

CS-421 Bible IV
Prophets, Psalms, & Wisdom Literature

October 11-12, November 8-9, 2019

Wesley Theological Seminary

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Objectives:

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

Goals: Students will be able to

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. Integrate exegesis with preaching, teaching, and other pastoral responsibilities, as well as issues of the present day

Textbooks: You may order your books from any OL (on line) bookseller or borrow from friends

REQUIRED:

Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, *Journey through the Psalms*
(Chalice Press, 2002)

Louis Stulman & Hyun Paul Kim, *You Are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature*

Richard Clifford, *Wisdom Literature*

Reference: Bruce Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terrence Fretheim, David Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, 2nd Edition**

Also see documents posted on Blackboard by the professor under Documents (power points)

Assigned Reading:

It is expected that you will have completed all of the assigned readings for each weekend session before the first day of class in each weekend session in order to complete your pre-class assignments.

Pre-Class Assignment Instructions:

- Please type your papers, double-spaced, 12 font, Verdana.
- **Be sure to refer to all textbooks and reference books** in your answers.
- Don't use footnotes when you quote but simply give the author and page number in parentheses after the quote, e.g. (Clifford, 49).
- Pay attention to page limits; I will stop reading once I've reached the posted limit.
- Essay will be marked down 5 points for each day that it is late (unless you have permission from me for an extension).
- Please submit your essay to Blackboard. To submit, click on Assignments in the categories box on the left of the page, then under PreClass 1 click on the underlined PreClass1, click on Browse your computer, attach your document, then click Submit at the bottom right corner of the page.
- Put your name on your submission, either on top of the first page or in a header (Mac users). Please use numbers and letters only in your doc names; number signs or symbols will prevent me from opening your document.
- Put your name in the file name of your document. Points off for not following directions.
- **Answer all questions in a single document instead of separate files for each question.** Please number each question.
- I will only accept .docx, .doc, or .rtf formats.

Session I:

Due October 11, 2019 by 9 a.m.: posted to Blackboard under Assignments

Your assignment for the first session:

Read:

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

A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, pp. 257-380

Write a Paper:

A ten-page paper (double-spaced, Verdana 12 font) is due October 11, 2019, posted on Blackboard (BB) by clicking on Assignments.

Paper topic:

- Choose **2 pre-exilic prophets** (Amos, Hosea, Micah, or Isaiah of Jerusalem [Isa 1-39]), **and 2 exilic prophets** (Jeremiah, Isaiah of Babylon [Isa 40-55], or Ezekiel).
- Summarize the main message or theme of each prophet and the historical situation each was addressing. Please be specific; cite supporting texts from each prophet with chapter and verse (do not write out the entire quote).
- **Be sure to reference the required readings in your answer.**
- Suggest one way in which each of the 4 prophets you have chosen addresses us today and why we need to hear what each has to say.

Session II:

Due November 8, 2019 by 9 am. Posted on BB under Assignments

Your assignment for the second session:

Read:

Journey through the Psalms by Denise Dombkowski Hopkins
Wisdom Literature by Richard Clifford

Write a Paper:

A ten-page paper (double-spaced, Verdana 12 font) is due November 8, 2019 posted on Blackboard under Assignments.

Answer the following questions:

- Use Psalm 13 to illustrate the typical lament structure, that is, talk about the parts of a psalm lament. Do you feel that laments can be useful in your ministry? Why or why not?
- The Book of Job gives varied answers to the question about innocent human suffering. What are they? Cite passages from Job to support your answer (do not reproduce whole textual quotes but do indicate chapter and verse numbers). What is Job's reaction to what his friends and God tell him? How does Gutierrez (article on Blackboard) explain the book of Job? What do you think is the central message of the book of Job?

Course Outline:

October: The Prophets: Disaster and Deliverance

November: Psalms and Wisdom Literature

Grading:

The instructor assumes that everyone in the class is capable of the work required to receive a "B" grade for each assignment. The following interpretations of the meaning of each grade have been developed to help class members review their work to identify strengths and problems.

A "B" means that the basic elements of the assignment have been faithfully included, the argument is internally coherent, and clearly articulated.

A "B+" means the assignment is also well crafted.

An "A-" means that the assignment is not only well crafted, but it also probes the issues with considerable insight.

An "A" means the assignment is well crafted, reveals considerable insight, and moves beyond the range of the student's prior knowledge to begin to construct new perspectives and meanings for the subject. In other words, it shows the student's imagination at work; it has a creative edge.

A "C+" means that the assignment lacks clarity or focus, tends to reveal more the writer's opinions than the results of the writer's analysis, and lacks reflective insight into the issues being discussed.

A "C" means that the assignment does not move beyond the reporting of information from readings and/or class discussions to engaging them with issues being discussed; it may indicate inappropriate or misuse of data and readings.

A "C-" means that despite some moments of focused discussion and insight, major gaps exist in the development of the argument or discussion.

A "D" means the individual needs to see me.

An "F" means the individual needs to see me immediately.

Grades will be reduced a step (e.g. from B to a B-) for assignments handed in after the start of class, and a full letter grade for any assignments 24 hours past due. Assignments over 48 hours past due will be lowered two letter grades. We need to talk if an assignment is over 72 hours past due. Please

note only two unexcused absences are allowed before grade is lowered one step.

Final course grades are mailed to the student, GBHEM in Nashville and the student's conference representative. Grades are not posted on-line.

Recommended Web Sites:

bibleodyssey.org—the latest historical and literary research on the people, places, and passages of the Bible by scholars from the Society of Biblical Literature (including me!).

www.textweek.com — ecumenical resources for study, liturgy, and reflection, including art index, movie connections and reviews. Web Mistress: Jenee Woodward, UMC, graduate of St. Paul School of Theology.

www.usccb.org — extensive scholarly footnotes. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. NAB translation.

<http://www.crivoice.org/index.html> — Christian Resource Institute, a ministry of Light Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma. Ecumenical and global (non-English resources). Webmaster: Dennis Bratcher, Ph.D., Union Seminary, VA.

www.EnterTheBible.org -- A free, comprehensive, and trustworthy resource written by Luther Seminary faculty.

Inclusive Language

In both oral and written contributions to the course, students are expected to be conscious of the power of language in theology. Inclusive language respects both gender and racial diversity, and students should demonstrate awareness that language about persons and God expresses values and impacts theological ideas in the details of race and gender connotations. Both gender and

race are socially-constructed categories, and changing language is part of bringing justice to theological discourse.

Academic Policies

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes in their entirety. Faculty member have the authority to set attendance policies for particular courses and those policies will be included in the course syllabus. Deviation from the attendance policy may result in reduction of grade or loss of credit for the course.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The faculty regards the following as form of plagiarism or dishonesty:

- Copying from another students paper
- Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination
- Using unauthorized material during an examination
- Borrowing or presenting as one's own (i.e. without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another.

Please refer to your Wesley Student Handbook (on-line) for more information about Wesley's academic policies or contact the Course of Study office: 202-885-8688.

SafeAssign

You will submit all of your writing assignments to Blackboard's SafeAssign plagiarism prevention service. Assignment content will be checked against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other Wesley Theological Seminary students for common or borrowed content.

SafeAssign generates a report that highlights any potentially

unoriginal text in the submitted paper. The report will be submitted directly to the instructor, and you will be able to see it as well. This will allow students the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited for a second submission. You are allowed a maximum of two submissions to allow for adjustments.