

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

2020 Fall – ONLINE

Oct 2-3 & Oct 23-24, 2020

COS 421 – Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, & Wisdom Literature

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Course Description

Welcome to the Bible IV class!

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:

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. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

This is a fully ONLINE course. We will work in a combination of two online formats – both “synchronous” (via Zoom at the same time) and “asynchronous” (through Populi discussion threads). For “synchronous” classes, we will meet for about 2 hours each day on Oct 2-3 and Oct 23-24 (a total of 10 hours via Zoom). For “asynchronous” online discussions, everyone is expected to make online comments and responses, on Populi, in order to learn collectively and interactively.

Textbooks

Texts:

- Louis Stulman and Paul Kim, *You Are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2010)
- W. H. Bellinger, *Psalms as a Grammar for Faith: Prayer and Praise* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2019)
- Richard Clifford, *Wisdom Literature* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1998)

Reference:

- Bruce C. Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, and David L. Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* (2nd ed.; Nashville: Abingdon, 2005)

Supplemental:

- W. H. Bellinger and Todd D. Still, eds., *Baylor Annotated Study Bible* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2019)

Requirements

ONLINE COMMENTS: *Individually*, each student is required to post your “online comments” on Populi **in alternating order** (Track A and Track B). Its main goal is to motivate you to gain broad background information from the key textbooks.

In most cases, the basic guideline is as follows – you are to address:

- (a) five key issues/arguments in the assigned textbook section (1 page);
- (b) one key insight that is new/inspiring to you,
- (c) one key question (constructive criticism) for all of us to discuss (b + c = ½ page).

The amount of each online comment should be no more than **1 + ½ pages, single-spaced**, Times New Roman 12-size font.

Track A = e.g., Groups 1, 2, 3 \ (we will divide each group evenly out of total members)

Track B = e.g., Groups 4, 5, 6 /

Everyone in “Track A” should upload your “online comment” on the designated date.

Everyone in “Track B” should upload the following designated date; and so on.

Each online comment is *due by 11:59 pm of the specified date*.

[In this assignment, one lowest grade out of six will be dropped toward final grade.]

ONLINE RESPONSES: *Individually*, only within each group, each member should make **only one response for only one member** within your group. Be courteous and civil, but also feel free to share disagreeing/different perspectives, ask challenging questions, or address follow-up application/so-what issues.

Be sure to state (a) one positive feedback + (b) one constructive critique/food-for-thought.

The total amount of each response should be no more than ½ **page, single-spaced**. All “online responses” are *due the day after the “online comments” due date by 11:59pm*.

[In this assignment, one lowest grade out of six will be dropped toward final grade.]

EXEGESIS PAPER: By one week after the end of the term (due October 31), please turn in your exegetical interpretation of a selected biblical passage (TBA). The goal of this assignment is this: please focus on one specific passage and utilize insightful reading tools, which we will have introduced and explored, to interpret that passage.

Additional guideline will be uploaded on Populi; the amount of the paper should be 5 pages, Times New Roman, 12 font size, **double-spaced**.

GRADING:

Cyber Attendance/Virtual Participation	10%
Online Comments (five out of six)	55%
Online Responses (five out of six)	15%
Exegesis Paper (one)	20%

Class Schedule

Date	Subjects	Readings	Projects
Sep 19 ZOOM (9:15 - 9:45 am)	Orientation to course (syllabus, Zoom, assignments, resources, forming groups, etc.)	Syllabus	ZOOM (this Zoom “orientation” will be recorded and made available online in Populi)
Sep 20 – Oct 1	Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS + ONLINE RESPONSES: ROUND ONE Prophets	▶ Stulman/Kim, pp. 27-94 (Isaiah) ▶ Stulman/Kim, pp. 97-141 (Jeremiah) ▶ Stulman/Kim, pp. 145-181 (Ezekiel) ▶ Stulman/Kim, pp. 185-249 (Twelve/Minor Prophets)	← Track A (due Sep 26 + 27) ← Track B (due Sep 26 + 27) ← Track A (due 9/30 + 10/1) ← Track B (due 9/30 + 10/1)
Oct 2 ZOOM (7:00 - 9:00 pm)	■ Isaiah	▶ Focus Texts: Isaiah 5-7 Isaiah 54-57	ZOOM
Oct 3 ZOOM (9:00 - 11:00 am)	■ Jeremiah	▶ Focus Texts: Jeremiah 7 Jeremiah 10-11 Jeremiah 20	ZOOM
Oct 3 ZOOM (1:00 - 3:00 pm)	■ Ezekiel ■ 12 Prophets	▶ Focus Texts: Ezekiel 1-5 Ezekiel 10-11 Jonah 1-4 Nahum 1-3	ZOOM
Oct 3	Chapel (11:15 am -12:00 pm)		

<p>Oct 4 – Oct 13</p>	<p>Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS+ ONLINE RESPONSES: ROUND TWO</p> <p>Psalms</p>	<p>▶ Bellinger, pp. 23-50 (ch. 2)</p> <p>▶ Bellinger, pp. 51-67 (ch. 3)</p> <p>▶ Bellinger, pp. 69-90 (ch. 4)</p> <p>▶ Bellinger, pp. 91-109 (ch. 5)</p>	<p>Track A (due Oct 8 + 9)</p> <p>Track B (due Oct 8 + 9)</p> <p>Track A (due Oct 12 + 13)</p> <p>Track B (due Oct 12 + 13)</p>
<p>Oct 14 – Oct 22</p>	<p>Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS+ ONLINE RESPONSES: ROUND THREE</p> <p>Wisdom Tradition</p>	<p>▶ Clifford, pp. 23-40 (ch. 2)</p> <p>▶ Clifford, pp. 42-68 (ch. 3 - Proverbs)</p> <p>▶ Clifford, pp. 69-96 (ch. 4 – Job)</p> <p>▶ Clifford, pp. 97-114 (ch. 5 – Ecclesiastes)</p>	<p>Track A (due Oct 17 + 18)</p> <p>Track B (due Oct 17 + 18)</p> <p>Track A (due Oct 21 + 22)</p> <p>Track B (due Oct 21 + 22)</p>
<p>Oct 23 ZOOM</p> <p>(7:00 - 9:00 pm)</p>	<p>■ The Diversity of the Collections of Psalms</p> <p>■ Theological Reflections of Psalms</p>	<p>▶ Focus Texts: Psalms 1-2 Psalms 22-24 Psalms 42-43 Psalm 109 Psalm 137 Psalms 148-150</p>	<p>ZOOM</p>
<p>Oct 24 ZOOM</p> <p>(9:00 - 11:00 am)</p>	<p>■ Job: Prologue & Epilogue</p> <p>■ Job, Friends, & God</p> <p>■ Ecclesiastes (= Qoheleth): Optimism vs. Pessimism</p>	<p>▶ Focus Texts: Job 1-2 Job 4; 8; 11 Job 16; 19; 21; 31 Job 40-42 Eccl 1-3 Eccl 7-10</p>	<p>ZOOM</p>
<p>Oct 24</p>	<p>Chapel (11:15 am -12:00 pm)</p>		
<p>Oct 31</p>			<p>✚ EXEGESIS PAPER DUE (Oct 31)</p>

Academic Honor

The Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic requirements be the original work of the student.

Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating dishonesty or lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations in this category include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly passing off work of another as one's own.

Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting as one's own work with the work of another whether published or unpublished (including the work of another student). A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism.

A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor code, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions: (1) warning; (2) probation; (3) suspension for the remainder of the course; (4) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio; (5) grade of Fail for the course. Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.