

I. 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.

II. COURSE RATIONALE

The faculty of NTS view the Bible as foundational, informing all the life of the church. We believe this view accords with historic Christianity, as well as with the direction of God found in the Bible itself.

The classical prophetic book of Jeremiah is crucial to our understanding of the full-orbed revelation of God to this world. Jeremiah lived in the period of Judah's self-destruction, the late seventh and early sixth centuries B.C. Jeremiah's message, and his personal experience epitomized in the epithet "the weeping prophet," speak to the deepest wounds, and to the most stubborn rebellion, of the human condition.

The book of Jeremiah shows us the seriousness with which God views sin. It also demonstrates the depth of God's faithfulness, even when God's people are not faithful, and the firmness of God's redemptive purposes toward Israel--ultimately toward the whole world. Though a portrait painted in the somberest of shades, in the end Jeremiah is a book of profound hope and optimism. Our rebellious and cynical age needs Jeremiah's message as desperately as did his own.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe and set forth the importance of the geographical settings of the book of Jeremiah.
2. Describe and discuss the major elements of the cultural settings of the book of Jeremiah, including the religious/political/economic climate of Jeremiah's Judah, and of Judah's neighbors.
3. Summarize the content of the book of Jeremiah.
4. Discuss the major themes of Jeremiah's prophecy.
5. Describe and evaluate the phenomenon of ancient Israel's prophetic movement, and its continuing importance today.
6. Discuss the importance of the book of Jeremiah to our understanding of the biblical canonical process.
7. Do appropriate, adequate exegesis in the book of Jeremiah for personal study, and for preparation of sermons, teaching sessions, and other public presentations.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Coleson, Joseph, ed. *Passion, Power, and Purpose*. Indianapolis: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2006.
2. Thompson, J.A. *Jeremiah*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publ. Co., 1980.

V. STUDENT EVALUATION

Before the Module:

To be considered for a grade of “A” in the course, you will read Thompson’s commentary and the Introduction and Chapter 1 of *Passion, Power, and Purpose* by class time, January 23.

During the Module:

To be considered for a grade of “A” in the course, you will attend all class sessions. “Extenuating” circumstances for absence or tardiness will be evaluated case-by-case.

Daily work will be assigned partly according to a schedule to be distributed near the beginning of the first class session, and partly according to decisions made by the class during the module.

After the Module:

Post-module work will be designed and agreed upon between professor and students during the second week of the module.

Note:

The professor believes adult learning is well-served through collaboration between professor and students in the design of written and other course requirements. While reading Thompson’s commentary before the module begins, you should note ideas for in-module and post-module course assignments that will serve you in your ministry setting(s).

VI. SCHEDULE OF IN-CLASS STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

January 23 – Syllabus; Introduction to Jeremiah, his place and times; Jeremiah 1-3

P, P, & P: Introduction & Chapter 1

January 24 – Jeremiah 4-10

P, P & P: Chapters 2 & 3

January 25 – Jeremiah 11-16

P, P, & P: Chapters 4 & 5

January 26 – Jeremiah 17-22

P, P, & P: Chapters 6 & 7

January 29 – Jeremiah 23-28

P, P, & P: Chapter 8

January 30 – Jeremiah 29-34

P, P, & P: Chapters 9 & 10

January 31 – Jeremiah 35-39

P, P, & P: Chapters 11 & 12

February 1 – Jeremiah 40-45

Discussion and decision(s) on post-module course work

February 2 – Jeremiah 46-52