

**FOURTH YEAR**  
**Perkins Course of Study School Satellite Program at McMurry University**  
**Pre-Class Written Assignments**  
**Spring 2014**

**COS411 Hebrew Bible II**

**Instructor:**

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**Class Sessions:**

February 1, 2014  
March 8, 2014  
April 12, 2014

**Required Texts:**

- \*Bernard Anderson, *Understanding the Old Testament* (5<sup>th</sup> edition)
- Michael Gorman, *Elements of Biblical Exegesis* (revised and expanded edition)
- Beverly Roberts Gaventa and David Peterson, eds., *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary*
- \*Harold Attridge, ed., *HarperCollins Study Bible* (NRSV)

(The HarperCollins is not essential, but you will need a good study Bible, in the NRSV. The HarperCollins is the best of the ones with which I am familiar.)

\*The Anderson text and a Bible are the only resources you will need to successfully complete the pre-class assignments. The other texts will be used for other parts of the class.

**Course Description:**

This course continues an introduction to the collection of texts known as the Hebrew Bible. It includes an overview of the history of Judah from the fall of Jerusalem to the Maccabean period, with a focus on the prophetic, wisdom, and later historical texts of the Hebrew Bible. The course offers a background in both the historical and theological interpretation of these texts, and focuses specifically on exegetical methodology and responsible Christian interpretation.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Formation of a historical overview of the life and faith of Judah before, during, and after the exile.
2. Exegesis of selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Judah.
3. Correlation of exegesis with its utilization in preaching and other pastoral functions.
4. Reflection upon ways in which God has been at work in the lives of people in these biblical materials.
5. Ongoing development of an exegetical methodology.
6. Application of these studies to the concerns and issues of the present day.

**Pre-Class Assignments (please upload all assignments to the Perkins locker system by the date indicated)**

For all pre-class assignments in this course, please adhere to the following guidelines. Keep a Bible with you as you read from the textbooks. Read the biblical passages to which the textbook authors refer (even if this means skimming references that are multiple chapters in length). In all written work, use quotations very sparingly. Summarize the relevant information provided in the textbook in your own words, citing the source of your information. Your responses should be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, with one inch margins (saved as a Microsoft Word.doc). Specific page lengths are given for each item.

**Session 1: Fall of Jerusalem & The Exile**

Pre-Class Assignment #1 (two short answer responses, DUE – January 24, 2014):

Read: Anderson, *Understanding the Old Testament*, pp. 324 - 424

**Short Answer 1** (approximately four pages):

Summarize Anderson's discussion of Jeremiah's prophetic career (beginning in Chapter 11, and moving through Chapter 12). In your response, be sure to track the developments leading to the "fall" of Jerusalem (the destruction of Temple, and the exile).

**Short Answer 2** (approximately four pages):

Summarize Anderson's discussion of the development of the "Priestly" source (especially pp. 402 – 424).

**Session 2: Return, Second Temple, and the Psalter**

Pre-Class Assignment #2 (three short answer responses, DUE – February 28, 2014):

Read: Anderson, *Understanding the Old Testament*, pp. 425 – 518

**Short Answer 1** (approximately two pages):

Summarize Anderson's discussion of the "servant" imagery in "second" Isaiah.

**Short Answer 2** (approximately three pages):

Summarize Anderson's discussion of the return to Jerusalem, construction of the second Temple, and religious activities that take root in the late sixth through the early fourth centuries BCE (Chapter 15). Make sure you mention some of the problems that relate to the biblical sources for this period.

**Short Answer 3** (approximately three pages):

Summarize Anderson's discussion of the development of the Psalter.

**Session 3: Competing Traditions, Apocalyptic, and Messianic Expectations**

Pre-Class Assignment #3 (**three short answer responses, DUE – April 4**):

Read: Anderson, *Understanding the Old Testament*, pp. 519 – 597

**Short Answer 1** (approximately one page):

Summarize Anderson's discussion of the ways in which the developing wisdom tradition(s) differed from more traditional Israelite/Jewish beliefs.

**Short Answer 2** (approximately four pages)

Summarize Anderson's discussion of the Maccabean Revolt and the apocalyptic portion of Daniel.

**Short Answer 3** (approximately one page):

Summarize Anderson's discussion of the creation of the canon of the Hebrew Bible.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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The appropriate pre-class work for course 411 must be submitted electronically through the Locker system (see information below) **no later than January 24, 2014 at 11:59.59 p.m.** Pre-class work submitted after January 24 will have grading penalties assessed as follows: (grades are expressed alphabetically from A to F, with F being the lowest grade)

- Submissions dated January 25 – January 28 will receive a one letter grade reduction
- Submissions dated January 29 – January 31 will receive a two letter grade reduction.
- Submissions dated February 1 or later, the student will be dropped from that course registration with no refund (of registration or fees)

A request for an extension requires the following:

- It must be submitted in writing to the director of the Course of Study School. Via e-mail, send to the Director of Course of Study [COSSExt@smu.edu](mailto:COSSExt@smu.edu). Via regular

mail, send to COSS Extension, P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275-0133. By fax, send to 214-768-1042). **Make sure that you notify the COSS office of any transmission.**

- It must be received by January 10, 2013
- It must state valid reason(s) for needing an extension
- It must state the course name(s) and number(s) for which the extension(s) is/are requested
- It must state the amount of time being requested (not beyond January 31)

**In order for an extension request to be considered, the student must be fully registered (i.e., fees paid, signatures acquired, Release of Liability and Course Registration and Housing forms filled out and submitted). Before a decision can be made regarding an extension, the Director will consult with the student's district superintendent, local pastor registrar and instructor.**

### **Electronic Submission for Pre Class Assignments**

Course of Study School Lockers

We are offering an alternate method for the submission of pre-class assignments. The Course of Study School is using a "Locker System", Locker.SMU. This system allows COSS students to submit their pre-class assignments electronically.

A Locker will be assigned to each student for each class they are taking in a given term. If you are taking a concurrent class from another satellite or extension program, you will be assigned two different Lockers. The instructor for each course will then be able to log in to the Locker System and retrieve your submitted assignments for each particular class.

When your registration is received, the Course of Study School staff will be creating your private Locker and informing you via e-mail when your Locker has been successfully created. In this email, you will receive specific instructions on how to access your Locker and how to upload your assignments.

If you have not registered by January 13, 2014, you will not be guaranteed a locker and you will need to submit your pre-class assignments via postal service.

The Locker System will automatically date and time stamp your submitted assignments to inform the instructor and the Course of Study School staff when the assignment was submitted.

The pre-class assignments should be submitted to the Locker System **ONLY in .doc format.**

When you are ready to submit your pre-class assignments online, but have not received an e-mail with information on how to access your private Locker, please contact the Course of Study School staff at COSS@smu.edu with the subject line: Locker Access. The Course of Study School staff will then reply with specific instructions on how to access your Locker and how to upload your assignments.

The completed pre-class work for course 411 must be submitted to the Locker System **no later than January 24, 2014, at 11:59:59 p.m.** Pre-class work submitted to the Locker System after January 24<sup>th</sup> will incur grading penalties as mentioned above on the grading guidelines. The same deadline restrictions apply whether you are submitting pre-class assignments electronically or via postal service.

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**Students should keep a printed copy of each assignment and bring a copy of each assignment to class regardless of how the assignment was submitted.**

In addition, students should include a one-page autobiography for each instructor.

Each assignment should be typed, double-spaced, or legibly handwritten, with pagination numbers, and be accompanied by a completed cover sheet. A copy of the cover sheet can be found in the Course of Study School web site under Satellite School and can be photocopied, it will also appear as a preloaded file when you access your locker.

Guidelines for writing pre-class assignments and information on academic dishonesty are provided in the Course of Study School catalog, available on the website. Students are expected to understand what constitutes plagiarism. Students who are found to plagiarize are subject to grading penalties, which may include dismissal from the school.

Information on Academic Responsibility and Plagiarism can be found in the Perkins Course of Study School Catalog (pp. 14-16), which is available at the following website:

<https://www.smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms/COSS/Catalog>