



Old Testament Exegesis of Jeremiah and Lamentations
OTEN5322: Spring 2022 Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:50am
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Biblical Studies Division
(NOLA2U Flex)

Instructors:
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Grader:
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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is a thorough study of selected texts, through verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis, comparison of various English versions, consideration of pertinent historical and cultural issues, along with consultation of comprehensive commentaries. The course will emphasize proper methods for discovering the meaning of a text and applying it in teaching and preaching. Students may repeat this course if the individual biblical books or collections being studied are not duplicated. Prerequisites: OTEN5300 Exploring the Old Testament; BSHM5310 Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics.

Student Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Identify the introductory matters and key exegetical issues concerning the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations.
2. Understand the historical background of the books as it pertains to its function in ancient Israel.
3. Identify and explain important theological themes in Jeremiah and Lamentations.
4. Begin to understand the intertextual connections between Jeremiah and Lamentations and the New Testament.
5. Analyze and apply exegetical skills to selected passages in both books.

Textbooks

1. Any modern English translation of the Bible.
2. Carly L. Crouch, *An Introduction to the Study of Jeremiah*, T&T Clark Approaches to Biblical Studies, London: T & T Clark, 2017. ISBN: 978-0567665720.
3. John Goldingay, *The Theology of Jeremiah*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-0830855278.
4. John Goldingay. *The Book of Jeremiah*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2021. ISBN: 978-0802875846.

Course Requirements

Reading, Attendance, and Participation

Reading is an integral part of the course objectives, providing important background material to the lectures. Students are required to complete the assigned reading for each class meeting. Students are expected to engage the material in class.

Jeremiah Exam

Given the nature of this course, students are expected to the book of Jeremiah in its entirety. The exam will be administered through Blackboard and must be completed by the end of the second week of class. Students are encouraged to take notes while reading the book. Special attention should be given to significant events, key figures, themes, and the chapters. The exam is open Bible and open notes. Students should not take the exam until s/he has read the book. The exams will be based off the ESV translation.

Critical Book Review

Students will read and write a critical book review on *The Theology of Jeremiah*. The critique should be roughly 80% summary of the book's contents and 20% critique of various arguments presented in the book. The thesis and basic tenets of the author must be provided in the summary. Evaluation of each author's work is also expected. The critical book review should be written according to Turabian 8th edition, in **Times New Roman 12 pt. font** with one inch margins. The critical book review should be a minimum of 6 full pages double spaced in length.

Exegetical Paper

Students will write an exegetical paper on either Jeremiah 7:1–15 OR Jeremiah 31:31–34. The exegetical paper should focus on the historical and literary context of the pericope. Significant exegetical comments should be provided for important verses. This paper is NOT a verse-by-verse paper, but rather a paper focused on communicating the major points. The exegetical paper should be written according to Turabian 8th edition, in **Times New Roman 12 pt. font** with one inch margins. The exegetical paper should be a minimum of 8 full pages double spaced in length. A minimum of 8 sources must be used.

Research Paper

Each student will write a major research paper on one of the selected topic below that deals with the book of Jeremiah or Lamentations. The majority of the paper should reflect thorough research from journals, commentaries, and proven monographs in the field. Each paper should have clear thesis and purpose statements. Students must write the major paper in accordance to Turabian 8th edition. Additionally, the student must use **Times New Roman 12 pt. font** and a minimum of **12 sources**, three of which must be from journals and/or dictionaries. The paper should be a minimum of 20 pages double-spaced (not including front matter and back matter). Papers that do not meet the page minimum will be penalized one letter grade per page short. No late papers will be accepted. The use of **Study Bibles, Wikipedia, any non-approved internet sources**, and *Matthew Henry's Commentary* is prohibited.

Research Topics:

The Hebrew and Greek Text of Jeremiah
Josiah's Reforms and the book of Jeremiah
Deuteronomistic Influence on Jeremiah
Jeremiah's Prophetic Call in Light of the Calls of Isaiah and Ezekiel
The Compositional Theories concerning the book of Jeremiah
The Structure of Lamentations
The Relationship between Lamentations and the Fall of Jerusalem

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See “Absences” category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [assignment by professor] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Evaluation of Grade

Preparation, textbook readings, and participation:	10%
Jeremiah Exam	10%
Book Critique	20%
Exegetical Paper	20%
Research Paper	40%

Resources

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Help with Writing

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Policy

Attendance: See current Graduate catalog.

Completion of all assignments: Students are expected to complete and submit all assignments during the semester in order to receive a passing grade for this course.

Make-Up & Extra Credit: Failure to submit any major assignment (worksheets) will result in failure of the course. Even if late work is allowed, there could be as much as a letter grade drop per day. Notifying the professor and grader of accidents, illness, or church/family-related- unavoidable delays can lessen this penalty or allow us to grant some measure of grace.

Citizenship/Conduct: Class participation (or lack thereof) directly affects the final grade for this course. Thus, proper behavior and attire are expected at all times in the classroom. Open food and drinks are not permitted, though bottled drinks are (so long as capped). Should the professor be delayed, students are requested to wait fifteen minutes before leaving. Class is then dismissed unless otherwise directed. For questions concerning these policies, please visit me at HSC 210.

Library: Students should be conscientious of other classmates when researching for the worksheets. In the event of classes moving to a BlueJeans virtual classroom, we will discuss an alternative research approach for the third worksheet.

Cell Phones: Conversations & texting are not allowed during class time. My policy is for phones to be on vibrate (but not answered) or off. Playing, surfing, answering calls, or texting can result in expulsion (with absence) from that class day. Repeated offenses can lead to permanent expulsion from class. Please be conscientious of others and turn off all cell phones. This behavior impacts attendance and participation grades.

Computers: The use of computers in the classroom is a privilege. Computers should be used to take notes or gain access to pertinent material for lectures. When caught using technology for surfing Social Media, news, games, email, etc. may result in reprimand, expulsion for the day (thus counted as an absence), loss of privilege for using technology for the remainder of the semester, or even dismissal from the class (for belligerent, repeated offenders).

Plagiarism: Students are given the task of writing reports & answering worksheet questions in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the result of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students & a grade of "F" will be assigned. Self-plagiarism (reuse of assignments submitted in other courses) is not acceptable.

Bibliography

Old Testament Introductions

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- Birch, Bruce C., et al. *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.
- Childs, Brevard S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
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- Hess, R. S. *The Old Testament: A Historical, Critical, and Theological Introduction*. Baker, 2016.
- Walton, John. *Old Testament Today*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Specialized Introductions

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- Chisholm, Robert B. *Interpreting the Minor Prophets*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.
- _____. *Handbook on the Prophets*. Dallas: Baker, 2002.
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- Crenshaw, James L. *Prophets, Sages, and Poets*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2006.
- Hutton, Rodney R. *Fortress Introduction to the Prophets*. Philadelphia: Augsburg Fortress, 2004.
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- Sweeney, Marvin A. *Prophetic Literature*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. New York: Abington, 2005.

Jeremianic Studies

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- Hays, J. Daniel. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. Teach the Text Commentary Series. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016.
- Holladay, William L. *Jeremiah*. 2 vols. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1989.
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- O'Connor, Kathleen M. *Jeremiah: Pain and Promise*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011.
- Perdue, Leo G. and Kovacs, Brian W., eds. *A Prophet to the Nations: Essays in Jeremiah Studies*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1984.
- Sharp, Carolyn J. *Jeremiah 26–52*. International Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament. Berlin: Kohlhammer, 2021.
- Thompson, John A. *The Book of Jeremiah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980.