

Wesley Theological Seminary

Course of Study

January 11-February 12, 2021

**CS-421: Bible II: Prophets, Psalms and Wisdom Literature**

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Please read this study guide *carefully*. There is a lot of information here. It may feel overwhelming at first. Take your time reading this guide, give yourself time to digest it and understand it, and if you have any questions, feel free to email your instructor. Your instructor is here to help!

We have split the previous pre-course work up into two parts. **Everyone will have one assignment due by January 4th submitted via email. The remainder of our work will be done during the online and Zoom video conferencing portions of the class.**

Please schedule time each week to work on your pre-course work. If you are able to do this you will have the opportunity to enjoy time learning from your instructor and classmates during the online and Zoom call sessions. Please let Sara Sheppard or Doug Powe know if we can help you with this in any way.

**Objectives:**

This course examines God's word as expressed through Israel's prophets, selected Psalms, and selected passages from Wisdom literature.

**Goals:**

1. Understand the origin, history, and use of these forms of biblical literature among God's people
2. Exegete these forms of biblical literature.
3. Apply Exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

**Textbooks:** To obtain textbooks or view the list go to **My Wesley** on the website (<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/MyWesley>) and click on the button that says "Textbooks" From there select your program (Course of Study Summer Intensive), then select your course number. You may order books on-line directly from our e-store.

You may also order your books from Cokesbury or any other bookseller or borrow from friends.

**REQUIRED (in addition to reading your Bible – which you should read FIRST before the texts below):**

Stulman, Louis and Hyun Paul Kim. *You Are My People: An Introduction to the Prophets*.

Clifford, Richard. *Wisdom Literature*.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*.

\*\*Also see documents posted on blackboard by the professor.\*\*

**Assigned Reading:**

You should read the required readings (above) and the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Job, and Psalms prior to working the first day of class. It is expected that you will have completed all of the assigned reading before the first day of class in order to complete your pre-class assignments.

**Written Assignment Instructions:**

1. Please type your papers, double-spaced, 12-point font.
2. Be sure to refer to all textbooks and reference books in your answers
3. Do not use footnotes when you quote but simply give the author and page number in parentheses after the quote, e.g. (Coogan, 49).
4. Pay attention to page limits; I will stop reading once I've reached the posted limit
5. Essay will be marked down 5 points for each day that it is late (unless you have permission from me for an extension).
6. Please submit your essay via email.
7. Put your name on your submission, either on the top of the first page or in the header.
8. Put your name in the file name of your document. Points off for not following directions.
9. Answer all questions in a single document instead of separate files for each question.
10. I will only accept .doc or .docx file formats.

**Online Instruction:**

Email your responses to the following assignment to your instructor one week prior to the beginning of online instruction (no later than January 4, 2021):

For each of the five biblical books you have read (Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Job, Psalms) write a two-page summary that includes the following information:

1. Summarize the main message or theme of each book.
2. Is the book in question prophetic, psalmic, or wisdom literature? How do you know? (I.e. what are the features of the genre and how are they present in the book you are writing about?).
3. Discuss the historical situation each was addressing, and the likely historical time frame in which each book was composed. Please be specific. Cite supporting texts from the

book in question (do not write out entire quotes – simply cite the chapter and verse). Be sure to reference the required readings in your answer.

4. What is the contemporary relevance of each book? How does this book address us to day and why do we need to hear what it has to say?

Your instructor will read your assignment and return them to you with comments prior to the first day of online instruction (January 11, 2021). You will be assigned one of the books (Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Job, or Psalms) to revise and present as a video mini-lecture to be posted to our Blackboard classroom. You may record your mini lecture and post it to Blackboard in any way that is easy for you, but Loom (loom.com) is suggested as a very simple, easy way to make and share lecture-style recordings. Your mini lecture should be brief (5-10 minutes) and should include all of the information listed above, and should reflect revisions made based on your instructor's feedback.

### **Online Learning Schedule**

The pre-course work is designed to make you familiar with the texts in question (prophets, psalms, and wisdom literature). During the online learning segment of the class we will practice interpreting these texts and will learn a variety of methodologies for exegeting biblical texts. You will not be successful at the online learning if you do not take the time to do the pre-course work with integrity.

For each week of online learning, your instructor will post new content to our Blackboard classroom each day, Monday through Friday. You are expected to log in to Blackboard each day and spend approximately 40 minutes on the assigned task. Assignments will be diverse in nature and some may take more than 40 minutes, and some may take less than 40 minutes.

Each week on Thursday evenings we will meet via Zoom video conferencing software from 7-8pm. These meetings will be opportunities to discuss a text and interpret a text together.

Week of January 11: Amos

- Zoom Meeting on January 14 at 7pm

Week of January 18: Isaiah

- Zoom meeting on January 21 at 7pm

Week of January 25: Job

- Zoom meeting on January 28 at 7pm

Week of February 1: Psalms

- Zoom meeting on February 4 at 7pm