Whether acting as intermediaries, as counter-cultural critics, or both, the prophets whose lives and writings hold a central place in both Jewish and Christian faith provide essential foundations for contemporary theology and ministry. After surveying modern and ancient concepts of “prophet,” this course takes up selected passages from most of the prophetic books of the Bible with a view toward investigating their theological aim or function. The latter part of the course treats the emergence of apocalyptic literature and the importance of both prophetic and apocalyptic literature for the presentation of Jesus in the New Testament.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able:
- to explain “prophecy” as a social phenomenon (both in the ancient Near East and cross-culturally) and as a type of literature in the Bible
- to relate prophetic literature to the Pentateuch, to apocalyptic literature, and to the presentation of Jesus in the NT
- to discuss, for an array of biblical texts taken up in the course, the function of those texts in ancient and contemporary communities of faith
- to engage in close reading of biblical texts with the use of scholarly resources both to discern in a compelling way what the literary elements in those texts are, and to recognize their capacity to affect hearers in antiquity and in the present