

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO at MTSO

2025 Summer – ONLINE

July 11-12 & Aug 1-2, 2025

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 July 11-12 and Aug 1-2 (a total of 12 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)
- Christopher B. Ansberry, *Reading Wisdom and Psalms as Christian Scripture: A Literary, Canonical, and Theological Introduction* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2024)

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:

- Hugh R. Page Jr. et al. eds., *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora* (Second Edition; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2024)

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.

Tracks A & B = we will divide each Track members evenly out of total members..

For Round One only, everyone should upload the Comments both in Assignments and in Discussions. It is because “online responses” can be made **ONLY** in “Discussions.”

For Rounds Two and Three, you should upload your Comments only in “Assignments.”

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

ONLINE RESPONSES: *Individually*, only within each group and only during the first-half of the class, each member should make **only one response to 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 days specified in the chart by 11:59pm*.

*Schedules by Dates:

6/29 by 11:59 pm - online comment #1 is due for Prophets

(7/3 by 11:59 pm - *online response* to 1 person in your group/track’s comments)

7/6 by 11:59 pm - online comment #2 is due for Prophets

(7/10 by 11:59 pm - *online response* to 1 person in your group/track’s comments)

7/17 by 11:59 pm - online comment #3 is due for Psalms

7/22 by 11:59 pm - online comment #4 is due for Proverbs

7/27 by 11:59 pm - online comment #5 is due for Job

7/31 by 11:59 pm - online comment #6 is due for Ecclesiastes

8/10 by 11:59 pm - exegesis paper is due [please see handout for more instructions]








EXEGESIS PAPER: By one week after the end of the term (due August 10), 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 (six)	60%
Online Responses (two)	10%
Exegesis Paper (one)	20%

Class Schedule

Date	Subjects	Readings	Projects
June 14 ZOOM (8:00 - 9:00 PM)	Orientation to course (syllabus, Zoom, assignments, resources, forming groups, etc.)	Syllabus (this Zoom “orientation” will be recorded and made available online in Populi)	ZOOM
June 23 – July 10	Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS + ONLINE RESPONSES: ROUND ONE Prophets	Online Comment #1 = <u>Track A = Stulman/Kim, pp. 27-94</u> (Isaiah) [= chapters 2 & 3 = “Isaiah as Messenger of Faith amid Doubt” + “Vision of Homecoming amid Diaspora”] (comment due June 29 → response due July 3)	
		Online Comment #1 = <u>Track B = Stulman/Kim, pp. 97-141</u> (Jeremiah) [= chapters 4, 5, & 6 = “Jeremiah as a Messenger of Hope in Crisis” + “Jeremiah as a Complex Response to Suffering” + “Conflicting Paths to Hope in Jeremiah”] (comment due June 29 → response due July 3)	
		Online Comment #2 = <u>Track A = Stulman/Kim, pp. 145-181</u> (Ezekiel) [= chapters 7 & 8 = “Ezekiel as Disaster Literature” + “Ezekiel as Survival Literature”] (comment due July 6 → response due July 10)	
		Online Comment #2 = <u>Track B = Stulman/Kim, pp. 185-249</u> (12 Prophets) [= chapters 9 & 10 = “An Anthology of Dispersion and Diagnosis (Hosea–Micah)+ “An Anthology of Debate and Rebuilding (Nahum–Malachi)”] (comment due July 6 → response due July 10)	
July 11 ZOOM (3:00 - 5:00 pm)	 Isaiah	 Focus Texts: Isaiah 5-7 Isaiah 54-57	ZOOM
July 11 ZOOM (7:00 - 9:00 pm)	 Jeremiah	 Focus Texts: Jeremiah 7 Jeremiah 10-11 Jeremiah 20	ZOOM
July 12 ZOOM (9:00 - 11:00 am)	 Ezekiel  12 Prophets	 Focus Texts: Ezekiel 1-5 Ezekiel 10-11 Jonah 1-4 Nahum 1-3	ZOOM

July 13 – July 22	Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS ROUND TWO Psalms & Proverbs	Online Comment #3 = <u>Ansberry, pp. 157-188 (Psalms)</u> [ch. 12 = "Psalms: Praise Seeking Understanding" + ch. 13 = "Theological Themes in Psalms"] (comment only due July 17, NO response)	
		Online Comment #4 = <u>Ansberry, pp. 9-49 (Proverbs)</u> [ch. 2 = "Proverbs: Fear Seeking Understanding" + chs. 3-4 = "Theological Themes in Proverbs (1) & (2)"] (comment only due July 22, NO response)	
July 23 – July 31	Asynchronous ONLINE COMMENTS ROUND THREE Wisdom Tradition = Job & Ecclesiastes	Online Comment #5 = <u>Ansberry, pp. 50-94 (Job)</u> [ch. 5 = "Job: Suffering Seeking Understanding" + chs. 6-7 = "Theological Themes in Job (1) & (2)"] (comment only due July 27, NO response)	
		Online Comment #6 = <u>Ansberry, pp. 95-127 (Ecclesiastes)</u> [ch. 8 = "Ecclesiastes: Finitude Seeking Understanding" + chs. 9-10 = "Theological Themes in Ecclesiastes"] (comment only due July 31, NO response)	
Aug 1 ZOOM (7:00 - 9:00 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diversity of the Collections of Psalms Theological Reflections of Psalms 	► Focus Texts: Psalms 1-2 Psalms 22-24 Psalms 42-43 Psalm 88 Psalms 137; 148-150	ZOOM
Aug 2 ZOOM (9:00 - 11:00 am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job: Prologue & Epilogue Job, Friends, & God 	► Focus Texts: Job 1-2 Job 4; 8; 11 Job 16; 19; 21; 31 Job 40-42	ZOOM
Aug 2 ZOOM (1:00 - 3:00 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecclesiastes Optimism vs. Pessimism 	► Focus Texts: Eccl 1-3 Eccl 7-10 (Proverbs 1-9)	ZOOM
Aug 10	 EXEGESIS PAPER DUE (August 10)		

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 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 sanctions: (1) warning; (2) failing grade for the assignment and/or course; (3) probation; (4) suspension; (5) dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio. In severe or repeat cases (regardless of the sanctions) a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry representative.

COSSO Attendance Policy

National policy from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) states that a student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing 20% or more of the class sessions shall not receive credit for the class. In the event of extenuating circumstances which require the student to miss up to 20% of the synchronous course time (whether in-person or on Zoom), the student should contact both the instructor and the Director prior to the start of the class to get approval and discuss make-up work. (Extenuating circumstances include emergency situations, illness, and dire circumstances, for example. Students are to provide back-up coverage at the local church while attending COS classes.)

Students attending online are required to show their faces the entire class time in order to be considered present, unless internet bandwidth issues or emergency circumstances (e.g., a power outage) necessitate turning off one's camera or calling in to class by phone. You are expected to attend class as you would in a face-to-face classroom (e.g., not driving). During asynchronous class time, faculty may monitor time used in posting and responding to colleagues to track your participation.

- **CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

Student must notify the COSSO office if they will be unable to attend class for which they are registered. Although there is no penalty when withdrawing more

than two weeks in advance of the beginning of a term, registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable and unpaid registration fees are still due if withdrawing past the registration deadline. A \$50.00 late withdrawal fee is charged for all withdrawals within two weeks of the start of a class. All tuition and housing payments are applied to a future term.

Students withdrawing after the start of a term will be assigned a grade of AW (Administrative Withdrawal) and will be responsible for the full \$300.00 tuition amount. Any annual conference scholarship applied to the student billing record becomes the student's responsibility and is due by the end of the term. Housing payment is non-refundable.

- **NO SHOWS**

Except in cases of immediate and dire emergencies, if a student misses any class without notifying the COSSO office, tuition and housing fees are due immediately, a \$50.00 no show fee is charged, and the student will receive an "F" in the class.