The purpose of this brief course is to help students develop an understanding of the prophets in their historical context. We will discuss key developments of the prophetic books, the history of Israel from David to the Second Temple and beyond, and the theology of the prophets in relation to the basic theological movements in the Old Testament.

For men preparing for possible ordination to the Diaconate, it is important to explore the power of language for preaching by writing their own poetry and attending to their practice of writing prose.

The required text for the class is Joan E. Cook’s *Hear O Heavens and Listen O Earth: An Introduction to the Prophets*.

*May 14ᵗʰ* – Catholic Biblical Understanding/Development of OT Canon/Intro to Prophecy.

Reading for the next class: Cook 1-30  

*May 21ˢᵗ* – Early Prophecy/Biblical Poetry

Reading for next class:  Cook 45-67  
SS: Amos

*May 28ᵗʰ* – Eighth Century Israel/Amos

Reading for next class:  Cook 68-85  
SS: Hosea
June 4th – Marriage and Sexuality/Covenant in Hosea

Reading for next class: Cook 87-121
SS: Micah, Isaiah 1-39

June 11th – Micah and Isaiah of Jerusalem

Reading for the next class: Cook 155-186
SS: Jeremiah

June 18th – Jeremiah and Lamentations

Reading for next class: Cook 189-211, 222-238
SS: Ezekiel, II Isaiah 40-54

June 23rd – Ezekiel and Deutero Isaiah

Reading for next class: Cook 245-252, 259-266
SS: III Isaiah 55-66, Zechariah 1-8

June 30th – Trito Isaiah and I Zechariah

Reading for next class: Cook 295-302
SS: Jonah

July 2nd – Jonah and the Whale and Conclusion

Each student is required two assignments before the conclusion of the course:

a) Pick one passage of prophecy and write a homily (600 to 800 word length).

b) Write a prophetic poem that refers to the coming of the Messiah (50-100 word length).