

INSTRUCTORS

Lecturer & Online Instructor: J. Michael Thigpen, Ph.D.

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Technical assistance is available to online students. Please contact: onlinesupport@ps.edu

DESCRIPTION (from *Student Handbook*)

This course examines the book of Jeremiah giving attention to historical background and critical issues while focusing primarily on detailed literary and theological analysis of its content. Special emphasis is placed on understanding prophetic literature, the relationship between Jeremiah and Kings, and the similarities and contrasts with the message and ministry of Ezekiel.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to

1. recall the historical context of the book of Jeremiah
2. identify and discuss key literary and theological themes in Jeremiah
3. employ literary methods to identify the boundaries of textual units and the flow of thought within individual prophetic oracles
4. apply the course content to personal and ministry situations

COURSE TEXT(S)

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Theology of the Book of Jeremiah*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Chalmers, Aaron. *Interpreting the Prophets: Reading, Understanding and Preaching from the Worlds of the Prophets*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015.

DeRouchie, Jason S. *How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament: Twelve Steps from Exegesis to Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R: 2017.

Gentry, Peter J. *How to Read and Understand the Biblical Prophets*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017.

Huey, Jr., F. B. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. NAC 16. Nashville, TN: B&H, 1993.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING (SEE COURSE WEB PAGE):

Boda, Mark J. "From Complaint to Contrition: Peering through the Liturgical Window of Jer 14,1-15,4." *ZAW* 113.2 (2001): 186-97.

Brueggemann, Walter. "Jeremiah's Use of Rhetorical Questions." *JBL* 92.3 (1973): 358-74.

Chisholm, Jr., Robert B. "When Prophecy Appears to Fail, Check Your Hermeneutic." *JETS* 53.3 (2010): 561-77.

Hildebrandt, Samuel. "'Woe Is Me!': The Book of Jeremiah and the Language of Despair." *JBL* 139.3 (2020): 479-97.

House, Paul R. "Investing in the Ruins: Jeremiah and Theological Vocation." *JETS* 56.1 (2013): 5-15.

Scalise, Pamela J. "Justice and Judgment in the Book of Jeremiah: Discerning the Boundaries of God's Wrath." *ExAud* 20 (2004): 89-105.

Smothers, Thomas G. "A Lawsuit against the Nations: Reflections on the Oracles against the Nations in Jeremiah." *Review & Expositor* 85 (1988): 545–54.

Thigpen, J. Michael. "The Storm of YHWH: Jeremiah's Theology of God's Heart and Motives." *BSac* 176 (2019): 418–28.

_____. "Attending to Prophetic Rhetoric: Genre and Inerrancy in the Prophets." *Presb* 46/1 (2020): 36–52.

Tiemeyer, Lena-Sofia. "God's Hidden Compassion." *TynBul* 57.2 (2006): 191–213.

Yates, Gary E. "Narrative Parallelism and the "Jehoiakim Frame": A Reading Strategy for Jeremiah 26-45." *JETS* 48.2 (2005): 263–81.

_____. "Jeremiah's Message of Judgment and Hope for God's Unfaithful "Wife"." *BSac* 167 (2010): 144–65.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<p>Reading Discussions and Engagement [25%] Due: See Course Web Page</p>	<p>Using VoiceThread (video) and Hypothesis (PDF markup) tools students will engage and discuss many of the required course readings. These discussions will provide opportunity to ask questions about the readings, engage the theological perspectives presented in the literature, and discuss the meaning and significance of Jeremiah. <i>Specific instructions for each week's assignment will be given online.</i></p>
<p>Theological Explorations in Jeremiah [35%] Due: See Course Web Page</p>	<p>These five short papers are designed to help you engage key aspects of the theology of Jeremiah. Each paper should be 750–1,000 words (3–5 pages double-spaced), formatted according to the <i>SBL Handbook of Style</i>, with footnotes. (Word count excludes title page and footnotes.) Although these are not primarily research papers, high-quality sources such as dictionaries, commentaries, journal articles, etc. should be consulted and referenced in the paper. Exploring each theme includes your observations of the texts and your observation the valuable input from basic secondary literature on each theme/passage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>The Call of Jeremiah</i> - For this exploration, you will compare and contrast the call of Jeremiah with the call of Isaiah. In particular you should explore 1) the means of the call 2) the response to the call and the 3) the content of the call. b. <i>Vine, Fruit, and Harvest Imagery in Jeremiah</i> - For this exploration, you perform a concept study of the Hebrew words זָרַע "sow," זֶרַע "seed," פְּרִי "fruit," and גֶּפֶן "vine". (See DeRouchie, <i>How to Understand</i>, 269–296 on concept studies.) For this project you will need to: 1) list all occurrences of these terms in Jeremiah 2) Categorize the uses of these agricultural images in Jeremiah 3) summarize the key themes associated with these agricultural images in Jeremiah c. <i>Lamentation in Jeremiah</i> - For this exploration you will work with the following texts: Jer 4:19–21; 5:3–5; 8:18–9:1 11:18–23; 15:10–21; 17:14–18; 18:18–23; and 20:7–18. Within these texts you will engage the following four questions: 1) What is the nature of the tension between despair and joy in Jeremiah's ministry? 2) What is the nature of Jeremiah's

	<p>complaints to God? 3) How would you characterize Jeremiah’s petitions to God? 4) How does God respond to Jeremiah’s complaints and petitions?</p> <p>d. <i>The Branch in Prophetic Literature</i> - For this exploration you will perform a word study on the Hebrew term נֶחֱמָץ “branch” as found in Jer 23:5 and 33:15. For this project you will need to 1) list all occurrences of the term in Jeremiah 2) Categorize the uses of the term in Jeremiah 3) explore uses of the term in the rest of the prophetic literature and 4) summarize the meaning and significance of the use of the term in Jer 23:5 and 33:15.</p> <p>e. <i>The Oracles against the Nations in Jeremiah</i> - For this exploration you will seek to answer the question: what are the primary literary and theological functions of the oracles against the nations in Jeremiah?</p>
<p>Scripture Memorization & Reflection [10%] Due: Lesson 13 per Course Web Page</p>	<p>For this assignment you will 1) memorize Jer 32:36–40 (ESV) 2) submit a video recording of yourself reciting this passage from memory and 3) write a brief reflection paper (250–500 words, 1–2 pages double-spaced) on the meaning of the text and its relevance for your life and ministry.</p>
<p>Research Paper [30%] Due: Finals Week, See Course Web Page</p>	<p>SUMMARY: This project is a 3,500–4,500 word (15–18 pages double-spaced) research paper on the theme of the heart in Jeremiah. At its core this is a lexical/concept study of the heart in Jeremiah. As a part of this study you should 1) identify and categorize all of the occurrences of the word/concept of the heart in Jeremiah 2) explore lexical and theological resources for the use of this concept in the Old Testament and 3) trace the use of the concept in Jeremiah especially focusing on the distinctions and intersections between the use of the concept with regard to the people and with regard to YHWH.</p> <p>FORMATTING: This paper should be formatted according to the SBL Handbook of Style. The word count is exclusive of title page, footnotes, and works cited.</p> <p>SOURCES: The research should reflect a use of a wide array of sources including encyclopedias/dictionaries, commentaries, journal articles, and monographs. Web sources such as blogs, sermons, Wikipedia, etc. should not be used. Although there is no strict minimum, for a paper of this size a reasonable number of sources would be 10–15. Above all, the sources used should be high quality and over-reliance on a limited number of resources should be avoided.</p> <p>GUIDE: See the guide posted on the course page for additional information.</p>

GRADING INFORMATION

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Points	Description
A+	100-97	4.0	
A	96.99-93	4.0	Excellent; superior achievement.
A-	92.99-90	3.7	
B+	89.99-87	3.3	
B	86.99-83	3.0	Good; commendable achievement.
B-	82.99-80	2.7	
C+	79.99-77	2.3	
C	76.99-73	2.0	Satisfactory; acceptable achievement.
C-	72.99-70	1.7	
D+	69.99-67	1.3	
D	66.99-63	1.0	Poor; marginal achievement.
D-	62.99-60	0.7	
F	59.99-0	0.0	Failure to advance in the course. No credit earned. Computed in GPA.
S	N/A	N/A	Sufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
U	N/A	N/A	Insufficient achievement of course objectives. Not computed in GPA.
EX	N/A	N/A	Extension. A formally approved petition for course extension.
NR	N/A	N/A	Not Received. Instructor has not yet submitted grade.
WP	N/A	N/A	Withdrew from class while passing. Not computed in GPA.
WF	N/A	0.0	Withdrew from class while failing. Computed in GPA until retake.

SEMINARY ACADEMIC POLICIES

All Seminary policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Academic Catalog or Student Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

Course Evaluations

Each student is required to complete an anonymous course evaluation on this course's page at <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Course evaluations will be open the last week of the class until one day before grade reports are issued. All course evaluation results are reported anonymously: professors have no way of linking a particular student to a particular evaluation. This

anonymous information will be processed and distributed to professors in summary form and used to strengthen their teaching methods and courses.

COURSE DETAILS

Assignment Policies

Since dependability and industry are virtues of Christian character, the faculty encourages students to be faithful and timely in the completion of all course assignments. Due to the interactive nature of discussion posts in online education, discussion posts cannot be made up. Failure to submit papers when they are due will result in a penalty and generally cannot be made up more than one week from their due date. Contact the instructor in cases of emergency that may warrant an extension. Please note, that procrastination is not an emergency.

Online Course Materials

Lectures, handouts and other course materials will be posted to <http://ps.mrooms.net>. Please note that when the course is completed, the student will not have access to course material on the website.

Participation

Students are expected to actively participate in the online learning environment. This may include logging on multiple times per week to view material, complete quizzes or exams, and to post responses to discussion questions.

Online Course Weeks

An online course “Week” corresponds to a 7-day week and runs **Monday – Sunday**. The course is based on Phoenix, Arizona Time. If you are in a different time zone, you are responsible for calculating the time difference and scheduling appropriately. There may be exceptions so pay close attention to the course web page for specifics.