

COS 421 – Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms & Wisdom Literature
Course of Study School of Ohio WV Extension
September 15-17 and November 17-19, 2017

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Course Description:

A continuation of the examination of the Word of God as it is expressed through some of Israel's prophets, selected Psalms, and selected passages from Wisdom Literature (or the Book of Job).

Course Objectives:

1. Focus on the biblical message as a whole by integrating this year's study with previous study of the Bible;
2. Gain greater familiarity with a number of the great passages in the designated books;
3. Continue the exegetical practice;
4. Explore the assigned passages as relevant for preaching, mission, and ministry by today's pastor and congregation.

Required Texts:

1. Brueggemann, Walter, *Spirituality of the Psalms*, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2001; 978-0800634506.
2. Kim, Hyun P and Louis Stulman, *You Are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2010; 978-0-6874-6565-1.
3. Clifford, Richard, *Wisdom Literature*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1998; 978-0-6870-0846-9.

Reference:

4. One of the available NRSV Study Bibles. Choices include the NRSV HarperCollins Study Bible; the New Interpreter's Study Bible; the NRSV New Oxford Annotated Bible; or the Wesley Study Bible.
5. Birch, Bruce C., Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, and David L. Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament 2nd Edition*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2005; 978-0-6870-6676-6.

Recommended or Optional Texts:

1. Peterson, Eugene H., *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, Inter Varsity Press, Downers Grove, 2000; Print: 978-0-8308-2257-7; E-book: 978-0-8308-6989-3.
2. Long, Thomas G., *What Shall We Say? Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith*, William B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2011; Print: 978-0-8028-6514-4; Kindle ASIN: B006TRM3TO.

Course Requirements

1. In-Class Active Learning (25% of grade)
 - a. Assigned reading (**both** Bible texts and Required Texts) completed before class. **NOTE:** There is a vast amount of reading involved. Set up your reading plan through the summer!
 - b. Active class participation, which means interacting with the instructor and other students.
2. Learning/Assessment Tools
Project Instructions
 - a. **Exegesis Paper.** Choose one of the Following (25% of grade; **Due October 6, 2017**):
 - i. Using the "Steps in Doing Exegesis" found at the end of this syllabus, write a five-page Exegesis Paper on a Prophetic Text of your choice, focusing in particular on the place of Exile in the passage with its historical and theological impact upon the Israelite People. How does the reality of the Exile help our understanding of this particular passage? The role of the Prophets? The history of the Israelite people?

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- ii. Verses 1:16-17 in The Book of Isaiah have these words: “Cease to do evil, learn to do good.” Throughout Isaiah, judgment and hope are interwoven. What is described as evil by the prophet? What is God’s judgment on evil? What is described as good by the prophet? What is the hope offered by God? Using the “Steps in Doing Exegesis” found at the end of this syllabus, write a five-page Exegesis Paper exploring these questions. Draw from the whole Book of Isaiah and be sure to reference *You Are My People* by Stulman and Kim.
- iii. Isaiah 58 reflects key themes from the entire Book of Isaiah. What key themes do you see in this text? How are these themes explored and illustrated in the Book of Isaiah? Using the “Steps in Doing Exegesis” found at the end of this syllabus, write a five-page Exegesis Paper exploring these questions. Draw from the whole Book of Isaiah and be sure to reference *You Are My People* by Stulman and Kim.
- b. **Sermon.** Drawing upon what you have learned from the Walter Brueggemann book, *Spirituality of the Psalms*, write a 2,000-3,000 word Teaching-Type Sermon manuscript based on one Psalm of your choice, including an analysis of the type of Psalm, the context of the Psalm, key words and images in the Psalm. The sermon should conclude with the relevance of the Psalm to your particular ministry context (25% of grade; **Due November 17, 2017 at the start of class**).
- c. **Bible Study Plan.** An Outline of a Six-Week Bible Study Lesson Plan on Job (25% of grade; **Due December 1, 2017**). Each week’s Lesson Plan should include the chapters from Job to be studied, the key theme or themes from the chapters, the characteristics of each person studied in the chapters, and the relevance of themes and character to today’s world and your ministry context.

Note: Your projects should draw thoughtfully from your reading assignments, textbooks and other academically acceptable resources (references to Wikipedia are prohibited). You will do well if I see quotations from and references to the required texts (and recommended texts as well, if you choose) and other reference books in **all** your written work. The Course of Study of Ohio WV Extension requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements be the original work of the student.

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 15-17	Subject	Bible Texts	Required Texts	Project Due
September 15 Evening Class 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	The Prophets: Introduction to the Prophets & Historical Setting	Read Introduction Skim section titles	Stulman & Kim pp. 1-23 (Intro.)	
September 16 Morning Class 7:00 – 9:30 a.m.	The Prophets: Isaiah	Isaiah 1-3; 5-7; 9-11; 28-33; 40-43; 52:13-53; 58; 60-62	Stulman & Kim pp. 27-94 (Isaiah)	
September 16 Afternoon Class 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.	The Prophets: Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1-2; 7; 10-11; 30-33; skim section titles 34-52	Stulman & Kim pp. 97-141 (Jer)	

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September 17 Morning Class 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.	The Prophets: Ezekiel	Ezekiel 1-3 Ezekiel 10-11 Ezekiel 36-37 Ezekiel 47-48	Stulman & Kim pp. 145-181 (Ezek)	
September 17 Morning Class 12:00 – 1:30 a.m.	The Minor Prophets	Hosea Micah Amos Jonah Nahum Haggai	Stulman & Kim 185-193 (H, Mic) 201-204 (Amos) 206-216 (Jonah) 217-220 (Nahum) 227-232 (Haggai)	
September 17 At the conclusion of Morning Class	Q&A; Review: Standards of Exegesis			Review of Project Instructions
October 6 11:59 p.m. EDST				Exegesis Paper on a Prophetic Text due via email
November 17-19	Subject	Bible Texts	Required Texts	Project Due
November 17 Evening Class 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Introduction to Psalms	Psalms 1-2, 7, 10, 13-14, 21-23, 30, 34, 42, 44, 48, 51, 71, 74, 78, 82, 89, 93-99, 104-106, 114, 119, 120-134, 136, 147	Brueggemann pp. 1-74 Recommended: Peterson, <i>A Long Obedience in the Same Direction</i> Psalms of Ascent - Choose to read any chapter. Read more if you like.	Sermon on the Psalms due at start of class via email or handed in.
November 18 Morning Class 10:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Wisdom: Introduction to Wisdom & Job	Job 1-3 Job 4-5, 8, 11 Job 19, 21 Job 28, 31 Job 32-34 Job 40-42	Clifford pp. 17-41 (Intro) pp. 69-96 (Job) Recommended: Long, <i>What Shall We Say?</i>	
November 18 Afternoon Class 3:45 – 6:15 p.m.	Wisdom: Proverbs &	Prov 1-9, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 28-29, 31	Clifford pp. 42-68 (Prov)	
November 19 Morning Class, 7:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Ecclesiastes	Eccl 1-3 Eccl 7-9	Clifford pp. 97-114 (Eccl)	

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November 19 Morning Class, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Review of Prophets, Psalms & Wisdom Literature	Relevance and application for today		
December 1, 2017 11:59 p.m. EST				Outline of Bible Study on Job due via email

Please call or email me if you have questions or concerns. When e-mailing, always put **COS** in the subject line.

Let's hold one other in prayer as we prepare for class. I know I will need prayer as I prepare to teach this class, and I know you as pastors will need prayer as the COS can be very demanding. Yet what a great opportunity to grow in faith and practice! I am looking forward to this experience of exploring the Prophets, Psalms and Wisdom Literature of the Bible with you. We're in this together . . .

Grace and *Shalom* peace,

Rev. Jim Winkler

Steps in Doing Exegesis

Exegesis: Exposition or explanation. A critical interpretation of a text of Scripture.

Exegesis involves a process of examination by which one comes to understand a particular passage of Scripture. Characteristically, this process involves a number of steps, which are listed here in a very generalized form as a guide. This guide is intended to assist you to begin examining the two types of questions an exegesis requires, question of content (what is said) and questions of context (why it is said).

1. Establish the context of the passage in the biblical book as a whole.
2. Establish the historical setting or context for the passage.
3. Analyze the content of the text. This would include style (i.e. is it history, prophecy, parable, exhortation, proverb and the like?), word studies, what is said, why it is said.
4. Draw upon your reading of the assigned academic texts to help you better understand the text.
5. Analyze the text theologically
6. Add your own analysis and/or application based on your exegetical work.

Dr. Walter Kaiser has written this key to the exegetical purpose: **“The sole object of the expositor is to explain as clearly as possible what the writer meant when he wrote the text under examination.”**