

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO

Winter 2010

January 22-23 & February 19-20

COS 411 – Hebrew Bible II

Dr. Paul Kim
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Course Description

Welcome to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament 2 class!

This course encompasses “A continuation of the examination of the Word of God as it was expressed through some of Israel’s Prophets, selected Psalms, and selected passages from the Book of Job.”

This class is aimed to cover basic information concerning history, literature, and theology of the OT. It is also intended to enhance reading insights for theological interpretation and applications toward ministry. To do so, we will consult and dialogue with introductory textbooks. The utmost emphasis, however, will be put on reading the very texts of the OT so that we fall in love with the Bible more authentically.

Course Objectives

- A focus on the biblical message as a whole by integrating this year’s study with previous study of the Bible.
- Gain greater familiarity with a number of the great passages in the designated books.
- Continuation of exegetical practice.
- Exploration of the assigned passages as relevant for preaching, mission, and ministry by today’s pastor and congregation.

Textbooks

- Paul L. Redditt, *Introduction to the Prophets* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008)
- J. Clinton McCann and James C. Howell, *Preaching the Psalms* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2001)
- [supplementary →] Walter J. Harrelson, *The New Interpreter’s Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version With the Apocrapha* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2003)

Requirements

- Compar-a-thon: This assignment is intended to help you make a close reading of the biblical story, by way of comparing other biblical manuscript versions and traditions. Read the entire book of Esther (both HB and Greek versions)—i.e., *English* translations available in The New Interpreter’s Study Bible or New Revised Standard Version—i.e., (a) HB version is in the OT canon and (b) the Greek version is located in the Apocrypha section with the title of “Greek Additions to Esther.” Read as if you’ve never read those portions before. Read the whole story in a continuous connection (i.e., ideally do not read bits and pieces in isolation). Your task is to make a careful, critical, and creative comparison of the selected books, paying attention to both similarities and differences—especially *differences*—in terms of key plots, characters, contents, depictions, themes, and so on. While comparing, make keen observations as to how the two texts/versions coincide, where they alter/shift, and in what aspects one text fills in the gaps of the other, vice versa. You are expected to turn in the NOTEBOOK of your observations/comparisons (to be typed, **single-spaced**, please, due January 22). Please see the attached guideline handout.
- Exegesis Paper: On the second weekend of the term (February 19), please turn in your exegetical interpretation of a selected biblical passage (**Isa 55:1-13 OR Psalm 27**). 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: (further guideline will be distributed in class; 5 pages, typed, **double-spaced**, please).
- Group Presentation: Toward the end of this class (on February 20), there will be a group presentation. Each group of 4-5 members is expected to do a 7 minute presentation on a selected biblical figure. A good presentation should encompass (a) a critical study (i.e., not an uncritical, one-sided view), (b) a careful preparation, and (c) a creative interpretation (e.g., biography, dramatization, a video clip, panel discussion/debate, powerpoint presentation, art, music, worship, and so on). The presentation shall be in the form of a biography and/or an autobiography, retelling the key aspects of this person, analyzing her/his significance in the Hebrew Bible, and reflecting on her/his relevance for today’s church and society. Some guidelines: Do not select major figures, but rather unknown, less-known, supporting figures (e.g., Gomer, Amaziah, Hosea’s children, Habakkuk, Isaiah’s children, Hananiah, Baruch, Oholah/Oholibah, Job’s wife, Job’s friends, Sailors in Jonah, King of Nineveh, King Cyrus, King Darius of Persia, etc.); **Alternatively**, you may opt to reenact a selected prophetic drama, symbolic action, oracle, sermon, or metaphor in light of your group’s careful examination and interpretation; *Do not just retell* the story, but focus on the conceptual and metaphoric significances of the character from various angles; has to be informative, in-depth, and insightful.

Class Schedule

Date	Subjects	Readings	Projects
<p>Jan 22</p> <p>(5:30 - 9 pm)</p>	<p>Prophets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Isaiah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Redditt, pp. 53-107 ▶ Focus Texts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isaiah 1-2 Isaiah 5-7 Isaiah 28-33 Isaiah 40-42 Isaiah 54-56 Isaiah 60-62 	<p>COMPAR-A-THON REPORT DUE</p>
<p>Jan 23</p> <p>(8:30 - 11:15 am)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Jeremiah ■ Ezekiel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Redditt, pp. 109-131 and pp. 148-167 ▶ Focus Texts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeremiah 1-2 Jeremiah 7 Jeremiah 10-11 Jeremiah 30-33 ▶ Focus Texts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ezekiel 1-3 Ezekiel 10-11 Ezekiel 36-37 Ezekiel 47-48 	
<p>Jan 23</p> <p>(1-3 pm)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12 Prophets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Redditt, pp. 197-207 and pp. 356-375 ▶ Focus Texts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonah 1-4 Nahum 1-3 [Esther: HB & Greek] 	

<p>Feb 19</p> <p>(5:30 - 9 pm)</p>	<p>Psalms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Diversity of the Collections of Psalms ■ The Psalms as Literature ■ Theological, Philosophical, and Anthropological Reflections 	<p>▶ McCann/Howell, pp. 51-85</p> <p>▶ Focus Texts: [Song of Songs] Psalm 1 Psalm 19 Psalm 42-43</p>	<p>📌 EXEGESIS PAPER DUE</p>
<p>Feb 20</p> <p>(8:30 - 11:15 am)</p>	<p>Wisdom Tradition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Prologue ■ Job & His Friends 	<p>▶ McCann/Howell, pp. 89-129</p> <p>▶ Focus Texts: Job 1-7 Job 11-14 Job 29-31</p>	
<p>Feb 20</p> <p>(1-3 pm)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ YHWH's Speeches ■ The Epilogue 	<p>▶ Focus Texts: Job 38-42</p>	<p>📌 GROUP PRESENTATION</p>



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COS 411

Hebrew Bible 2

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Winter 2010

			Retail Price	Disc.	Clergy Price
Required Books					
_____	<i>Introduction to the Prophets of the Old Testament</i>	Redditt	26.00	20%	20.80
_____	<i>Preaching the Psalms</i>	McCann	17.00	0%	17.00
Supplementary					
_____	<i>The New Interpreter's Study Bible</i>		48.00	20%	38.40

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