

# Western Jurisdiction Course of Study 2016

Claremont School of Theology

## Year Four

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

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#### Course Description:

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

#### Course Outcomes:

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.

#### Textbooks:

##### 1. Required

NRSV Study Bible, either *Harper Collins Study Bible*, or *New Oxford Annotated Bible*.

John J. Collins, *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

Gustavo Gutiérrez, *On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent*,  
Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1987.

##### 2. Optional

Bruce C. Birch, Walter Brueggemann, Terence E. Fretheim and David Petersen, *A Theological*

*Introduction to the Old Testament*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

## **Course Requirements:**

1. Pre-Class Assignment: Two papers to be due at the First Session.

(i) Write a **Book Review** on Gutiérrez's book "**On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent**" (10 pages, double-spaced)

(ii) Write a **Sermon** *either* on a Psalm of your choice *or* on a text from the Prophets of the Eighth Century BCE (i.e. Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Micah). Please do not choose more than 15 verses (5-6 pages, double-spaced).

2. Attendance and participation at every Session.

3. Assigned readings to be done beforehand.

4. 8-10 page, double-spaced, exegetical paper to be due at Session 7. This should be a historical or literary analysis and interpretation of an Old Testament text chosen

in

consultation with the Instructor.

5. Take-home Final Exam will be due at the Final Session.

## **Grading:**

1. Pre-Class Assignment (Two papers) 30%

2. Class Attendance and Participation 20%

3. 8-10 page Exegetical Paper 25%

4. Take-home Final Exam 25%

## **Course Schedule:**

### **Session 1: Major Prophets I - Isaiah**

General Introduction to Prophecy: In the Ancient Near East and in Israel

**Readings:** Collins 284-286, 307-321; Isaiah

### **Session 2: Major Prophets II - Jeremiah**

**Readings:** Collins 334-347; Jeremiah

### **Session 3: Major Prophets III - Ezekiel**

**Readings:** Collins 353-374; Ezekiel

### **Session 4: Minor Prophets ("The Twelve") I - Hosea & Jonah**

**Readings:** Collins 296-304, 534-536; Hosea & Jonah

## **Session 5: Minor Prophets (“The Twelve”) II – Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi**

**Readings:** Collins 401-420; Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi

**Hand out of the Take-home Final Exam**

## **Session 6: Israel’s Sacred Songs – The Psalms**

**Readings:** Collins 461-480; Selected Psalms will be read in Class.

## **Session 7: Wisdom Literature – Job**

**Readings:** Collins 505-517; Job

**Exegetical Paper due; Take-home Final Exam due.**