

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

Alps/Memphis/TN/Holston Course of Study

Martin Methodist College

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Dr. Jack A. Keller, Jr., Instructor

311 Leopole Road

Nashville, Tennessee 37211

(502) 648-9743

jackakeller@comcast.net

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

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

Richard J. Clifford, *The Wisdom Literature* (Abingdon Press, 1998)
ISBN 978-0-687-00846-8

Supplementary Texts

Michael D. Coogan, *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*, Third Edition (Oxford University Press, 2011)
ISBN 978-0-19-994661-7

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

Bruce C. Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim, and David L. Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, Second Edition* (Abingdon Press, 2005) ISBN 978-0-687-06676-6

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 %

The Pre-Course Assignment

Read pages 9-249 of Stulman and Kim, *You Are My People*.

Read Brueggeman, *Spirituality of the Psalms* (entire). Write a 1200-word paper (4 pages, typed, double-spaced) 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? Due at the beginning of the first session.