

# Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Spring 2008, Stanford Institute

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**Texts:** Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, ed. Joseph Fielding Smith, Deseret Book (ISBN: 087579243X) (free online). A few other reading materials will be provided. The standard works, particularly the Doctrine and Covenants, are also essential because we will discuss the contents of TPJS within their doctrinal framework.

**Goals:** We will discuss the prophet's quasi-canonical teachings as contained in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith (TPJS), along with the historical setting of these teachings. It is hoped that students will gain a greater familiarity, understanding, and appreciation of the prophet's teachings. Finally, it is hoped that they will strengthen their testimonies that Joseph Smith, as an imperfect mortal, was called of God to reveal divine truth.

**Website:** [www.stanford.edu/~jsdaniel/TPJS/](http://www.stanford.edu/~jsdaniel/TPJS/). Everything I have electronically will be posted, and links are provided to free online resources (including entire text of TPJS). For protected documents: TPJS, Nauvoo.

## **Class Format and Expectations:**

This class will be taught in discussion format. Therefore, it is important that each student review the assigned reading every week – typically 10-20 pages. I expect that this can easily be incorporated into your gospel study routine.

Each week a different student will be in charge of leading the opening discussion of the week's reading. Highlight the passages that you feel are the most interesting and important. Why are they important? What do they teach us? How did they apply in the historical context and how do they apply today? Are there relevant passages in the standard works?

The general format of each week's class will be as follows, depending on exact content:

- 20-25 minutes – student-led discussion of text and related doctrines
- 20-25 minutes – continued discussion of text and related doctrines
- 5-10 minutes – overview of historical background for next class

## **Schedule:**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Reading</u></b>	<b><u>Approximate Dates</u></b>	<b><u>Supplementary Material</u></b>
02-Apr	pages 254-268	Aug - Nov 1842	D&C 127, D&C 128
09-Apr	pages 268-281	Dec 1842 - Mar 1843	
16-Apr	pages 285-299	Mar - May 1843	
23-Apr	pages 299-312	May - June 1843	D&C 131
30-Apr	pages 312-326	July - Oct 1843	
07-May		no class	
14-May	discussion topic: plural marriage under JS		D&C 132, others
21-May	pages 326-341	Oct 1843 - Mar 1844	
28-May	pages 341-355	Mar 1844	King Follett Discourse
04-Jun	pages 355-376	Mar - June 1844	
11-Jun	pages 376-395	June 1844	