

**Alabama Course of Study  
Fall 2018  
September 14-15 and November 2-3  
Birmingham-Southern College  
Assignment and Course Requirements**

**Course:** COS 421 – Bible IV – Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom Literature  
**Instructor:** Jason Borders  
Professor of New Testament  
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Your prework for Session One should include an ALCOS Cover Sheet.

**Course Introduction:**

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

**Course Objectives:**

The student, upon completion of this course, should 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.

**Required Texts:**

- The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) will be the Bible translation used for the course. The particular NRSV Bible used is the student's choice. Other translations are certainly welcome in class discussion.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001. 978-0800634506
- Stulman, Louis, & Hyun Paul Kim. *You Are My People: An Introduction to Prophetic Literature*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2010. 978-0687465651
- Clifford, Richard. *The Wisdom Literature: Interpreting Biblical Texts Series*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1998. 978-0687008469

**Recommended Supplementary Texts:**

- Birch, Bruce, et al. *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd. Ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2005. 978-0687066766

## Pre-Work Assignments:

### 1. *Reading Assignment*

Students should complete the assigned readings before each session. *For the first session*, students should have read Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Nahum, and at least one Psalm from each of the three categories (orientation, disorientation, and new orientation) listed in the text by Brueggemann. Textbooks should also have been read, namely, *Spirituality of the Psalms* and *You Are My People*. *For the second session*, students should have read Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, and Song of Songs (Solomon). The textbook, *The Wisdom Literature*, should have been completed by the beginning of the second session, also.

### 2. *Two Exegetical Papers (45% each - 90% total)*

Students are required to write two exegetical papers, one due at the beginning of each session. The first paper must be written on a passage from any of the prophetic books assigned for the first session and is due at the beginning of the first session. The second paper must be written on any passage from one of the wisdom texts assigned and is due at the beginning of the second session. These papers are intended to help the student in sermon preparation. Key questions that may help the student in these assignments are: a) What does the text have to say on its own terms (i.e., what are the text's main points)? and b) What does the text have to say to us? It is strongly recommended that shorter pericopes be chosen rather than longer ones. That is, choose key verses from a particular chapter rather than an entire chapter, depending on the pericope's length. Students are expected to engage the textbooks as primary resources for writing these papers.

Each paper must be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins, use a 12-point font (e.g., Times New Roman), and be properly cited using footnotes. Papers should be between 1500-2000 words in length. Papers will be graded on Thesis, Argument, and Style (cf. Exegetical Paper Rubric below).

**Further Instructions for Written Work:** Please avoid excessive quotation of sources. All sources should be cited appropriately with footnotes, but it is unnecessary to reproduce the source in your written work unless absolutely necessary. Written work should reflect the student's engagement with the texts rather than act as a summary of the sources used. In addition, a bibliography is not necessary for your papers. Citation of sources is sufficient. All work should have the student's name, class, and date as its header for each page, including page numbers if applicable. Citations should be consistent with an accepted manual of style (e.g., MLA or SBL).

**Policy for Submitting Work:** Work must be submitted on time. Late work will be accepted in only the most extreme circumstances, such as a medical emergency, at the discretion of the instructor and Director of the Course of Study. Work that does not adhere to the guidelines above will not be accepted. All written work should be submitted as a Word or Pages document on the due date to the instructor's email address: [jborders@hawks.huntingdon.edu](mailto:jborders@hawks.huntingdon.edu). Early submissions are welcome.

**In Class Participation (10%):** Students should be able to participate in class discussions in a manner that shows completion of all required readings prior to class attendance.

**Grading Scale:**

A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59-0

**Course Schedule:**

First Session (September 14-15, 2018)

- Primary Focus: Prophetic Literature

Second Session (November 2-3)

- Primary Focus: Wisdom Literature

**Exegetical Paper Rubric**

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
<b>Thesis</b>	Thesis shows insight and originality.	States the claim to be argued. Is clear and adequately developed.	Appropriate to topic.	Little attention to topic.	No attention to topic evident.
<b>Argument</b>	Demonstrates critical appropriation of relevant research. Case is persuasively made.	Develops the thesis. Is supported by evidence that is appropriate, accurate and adequate. Demonstrates interaction with quality resources.	Demonstrates a logical flow. Thesis statement present but undeveloped.	Largely unorganized. No thesis clearly stated.	No attention to argument organization, thesis, etc.
<b>Style</b>	Paragraphs are well organized and developed. Writing is free from errors of syntax, grammar, spelling, etc. Documentation is consistent with one of the accepted manuals of style.	Paragraphs are organized and developed. Writing is concise. Few errors present (syntax, grammar, spelling)	Paragraphs are not well organized. Multiple errors present.	Paragraphs are largely unorganized. Errors throughout.	Disorganized. No attention to style.

**Prework Policy**

We all have deadlines that govern our lives. It is crucial that you take seriously your commitment to complete the pre-work assignments by the deadline. Extensions are granted only for extenuating circumstances. Normal pastoral duties do not constitute extenuating circumstances. Late work will be penalized. Any extension must be granted by the instructor of the class. For your protection, please keep copies of your pre-work assignments.

- All PreCourse and MidCourse work must be submitted to the professor by the

date indicated on the syllabus or assigned by the professor on the first weekend. Late PreCourse/midcourse work will be accepted for two weeks following the due date (but not beyond) with the following penalties:

1. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted within one week of the due date will receive a **one letter grade deduction**
  2. **PreCourse/MidCourse** work submitted after one week of the due date but within two weeks will receive a **two-letter grade deduction**
  3. **No assignments** will be accepted after two weeks from the due date and a grade of "F" will be given in the course.
  4. **In cases where the student has registered late the same policy applies.**
- **PostCourse** work may be assigned in some courses. Post course work will be due no later than two weeks after the completion of the second weekend of the course. **No** late submissions will be accepted.