



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

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## OTL632 – Jeremiah, Module - MVNU Campus Fall 2010

### **Essential Information**

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at [http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential\\_Information](http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information). Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS bookstore procedures
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *A Handbook for Inclusive Language*

### **Instructor Information**

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### **Catalog Description**

A study of the historical period, the character, and the message of Jeremiah, with special attention to the nature and concerns of the prophetic movement in ancient Israel and Judah.

### **Course Narrative & Rationale**

The faculty of NTS view the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. This conviction is the guiding principle of the study of the Book of Jeremiah, part of the Bible curriculum at Nazarene Theological Seminary.

The book of Jeremiah, the longest prophetic book in the Old Testament, occupies a prominent place in the Bible. This book conveys to us God's word to the people of Judah and the surrounding nations during the critical days of Judah's history in the late seventh and early sixth centuries B.C. The book is pivotal in that it not only informs us of the deteriorating political, religious, and social conditions of Judah but it also portrays Jeremiah, though a person of intense conflict and dispute in the land, as a prophet of tremendous courage and hope, who saw in the historical processes the overwhelming display of the sovereignty of God. His message focused on the sins of the people of Judah, God's judgment, the necessity of repentance, and God's plan to restore and re-establish his relationship with his people. Though Judah rejected God's message and his messenger, Jeremiah continued his ministry even to the last hour of Judah's political existence. With stunning imagination, he also conveys in the book his overwhelming grief and agony over a people who have

stubbornly chosen for themselves the path of self-destruction. The book also portrays Jeremiah as a prophet of intense hope, who with passion and eloquence, communicated to Judah God's gracious plans for its restoration and resettlement in the land after its death and exile in a foreign land. The book paints the corrupting and pervasive nature of human sin and its destructive consequences; it also remains as a powerful testimony to God's faithfulness and graciousness, the only hope for sinners under judgment, both then and now.

## **Course Outcomes**

*Faithful adherence to all the requirements of this course will enable to student to: (CAR - Course Assignments and Requirements; see syllabus section VII, pages 3-4)*

1. Describe the historical, political, religious, cultural, and geographical setting of the book of Jeremiah (CAR - A2; CAR - B1)
2. Summarize the literary structure and content of the book of Jeremiah (CAR - A1,2; CAR -B1)
3. Discuss the major theological themes of Jeremiah's prophecy (CAR - A2; CAR- B1; CAR -C1; CAR- C2)
4. Describe and evaluate the phenomenon of prophecy in ancient Israel and its continuing importance today (CAR - A2; CAR- B1)
5. Describe the importance of the book of Jeremiah to our understanding of the biblical canonical process (CAR -A2; CAR - B1)
6. Describe Jeremiah as a model of courageous and faithful preaching (CAR - A2; CAR-B1)
7. Do appropriate and adequate exegesis of the text of Jeremiah for personal study, and for teaching and preaching in various settings (CAR - A3; CAR- B2; CAR - C3)

## **Required Texts & Course Materials**

1. Brueggemann, Walter. *The Theology of the Book of Jeremiah*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
2. Varughese, Alex. *Jeremiah 1-25. NBBC*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2008.
3. Varughese, Alex and Modine, Mitchel. *Jeremiah 26-52. NBBC*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2010.

## **Recommended Texts & Course Materials**

Brueggemann, Walter. *A Commentary on Jeremiah: Exile and Homecoming*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. (an excellent sociological and literary analysis of the book of Jeremiah)

## **Course Outline**

1. Overview of prophecy in Ancient Israel
2. Seventh and Sixth century B.C. history of Israel
3. Introduction to the book of Jeremiah - structure and content
4. Major theological themes of Jeremiah's prophecy
5. Exegetical analysis of selected texts

## **Course Assignments & Requirements (abbreviated CAR)**

### **A. Pre-Module Assignments to be completed between July 5 and August 15, 2010**

1. **Read thoroughly the book of Jeremiah.** Use a standard translation of your choice. Familiarize with the structure and organization of the content of the book.

- (Addresses Course Outcome 2)
2. **Read carefully the commentaries** (Jeremiah 1-25 and Jeremiah 26-52).  
(Addresses Course Outcomes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)
  3. **20 Short Reflection Assignments.** As you read through the book of Jeremiah and the *NBBC* volumes, select 20 passages for short reflection notes. Each reflection note should include the following:
    - a. Chapter, verses, identification of the text
    - b. Brief summary of the religious, cultural, social, political world that is portrayed in the text (60-70 words)
    - c. Brief summary of what God is saying to the people of Judah through Jeremiah in each text (60-70 words)(Addresses Course Outcome 7)

**Important Due dates:** Ten of these short reflection assignments are due on July 30, 2010. The rest is due on August 16, 2010.

4. Submit a report stating that you have completed the reading of the book of Jeremiah and the commentaries (due on August 16, 2010).  
(Addresses Course Outcomes listed above for A1 and A2))

#### **B. During the Module (August 16-20)**

1. Attend and participate in the discussion in all class sessions. Students are required to read again the book of Jeremiah (see the schedule and calendar below for chapter, verse assignment)  
(Addresses Course Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
2. Participate in the community learning experience. You will be assigned to a group (2-3 students in a group) and each group will be given specific texts for further study and reflection on August 16, 17, 18, and 19. Each group should submit on the following day a report on the texts assigned for the dates listed above (length for each report: 250 words).  
(Addresses Course Outcome 7)

*This community learning experience should focus on three key questions:*

- a. What are the dominant political, religious, and social ideologies which the text is attempting to confront?
- b. What is the alternative construction of reality that the readers find in this text (the world that the text imagines for its readers as the alternative to their present existence)?
- c. How does this text interpret for us (its modern readers) the world in which we live, and what is the challenge/invitation of the text to us today?

#### **C. Post-Module Assignments (August 21- Oct 8, 2010)**

1. Read Brueggemann's *The Theology of the Book of Jeremiah*.  
(Addresses Course Outcome 3)

2. Write a critical evaluation of Brueggemann's Theology of Jeremiah. This evaluation should include the following:
  - a. Discussion of Brueggemann's basic approach to the study of the book and his understanding of the prophetic figure of Jeremiah (250 words)
  - b. Chapter by chapter summary of the book (1000 words)
  - c. Strengths and weakness of the book (250 words)(Addresses Course Outcome 3)

**This assignment is due on September 10, 2010**

3. **An Exegetical Study of a text chosen by the student.** Choose a text that is 5-8 verses long. The study should include the following:
  - a. A section that deals with the political, social, religious, and cultural setting of the text
  - b. A section that discusses the genre, literary setting, literary structure and analysis of verses, with attention given to the meaning of words and phrases
  - c. A section that deals with the critical theological claims of the text (the text's construction of reality against the dominant ideologies that the text seeks to confront and challenge). This section also should deal with the way the helps us to interpret the world in which we live and its challenge/invitation to us today.

Throughout this exegetical study, the student should attempt to place the text within the context of the canon as a whole (thus interacting with other relevant biblical texts; section c of this study should particularly seek to link the text with the claims of the New Testament canon).

(Addresses Course Outcome 7)

**This study should utilize at least four recent commentaries on Jeremiah, in addition to the NBBC volumes.**

**Suggested commentaries:**

Brueggemann, W.B. *A Commentary on Jeremiah: Exile and Homecoming*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Craigie, P.C., Kelley, P.H., Drinkard, J.F. *Jeremiah 1-25*. WBC 26. Nashville: Nelson, 1991.

Fretheim, T. *Jeremiah*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2002.

Holladay, W. *Jeremiah 1. Hermeneia*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986.

Holladay, W. *Jeremiah 2. Hermeneia*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1989.

Keown, G.L., Scalise, P.J., Smothers, T.G. *Jeremiah 26-52*. WBC 27. Nashville: Nelson, 1995.

Miller, P. D. *The Book of Jeremiah*. NIB Vol VI. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

Thompson, J.A. *The Book of Jeremiah*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

**Total Expected Length - 2000 words**

**This assignment is due on October 8, 2010**

## Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	Pre-module Hours	Module Hours	Post-Module Hours	Total
Face to Face Class sessions		32		32
Reading the book of Jeremiah	13			13
Reading the NBBC volumes	32			32
Reading The Theology of Jeremiah			10	10
20 Short Reflection Assignments	20			20
Community Learning Experience		12		12
Evaluation of WB's Theology of Jeremiah			6	6
Exegetical Study			16	16
Total	65	44	32	141

## Method for Submitting Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted electronically using the appropriate assignment tab on the NTS Moodle site for this course.

## Form and Style Expectations

Students are required to cite the sources quoted, or summarized or used in any of the assignments for this course.

Students may use the citations in text style, using the author-date-page format (example: Varughese 2010, 110).

The exegetical study should also have a bibliography page.

## Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

## Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Since this course is being taught as an intensive one week course, students are required to be in every class session.

**Absence in any of the sessions will automatically disqualify a student from receiving the grade of "A" for this course.**

**Absence in 2-4 class sessions will result in the reduction of one letter grade.**

**Absence in five or more class sessions will automatically result in the grade of "F" for the course.**

### Penalty for Late work:

1-5 days late - reduction of 10% of the grade/score assigned for the late work

6-10 days late - reduction of 20% of the grade/score assigned for the late work

**No grade for the late work submitted after 10 days.**

## Additional Costs

There are no additional costs for this course beyond NTS tuition, fees, and textbook costs. Students are responsible for their own housing and meals to, during, and from the module.

## Course Grading

Reading of the book of Jeremiah and the NBBC volumes	100 points
20 Short Reflection Assignments (5 points each)	100 points
Community Learning Experience (25 points each)	100 points
Reading and Evaluation of Brueggemann's <i>Theology of Jeremiah</i>	100 points
Exegetical Study	100 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 points</b>

## Grading scale

450 points or above - A; 400-449 points - B; 350-399 points - C; 300-349 points - D

Below 300 points - F

**Disability Statement:** In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

## Course Schedule and Calendar

**July 5-August 15, 2010** - Read the Book of Jeremiah and Jeremiah NBBC volumes

**July 30, 2010**                      **10 short reflections due**

**August 16, 2010**                      **10 short reflections due - Class sessions start**

1:00 - 2:00 PM                      Course Introduction; Overview of Prophecy in Ancient Israel

2:00-3:00 PM                      Seventh and Sixth Century B.C. history of Judah

3:00-3:15 PM                      Break

3:15-4:15 PM                      Introduction to the Book of Jeremiah; Literary Structure and Content;  
theological themes

4:15-5:30 PM                      Exegetical overview of 1:1-19

**August 17**

8:00-9:00 AM                      Jeremiah 2:1-37

9:00-10:00 AM                      Jeremiah 3:1-4:4

10:00-10:15 AM                      Break

10:15-11:15 AM                      Jeremiah 4:5-5:31

11:15-12:15 PM	Jeremiah 6:1-30
12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15-2:15 PM	Jeremiah 7:1-8:3
2:15-3:15 PM	Jeremiah 8:4-9:26
3:15-3:30 PM	Break
3:30-4:30 PM	Jeremiah 10:1-25
4:30-5:30 PM	Jeremiah 11:1-12:17

### August 18

8:00-9:00 AM	Jeremiah 13:1-27
9:00-10:00 AM	Jeremiah 14:1-15:21
10:00-10:15 AM	Break
10:15-11:15 AM	Jeremiah 16:1-21
11:15-12:15 PM	Jeremiah 17:1-27
12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15-2:15 PM	Jeremiah 18:1-23
2:15-3:15 PM	Jeremiah 19:1-20:18
3:15-3:30 PM	Break
3:30-4:30 PM	Jeremiah 21:1-22:30
4:30-5:30 PM	Jeremiah 23:1-24:10

### August 19

8:00-9:00 AM	Jeremiah 25:1-38
9:00-10:00 AM	Jeremiah 26:1-24
10:00-10:15 AM	Break
10:15-11:15 AM	Jeremiah 27:1-28:17
11:15-12:15 PM	Jeremiah 29:1-32
12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15-2:15 PM	Jeremiah 30:1-24
2:15-3:15 PM	Jeremiah 31:1-40
3:15-3:30 PM	Break
3:30-4:30 PM	Jeremiah 32:1-44
4:30-5:30 PM	Jeremiah 33:1-34:22

### August 20

8:00-9:00 AM	Jeremiah 35:1-36:32
9:00-10:00 AM	Jeremiah 37:1-39:18
10:00-10:15 AM	Break
10:15-11:15 AM	Jeremiah 40:1-45:5

11:15-12:15 PM      Jeremiah 46:1-52:34

**August 17-October 8, 2010 - Post-Module**

August 23-27 - Reading and Research Week

September 10 - Critical evaluation of Brueggemann's Theology of the Book of Jeremiah Due

October 8 - Exegetical Study Due

***Bibliography***

In addition to the sources listed above (see section VII), the following works are extremely significant for the study of Jeremiah (For a more detailed list see *Jeremiah 1-25* and *Jeremiah 26-52* in the NBBC series).

Brueggemann, Walter. 1998. *A Commentary on Jeremiah: Exile and Homecoming*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Clements, R. E. 1988. *Jeremiah: Interpretation*. Atlanta: John Knox Press.

Lundbom, Jack. 1999. *Jeremiah 1-20: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2004. *Jeremiah 21-36. A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2004. *Jeremiah 37-52. A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. Anchor Bible. New York: Doubleday.

Stulman, Louis. 2005. *Jeremiah*. Abingdon O.T. Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon.