**COS 421 – Bible IV: Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature**

ALPS/Tennessee Western Kentucky/Holston Course of Study

Part I: March 14-15, 2025 (Zoom teleconferencing)

Part II: April 4-5, 2025 (Zoom teleconferencing)

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**Course Content and Learning Goals**

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

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the origin, history, and use of these forms of Biblical literature among God’s people.
2. Explain the major theological themes in these writings.
3. Demonstrate faithful and fruitful exegesis of selected portions of these biblical books.
4. Apply the fruits of exegesis to preaching, to other pastoral responsibilities, and to issues of the present day.

**Required Texts**

Walter Brueggeman, *Spirituality of the Psalms* (Fortress Press, 2002)

ISBN 978-0-8006-3450-6

Richard J. Clifford, *The Wisdom Literature* (Abingdon Press, 1998)

ISBN 978-0-687-00846-9

Rolf A. Jacobson and Michael J. Chan, *Introducing the Old Testament:*

*A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* (Baker Academic, 2023)

ISBN 978-0-801-04925-5

**Reference Texts:**

*The New Interpreter’s Study Bible* (based on the New Revised Standard Version),

or *The NIV Study Bible* (based on the New International Version),

or *The CEB Study Bible with Apocrypha* (based on the Common English Bible)

*Oxford Bible Atlas* (Third or Fourth Edition)

**Supplementary Texts**

Louis Stulman and Hyun Chul Paul Kim, *You Are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature* (Abingdon Press, 2010) ISBN 978-0-687-46565-1

Beverly Roberts Gaventa and David L. Peterson, editors, *The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary* (Abingdon Press, 2010)

ISBN 978-0-687-33411-7

**Required Written Work**

1. A pre-course paper

2. A mid-course paper

3. Final exam

**Grading System**

The pre-course paper 30 %

The mid-course paper 30 %

The final exam 30 %

Class participation 10 %

*Note Regarding Assignments:* Failure to submit the pre-course assignment, the mid-course assignment, or the final examination will result, not simply in a grade of F for that assignment, but for the class as a whole.

**The Pre-Course Assignment**

Read pages 17-22, 42-114, and 166-69 of Clifford, *The Wisdom Literature*.

Read pages 317-625 of Jacobson/Chan, *Introducing the Old Testament*.

Read Brueggeman, *Spirituality of the Psalms* (entire). Write a 1500-word paper (5 pages, typed, double-spaced, using a 12-point font) discussing what Walter Brueggeman means by “psalms of orientation,” “psalms of disorientation,” and “psalms of new orientation.” What are some of the key aspects of each category? What types of psalms are found in each category? What are some examples of psalms that fit in each category?

The pre-course paper assignment is due by Friday, March 7. Please submit as a Microsoft Word document and send it as an email attachment to the instructor’s email address listed above.

The topic for the mid-course paper assignment will be assigned at the end of the first weekend. The mid-course paper assignment is due by Thursday, April 3. Please submit as a Microsoft Word document and send it as an email attachment to the instructor’s email address listed above.

Please scan and attach to the pre-course paper assignment, the mid-course paper assignment, and the final examination a completed and signed “Cover Sheet”, indicating that you are abiding by the Honor Code of the ALPS-TWKH Course of Study. To access that cover sheet, please [**Click here**](https://www.alpsumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/academic-honor-code-MTH-updated-10-11-15.pdf).