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BIBHB-803

JEREMIAH

Spring 2020

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:50 a.m.

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Course Goals:

To engage the Book of Jeremiah in its full prophetic power, as well as encounter the person/persona of Jeremiah himself.

This course will offer an opportunity to struggle with and draw inspiration from this paradigmatic Hebrew prophet, whose compelling words and biography are presented in the book that bears his name.

To practice responsible exegesis together, out of our diversity, and to make connections between Jeremiah's world and our own. Students will have the chance to use their interpretive skills in order to exegete key passages and discover points of contact between the biblical text and current contexts.

To relate the Book of Jeremiah to a broader biblical panorama. We will consider the place of the Book of Jeremiah in Christian and Jewish scriptures, the book's relationship to Deuteronomy and the Deuteronomistic History, as well as the ways in which Jeremiah is both typical of and distinctive from other Old Testament prophets and their books.

Course Plan:

Our classes will run from 9:00 to 11:50 am each Wednesday, and include lecture and discussion, small group work and individual presentations. Each week we will focus on a key passage, and evaluate scholarly arguments about historical, theological, and literary aspects of the text, while exploring ways to use the book of Jeremiah as a resource for spirituality, teaching, preaching and liturgy. By the end of the course, you should be able to teach a bible study on Jeremiah and preach a sermon on a passage of your choice.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on the following:

Class participation & presentations	35%
Written assignments	30%
Exegetical paper	35%

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Assignments: Class sessions will provide the focal point for each week's learning experience, and thus it will be important for students to come armed with questions and observations about the biblical texts and secondary readings. During the course of the semester students will work in pairs to lead a discussion based on a chapter of Laha's *Interpretation Bible Study*, as well as individually present the findings of their exegesis papers (see below).

Each student will also compose several brief essays, a prophetic critique, and a lament or prayer based on a specific Jeremiah text. In addition, students will write a three-part exegetical study of a selected text from the book of Jeremiah integrating skills in literary, historical/cultural and theological analysis and relating to a contemporary issue or practice in ministry. This paper will include the following:

- a) a study of the literary form and features of the text,
- b) a study of the historical/cultural context of the text, and
- c) a summary of the theological message of the text and an appropriation of that message within a contemporary ministry context.

Each of these studies should be 3-4 pages long. The first study will be due *March 23*, the second on *April 13*, and the third on *April 27*. If you wish to improve your work, you may revise and re-submit the entire paper by *May 9*. In addition, each student will present a synopsis of his or her findings to the rest of the class.

Accommodations:

Garrett-Evangelical is committed to providing a quality theological education and will provide reasonable accommodations for documented conditions. Students requiring specific assistance such as classroom changes, alternative ways of note-taking, different classroom procedures, or alternative testing formats are urged to request the appropriate accommodations from the director of academic studies/registrar. The director of academic studies/registrar can advise students on other support services and resources, for example, diagnostic testing. Students must complete a request for accommodations using the form available from the director of academic studies/registrar or through MyGETS documenting their condition(s) through appropriate verification methods.

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Required Books:

Brueggemann, Walter. *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2014. 978-0802870728, \$11.63

Laha, Robert. *Jeremiah*. Interpretation Bible Studies. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002. 978-0664225810, \$13.00

O'Connor, Kathleen M. *Jeremiah: Pain and Promise*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011. 978-0800699307, paperback \$37.46

Sharp, Carolyn J. *Old Testament Prophets For Today*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2009. 978-0664231781, \$11.48

Stulman, Louis. *Jeremiah*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005. 978-0687057962, \$30.29

Recommended Books:

Allen, Leslie C. *Jeremiah: A Commentary*. The Old Testament Library. Louisville and London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

Brueggemann, Walter. *A Commentary on Jeremiah: Exile & Homecoming*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: William B Eerdmans, 1998.

Brueggemann, Walter, William C. Placher, and Brian K. Blount. *Struggling with Scripture*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. 978-0664224851, \$12.84

Carroll, Robert P. *Jeremiah*. 2 vols. 2nd ed. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2006.

Clements, R. E. *Jeremiah*. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1988.

Fretheim, Terence E. *Jeremiah*. Smyth and Helwys Hebrew Bible Commentary. Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2002.

Holladay, William L. *Jeremiah*. 2 vols. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986-89.

Lundbom, Jack R. *Jeremiah*. 3 vols. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday, 1999-2004.

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McKane, William. *Jeremiah*. 2 vols. International Critical Commentary. Edinburgh and New York: T & T Clark, 1986.

Miller, Patrick D. "*Jeremiah: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections*" in *The New Interpreter's Bible*. Vol. VI: 553-982. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.