- **MON 10/15** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—JEREMIAH (I)**
Discussion—Reluctant Indicter
Assignment—*Jeremiah 1, 14* (pdf)
Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 231–251
online posts & feedback

- **WED 10/17** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—JEREMIAH (II)**
 Discussion—Prophetic Performance
 Assignment—*Jeremiah 19–20, 26–28, 32* (pdf)
 online posts & feedback
- **FRI 10/19** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—JEREMIAH (III)**
 Discussion—Prophecy and Literacy
 Assignment—*Jeremiah 36* (pdf)
 online posts & feedback
- **MON 10/22** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—EZEKIEL (I)**
 Discussion—Frenzied Visionary
 Assignment—*Ezekiel 1–3, 10* (pdf)
 Wilson, *Prophecy and Society* 282–287
 online posts & feedback
- **WED 10/24** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—EZEKIEL (II)**
 Discussion—Street Theater
 Assignment—*Ezekiel 4–5* (pdf)
 online posts & feedback
- **FRI 10/26** **JEWISH TESTAMENT—EZEKIEL (III)**
 Discussion—Prophetic Pretenders
 Assignment—*Ezekiel 13–14* (pdf)
 online posts & feedback
- **MON 10/29** **THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN NEIGHBORHOOD (I)**
 Discussion—Pythia’s Perspective
 Assignment—*Delphic Oracles* (pdf)
 Craffert, *Galilean Shaman* 135–168
 online posts & feedback
- **WED 10/31** **THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN NEIGHBORHOOD (II)**
 Discussion—Plutarch’s Perspective
 Assignment—Plutarch, *On the Failure of Oracles* (pdf)
 Craffert, *Galilean Shaman* 197–209
 online posts & feedback
- **FRI 11/2** **CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT—MESSIAH EMERGENT**
 Discussion—The Commissioning
 Assignment—*Mark 1* (pdf)
 Matthew 3 (pdf)
 Luke 3 (pdf)
 John 1 (pdf)
 Craffert, *Galilean Shaman* 213–221
 online posts & feedback

- **MON 11/26** **CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT—JESUS AS ÜBERMENSCH (I)**
 Discussion—On the Water
 Assignment—*Mark 4, 6* (pdf)
 Matthew 8, 14 (pdf)
 Luke 8 (pdf)
 John 6 (pdf)
 Craffert, *Galilean Shaman* 222–227
 online posts & feedback
- **WED 11/28** **CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT—JESUS AS ÜBERMENSCH (II)**
 Discussion—On the Mountain
 Assignment—*Mark 9* (pdf)
 Matthew 17 (pdf)
 Luke 9 (pdf)
 online posts & feedback
- **FRI 11/30** **CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT—JESUS AS HARBINGER**
 Discussion—The Beginning of the End
 Assignment—*Mark 13* (pdf)
 Matthew 24 (pdf)
 Luke 21 (pdf)
 John 12 (pdf)
 Craffert, *Galilean Shaman* 335–352
 online posts & feedback
- **MON 12/3** **CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT—JESUS REDIVIVUS**
 Discussion—Can't Keep a Good (sha)Man Down
 Assignment—*Luke 24* (pdf)
 John 20 (pdf)
 Craffert, *Galilean Shaman* 383–419
 online posts & feedback
- **WED 12/5** **CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT—AFTER JESUS**
 Discussion—What Now?
 Assignment—*Acts 1, 2, 3, 8* (pdf)
 Craffert, *Galilean Shaman* 420–422
 online posts & feedback
- **FRI 12/7** **CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT—BEFORE JESUS**
 Discussion—What Next?
 Assignment—*1-Corinthians 12, 14* (pdf)
 online posts & feedback
- **MON 12/10** **CONCLUSIONS—VARIETIES OF RELIGIOUS MEDIATION**
 Discussion—Mosaic or Mish-Mash?

COURSE POLICIES:

For those who enroll in this course for credit, consistent and prompt attendance are mandatory, as well as timely completion of the weekly reading and online assignments, and the two take-home exams. All students are required to exhibit an engaged intellectual curiosity and respectfulness toward the subject matter and fellow class participants, both in the classroom and online. Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty are intolerable, and will be forwarded to the appropriate college authorities for disciplinary measures (*consult the course website for guidance about avoiding plagiarism, proper citation methods, and resources available from the UAF Writing Center*).

EVALUATION:

Auditing is permitted (the student *must formally* notify the UAF Registrar of this status). Letter grades for credit will be determined according to the following formula:

- 20% **Attendance**—promptness & consistency; unexcused absences cost 2 points each; unexcused late arrivals/early departures cost 1 point each.
- 20% **Participation**—in-class discussion (10%): frequency, relevance, depth of questions, comments, engagement with instructor & colleagues regarding lectures/readings; online feedback (10%): frequency & substance of reactions/reflections about course website postings (3x/week = A–B; 2x/week = B–C; 1x/week = C–D; 0x/week = F).
- 25% **Take-Home Midterm Exam**—combined short-answer and essay format, pertaining to cumulative subject matter of course; grading rubric based on structure, content, accuracy, depth.
- 35% **Take-Home Final Exam**—combined short-answer and essay format, pertaining to cumulative subject matter of course; grading rubric based on structure, content, accuracy, depth.

! Unexcused late assignments will incur automatic grade deductions !

Based upon the following scale:

A+	98–100
A	94–97
A-	91–93
B+	88–90
B	84–87
B-	81–83
C+	78–80
C	74–77
C-	71–73
D+	68–70
D	64–67
D-	61–63
F	0–60

SUPPORT SERVICES:

UAF Academic Advising Center @509 Gruening Building (main campus). Services for degree seeking and non-degree seeking students. Visit www.uaf.edu/advising on the web or contact via phone (907-474-6396) or e-mail (uaf.advising@alaska.edu).

UAF Writing Center @801 Gruening Building (main campus). Tutor-provided assistance with all stages of the academic writing process. Visit www.alaska.edu/english/writing-center on the web or contact via phone (907-474-5314).

DISABILITY SERVICES:

UAF Disability Services Office @208 Whitaker Building (main campus). A part of UAF's Center for Health and Counseling, providing academic accommodations to enrolled and eligible students. Visit www.uaf.edu/disability on the web or contact via phone (907-474-5655) or e-mail (uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu).