

Perkins Regional Course of Study School 2022
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COS 421: Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature (Session 1)

Course Description

This course examines God's word as expressed through selections from Israel's prophets, the psalms, and Wisdom literature.

Student Learning Goals

At the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Identify the origin, history, and use of the prophetic, psalm, and Wisdom texts among God's people.
2. Exegete prophetic, psalm, and Wisdom texts.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

Required Texts

1. Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.
2. Clifford, Richard. *The Wisdom Literature*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.
3. Stulman, Louis, and Hyun Chul Paul Kim. *You Are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2010.
4. One of the following study Bibles:
 - a. Coogan, Michael D, ed. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*. 5th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.
 - b. Green, Joel B., ed. *The CEB Study Bible with Apocrypha*. Nashville: Common English Bible, 2013.
 - c. Harrelson, Walter J., ed. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.

Supplemental Readings (Reference Texts)

These texts are required for the course, but readings will not be assigned directly from them. Students will consult these texts in the exegesis assignments.

1. Gaventa, Beverly Roberts, and David L. Peterson, eds. *The New Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2010.
2. Powell, Mark Allan, ed. *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. 3rd revised and updated edition. New York: HarperOne, 2011.

Pre-Class Assignments (20% of the final course grade)

1. Primary Reading Log (8%)

Read each of the following biblical books: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Psalms, Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth). Complete the attached reading log, assessing how

carefully you have read each book. Please read either the New Revised Standard Version or the Common English Bible, both of which can be accessed online at <https://www.biblegateway.com>. I prefer you read out of one of the three assigned study Bibles listed above, which will be in either the NRSV or CEB. If you find yourself short on time or focus, you can also listen to an audio version of the text (again, NRSV or CEB). You can visit the website Bible Reading Plan Generator (<https://www.biblereadingplangenerator.com/>) to create a reading plan to keep you on track.

For each book, you will mark “0” if you have not read it in its entirety, “A-” if you have skim-read it completely, and “A” if you have read it thoroughly and carefully. Each book is worth 5 points (the “A” equates to 5 points, the “A-“ to 4.5 points, and the “0” to no credit for that book). Timeliness is worth an additional 5 points (full credit if it is on time, 3 points if it is 1 day late, and no credit if it is more than a day late).

Isaiah 0 A- A	Jeremiah 0 A- A	Ezekiel 0 A- A
Hosea 0 A- A	Joel 0 A- A	Amos 0 A- A
Obadiah 0 A- A	Jonah 0 A- A	Micah 0 A- A
Nahum 0 A- A	Habakkuk 0 A- A	Zephaniah 0 A- A
Haggai 0 A- A	Zechariah 0 A- A	Malachi 0 A- A
Psalms 0 A- A	Proverbs 0 A- A	Job 0 A- A
Ecclesiastes 0 A- A		

2. Secondary Reading Report (12%)

Read the entirety of Stuhlman and Kim’s *You Are My People*, the entirety of Brueggemann’s *Spirituality of the Psalms*, and chs. 1–5 of Clifford’s *The Wisdom Literature*. (Note: Although the pre-class reading is a lot, this is the bulk of the reading required for the entire course. So take heart!)

Answer the following questions in 4–5 pages (about a page each). You may wish to also pay attention to the study notes in the Bible. All answers should be in complete sentences and use Turabian-style footnote citations, as required by the Perkins Regional Course of Study School.

- a. How is Psalm 33 a “psalm of orientation” (Brueggemann’s term), and how does this psalm relate to the beginning of the book of Proverbs (chs. 1–9) (refer to Clifford)?
- b. How is Psalm 74 a “psalm of disorientation” (Brueggemann again), and in comparison, how might Jeremiah 7 explain the attitude of the Israelites toward God in light of catastrophe (refer to Stuhlman and Kim)?
- c. Considering the role of wisdom in the ancient Near East (refer to Clifford), what do you think is the value of Old Testament Wisdom for Christians?

d. What do you think is the value of the Old Testament prophets for Christians, especially for Christians in the United States, a great world power (refer to Stuhlman and Kim)?

Secondary Reading Report Rubric:

<p>Timeliness: up to 5 points</p>	<p>On time: 5 points</p> <p>Up to 1 day late: 3 points</p> <p>1–2 days late: 1 point</p> <p>More than 2 days late: 0 points</p>
<p>Length: up to 5 points</p> <p>Paper is to be at least 4 full but no more than 5 full pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins).</p>	<p>4–5 pages: 5 points</p> <p>Between 3 and 4 or 5 and 6 pages: 3 points</p> <p>Fewer than 3 or more than 6 pages: 0 points</p>
<p>Formatting, Grammar, Syntax, Punctuation, Etc.: up to 5 points</p> <p>Note: All written work for this course should follow the guidelines of the Turabian style manual and be double-spaced with 12-point font (Times New Roman) and 1-inch margins on all sides (with no extra space between paragraphs).</p>	<p>Strong (few mistakes): 5 points</p> <p>Developing (overall strong but with noteworthy room for improvement): 3 points</p> <p>Needs work (needs significant improvement): 1 point</p>
<p>Citations: up to 5 points</p> <p>Note: All material quoted from a source must be placed within quotation marks and cited with a footnote according to Turabian style. Material that is not quoted but is otherwise taken from a source must also be cited with a footnote according to Turabian style.</p>	<p>Strong (everything is cited; few minor errors): 5 points</p> <p>Good (everything is cited; many errors): 3 points</p> <p>Needs work (everything is cited; citations do not follow Turabian footnote style): 0 points</p> <p>Note: Material from a source that is not cited (or quoted when appropriate) will result in a 0 for the <i>assignment</i> and a discussion about plagiarism.</p>
<p>Ps 33 and Proverbs (up to 20 points):</p> <p>Student discusses the relationship between Ps 33 and the psalms of orientation.</p>	<p>Excellent: 20 points (excellent content/reflection)</p> <p>Strong: 17 points (strong content/reflection with some room for improvement)</p>

<p>Student discusses the relationship between Ps 33 and Proverbs 1–9.</p>	<p>Needs improvement: 14 points (content/reflection needs significant improvement)</p> <p>Lacking: 0 points (this portion of the assignment is lacking)</p>
<p>Ps 74 and Jer 7 (up to 20 points):</p> <p>Student discusses the relationship between Ps 74 and the psalms of disorientation.</p> <p>Student discusses the relationship between Ps 74 and Jer 7 in terms of relating to catastrophe.</p>	<p>Excellent: 20 points (excellent content/reflection)</p> <p>Strong: 17 points (strong content/reflection with some room for improvement)</p> <p>Needs improvement: 14 points (content/reflection needs significant improvement)</p> <p>Lacking: 0 points (this portion of the assignment is lacking)</p>
<p>The value of OT Wisdom (up to 20 points):</p> <p>Student discusses how and why OT Wisdom is valuable for Christians.</p>	<p>Excellent: 20 points (excellent content/reflection)</p> <p>Strong: 17 points (strong content/reflection with some room for improvement)</p> <p>Needs improvement: 14 points (content/reflection needs significant improvement)</p> <p>Lacking: 0 points (this portion of the assignment is lacking)</p>
<p>The value of OT prophets (up to 20 points):</p> <p>Student discusses how and why the OT prophets are valuable for Christians, with particular attention to the US context.</p>	<p>Excellent: 20 points (excellent content/reflection)</p> <p>Strong: 17 points (strong content/reflection with some room for improvement)</p> <p>Needs improvement: 14 points (content/reflection needs significant improvement)</p> <p>Lacking: 0 points (this portion of the assignment is lacking)</p>