

## **PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY- COURSE OF STUDY**

**COURSE 421 Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature - Curriculum Section: Bible**

**July 7, 2025 – July 25, 2025**

**Live Synchronous Meetings July 7-11 9:50 am-11:45 am**

**INSTRUCTOR- Dr. Janet Bell Odom Email:drodomjb@gmail.com**

### **PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT**

### **COURSE GOALS**

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

Students will be able to:

- Understand origin, history, and use of these forms of biblical literature among God's people.
- Exegete these forms of biblical literature.
- Articulate the nature of stewardship biblically and theologically.
- Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

We will use the following readings:

#### **REQUIRED:**

Spirituality of the Psalms, Walter Brueggeman

A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, Bruce C. Birch, Walter Brueggeman, Terence E. Fretheim, and David L. Petersen.

The Wisdom Literature, Richard J. Clifford

You Are My People: Introduction to Prophetic Literature, Louis Stulman, Hyun Chul Paul Kim

## **PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

There are three essays included in the pre-class assignments, i.e., three essays based on required books. The three essays, 12-point font, and double spaced. Must cite the sources and references in each essay.

**1<sup>st</sup> Essay- 4-5 Pages:** Spirituality of the Psalms. Walter Brueggemann speaks of Psalms of Orientation, Psalms of Disorientation, and Psalms of New Orientation. What is your understanding of Psalms of Orientation. How is Psalm 33, a Psalm of Orientation? How does Psalm 33 relate to the beginning of the book of Proverbs, Chapters 1-9 (refer to The Wisdom Literature, Richard J. Clifford). What is your understanding of Psalms of Disorientation. How is Psalm 74, a Psalm of Disorientation, and in comparison, how does Jeremiah 7 explain the attitude of the Israelites toward God in light of catastrophe, (You Are My People, Stulman and Kim)? Explain your understanding of Brueggemann's explanation of Psalms of New Orientation.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Essay--4 Pages:** As you refer to The Wisdom Literature, Richard J. Clifford, consider the role wisdom in the ancient Near East, what do you consider the value of Old Testament Wisdom for today's Christians. What is the value of the Old Testament Prophets for Christians especially in the United States. See You Are My People, Louis Stulman and Hyun Chul Paul Kim.

## **EXPLANATION OF GRADING SYSTEM**

**30% - 15%** for each two pre-class assignments.

All pre-class assignments will be evaluated:

- Fulfillment of the requirements of assignments.
- Personal creativity and thinking.
- First and second essay are due on **June 16, 2025**. Essays turned in after the deadline dates will be marked down two points for each day late.

**70%**-Daily reading and preparation for face-to-face class and participation in online coursework, including online discussions and posts, responses to fellow students, and participation in synchronous discussions.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNMENTS**

- The essays are the required length.
- The essays answer the questions in each assignment.
- The essays do not have personal commentary unless assigned in the questions.
- Instructions are to be followed by students for each essay.
- Students use appropriate format, grammar, and syntax where needed.
- Essays received on time.