

THE PEOPLE'S SEMINARY / REGENT COLLEGE

BIBL : LIFT UP YOUR VOICE: PROPHETIC MINISTRY IN SCRIPTURE, CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Dr. Bob Ekblad

Winter, 2006

3 graduate credit hours

Weekend School (Jan 13-14, Feb 10-11; Mar 24-25)

Register as BIBL 219 for CCS credit

Course Description

This Weekend School course will take place at The People's Seminary in the Skagit Valley of ngton State, 1½ hours South of Vancouver. The People's Seminary is a theological reflection and training center tied to Tierra Nueva, (an ecumenical ministry to Mexican migrant farm workers, prisoners and ex-offenders).

The objective of this course is to develop a Biblical, theological and pastoral understanding of what constitutes effective prophetic ministry in church and society. The prophet Joel's famous oracle announcing God's eventual pouring out of the Spirit on all flesh to empower a universal prophetic movement is quoted by Peter to explain Pentecost. Paul's admonition to "earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you might prophesy" has been understood in very different and often divisive ways, many of which have Biblical support. The church is seriously divided between theologians and practitioners who emphasize the prophetic calls to "do justice and love mercy" and "defend the widow and the orphan" and charismatic Christians who listen for God in order to "give a word to the weary" (Isa 50:4-5) and bring encouragement to the body of Christ (1 Cor 14). Social prophetic voices like Martin Luther King Jr., Oscar Romero, John Perkins and Bruce Cockburn and their adherents are often worlds away from prophetic streams within the charismatic movement and apocalyptic-oriented Christians expecting an imminent rapture. While some read the prophets to determine their agenda resisting the IMF and USA, others seem primarily concerned with hearing a personal word of direction or determining a blueprint to identify current events in the Middle East as signs of the end times.

This course will provide a survey of the prophetic streams found within Scripture, in dialogue with contemporary voices in the global church that emphasize various dimensions of the prophetic. This course will seek clarity on how the Biblical prophets receive their call, hear God's voice, communicate God's Word to God's people and to the powers and deal with opposition. Included in this course will be presentations and discussions on discerning between God's voice and that of the "false prophets", the relationship between the Old Testament prophets and the work of Jesus and ministries of the apostles. Students will be helped to develop an understanding of the prophetic which includes "social prophetic" concern like social advocacy on behalf of the marginalized and oppressed, resistance to the powers, and "charismatic prophetic" practices like hearing and communicating words of knowledge for encouragement and healing, "prophetic evangelism" and spiritual warfare.

Lodging and breakfast will be provided for \$25.00 per day at New Earth Refuge or the Benson Farmstead Bed and Breakfast in Burlington. Other meals will be had at or near The People's Seminary.

Course Outline

January 13-14 Biblical survey of how Old Testament prophets like Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Jonah, and others receive their initial call, hear the voice of God, receive revelation through dreams and vision and communicate their oracles to the people and the powers. Students will be introduced to movements for social transformation and contemporary practices within the charismatic movement that help people hear God's call and voice drawing from Old Testament prophetic streams.

February 10-11 Biblical survey of how the New Testament draws from the Old Testament prophetic streams in the life and ministry of Jesus and the Apostles in the Gospels and Acts.

March 10-11 Biblical survey of Paul's teaching on the gift of prophesy and its use in the early church. On this final weekend students will examine contemporary practices inspired by Biblical understandings of the prophetic with the objective of exercising discernment and developing a holistic understanding and practice.

Academic Requirements and Time Investment

	<u>3 cr hrs</u>
Lectures	36 hrs
Reading	53 hrs (1050 pp)
Term Paper	38 hrs (18-20 pp)
Book Reviews	<u>8 hrs</u> (2 @ 2 pp)
TOTAL	135 hrs

Assignments:

1) Required Reading & Book Reviews:

Students will be required to read in preparation for each class and write two book reviews (2 pp each) on 2 of the required texts. Students will be expected to participate in class discussion and be prepared for an occasional quiz on required reading. **1st Book Review DUE: February 14/06**

2nd Book Review DUE: Feb. 28/06

2) Term Paper:

A 18-20 page term paper, integrating exegesis of a particular Biblical text with a reflection that seeks to integrate the social and charismatic notions of the prophetic. **DUE: Mar 15/06**

Evaluation

Book Reviews	30 % (2 @ 15 %)
Term Paper	70 % <u>Bibliography</u>

Required Reading:

Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*, (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1978).

Graham Cooke, *Developing Your Prophetic Gifting*, (Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 1994).

Richard A. Horsley and Neil Asher Silberman, *The Message and the Kingdom: How Jesus and Paul Ignited a Revolution and Transformed the Ancient World*, (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997).

Mike Bickle, *Growing in the Prophetic*, (Lake Mary: Charisma House, 1996).

William Stringfellow, *An Ethic for Christians and Other Aliens in a Strange Land*, Third Edition, (Waco: Word Books, 1979). (156 pp).

Mark Stibbe, *Prophetic Evangelism: When God Speaks to those who don't know him*, (Authentic: 2004).

Patricia King, *School of Extreme Prophetic*, CD Audio Box Set, (Kelowna, B.C. Canada: www.extremeprophetic.com).

Oscar Romero, *The Violence of Love*, (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1988).

Mark and Patti Virkler, *Dialogue with God: Opening the door to 2-way prayer*, (Gainesville: Bridge-Logos, 1986).

Recommended Reading:

Philip R. Davies (Ed), *The Prophets: A Sheffield Reader*, (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996).

Andre Resner, Jr. (Ed), *Just Preaching: Prophetic Voices for Economic Justice*, (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2003). 222pp.

Richard Horsely, *Jesus and Empire: The Kingdom of God and the New World Disorder*, (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003).

Jim W. Goll, *The Seer: The Prophetic Power of Visions, Dreams, and Open Heavens*, (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image, 2004).

Jack Deere, *Surprised By the Voice of God: How God Speaks Today Through Prophecies, Dreams, and Visions*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996).

John Wimber and Devin Springer, *Power Evangelism*, (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1992).

John Loren Sandford, *Elijah Among Us: Understanding and responding to God's Prophet's Today*, (Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 2002).

Charles L. Campbell, *The Word Before the Powers: An Ethic of Preaching*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press:, 2002).