

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

March 11-12, April 8-9, 2022

Wesley Theological Seminary

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Format:

This course will not meet face-to-face on campus. Instead, we will combine asynchronous (that is, we are not OL (online) at the same time) work with meeting on Zoom for 2-hour sessions as follows:

March

- An 8-page paper on the pre-exilic prophets due by Fri., March 11, at noon (ET) based on your reading and my videos
- Fri., March 11, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Zoom/exilic prophets
- Sat., March 12, Blackboard (BB) posts due by noon

April

- View videos on Job and post on BB in the weeks before we meet on April 8th
- Fri., April 8, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Zoom/Psalms
- Sat., April 9, BB posts due by noon

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 (online) 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

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 participate in discussion and to complete your 8-page paper.

Session I:

**Paper Due March 11, 2022 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:

An 8-page paper (double-spaced, 12 font) is due March 11, 2022, posted on Blackboard (BB) by clicking on Assignments.

- Summarize the main message or theme of the pre-exilic prophets Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah of Jerusalem (Isa 1-39) 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).

Suggest one way in which each of these 4 prophets addresses us today and why we need to hear what each has to say given what is going on in our world.

2 pages for each prophet

- **Be sure to reference the required readings in your answer.**
 - Don't use footnotes when you quote but simply give the author and page number in parentheses after the quote, e.g. (Stulman/Kim, 49).
 - Pay attention to page limits; I will stop reading once I've reached the posted limit.
 - Paper will be marked down 5 points for each day that it is late (unless you have permission from me for an extension).
 - 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.
 - I will only accept .docx, .doc, or .rtf formats.
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On Sat., March 12 you will post on DB. See DB.

Session II:
April 8-9

Your assignment for the second session:

Read:

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

View: videos on Job

Post: responses to Discussion Board (DB) questions in the Weeks leading up to April 8. See DB and Job Modules under Weekly Modules.

You will also post to DB on Sat., April 9. See DB.

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.

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.