

OT605E – PROPHETS BOOK STUDY, JEREMIAH
NOVEMBER 12-DECEMBER 17
11/12, 11/19, 11/23 (Saturday – off site), 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17
FALL 2019

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**Missio Seminary exists to produce missional Christian leaders-
men and women who incarnate the story of Jesus with humility and authenticity and who
communicate the story with fidelity to Scripture, appreciation of the Christian tradition,
and sensitivity to the needs and aspirations of postmodern culture.**

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The prophetic books are among the least understood, and possibly most ignored, portions of Scripture. Why? For one, as presented in these books the prophets themselves are enigmatic figures. They speak often in cloudy terms, using all sorts of images and metaphors – some of which we aren't real comfortable with. They do all sorts of strange things (see Isa 20:3, Jer 27:2, Ezk 4:12). Sure, we enjoy the prophets at Christmas and Easter, but what do we do with the prophets when reading them in June and July? This course will begin to provide interpretive grids through which to engage the prophetic books with the ultimate goal of placing these books within the *missio Dei*. Rather than attempting to cover all the prophetic books – which would take a lifetime! – we will use the book of Jeremiah as our particular book for this course. Building on a close reading of portions of Jeremiah, we will talk about the *prophets* as imaginative communicators, the *prophetic books* as rich and complex literature, prophetic *theology* as generative of missional living, and prophetic trajectories as fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

For the past several years I have had the privilege of doing research in the prophetic literature and teaching this corpus from the Scripture. I can honestly say that I am a different person now than when I began reading the prophets with some intensity more than 15 years ago. I began my intense study of the prophets due to curiosity, and remained due to conviction! My own sense of mission in God's world has been expanded dramatically through this engagement. The prophets pursue the heart, engage the imagination, motivate mission and combat a neo-Platonic bifurcation between theology and life, thought and action. Understood through the lens of redemptive history, the prophets engage the *whole* interpreter in the *whole* mission of God. I am particularly excited this

term to read the book of Jeremiah with you and reflect on application in your particular ministry context.

-- Mike Kelly

SYLLABUS

This syllabus provides an overview of the course and course requirements. Students are responsible to know the content of the syllabus and follow the course schedule. Questions about the syllabus or schedule should be emailed to the professor promptly and will generally be answered in an email to the entire class so that everyone is informed.

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the term and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as course needs arise.

PROGRAM GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

PROGRAM GOALS	COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students will cultivate grace-based missional lives increasingly characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, and love for God and others.	To grow in wisdom and obedience to Jesus Christ in conforming – (re)aligning – <i>our</i> stories to <i>his</i> story in the gospel as revealed in the prophetic literature in general, and Jeremiah in particular.
Students will cultivate knowledge of the Bible and ability to humbly interpret and apply it in light of history, culture and genre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To review hermeneutical issues relating to reading the Bible so as to engage in the <i>missio Dei</i>, and to grow in our ability to understand the prophetic literature through a <i>missional hermeneutic</i>. - To develop skills in understanding, interpreting and applying the prophetic literature. - To engage in a close reading of portions of the book of Jeremiah, as a text through which to engage the other objectives specifically. This will involve coming to an appreciation of the literary forms and theological emphases of the book, as well as a growing appreciation for a Christotelic interpretation of the book.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND HOMEWORK HOURS

ASSIGNMENT OR ASSESSMENT	RELATED OBJECTIVES	PERCENT OF GRADE	ESTIMATED TIME IN HOURS
1. Attendance and participation in weekly “missional reflections” in class	1, 2, 4	20	10

2. Critical Reflection Papers, including reading (primary and secondary)	1, 2, 3, 4	40	50
3. Final Project	2, 3, 4	40	20

*Homework is work outside of “instructional hours” (including “classroom equivalent” instructional hours outside of class, below). Assessments are the means by which mastery of content and/or growth in skill, ability, or formation is measured.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY IN ADDITION TO CLASS SESSIONS*			
Classroom Hours			23.25 hrs for a Tuesday night class
Online Discussion Forum			9
Online Lectures			2.5
Total			11.5
*These required assignments involve instruction comparable to what occurs in the classroom (lectures, presentations, and instructor-led activities such as discussions, debates, and collaborative work. They should be completed on the due dates listed in this syllabus.			
Note: All assignments must be submitted by the due date listed in the syllabus and no later than the final due date for the course listed in this syllabus by permission of the instructor. After the final due date, faculty cannot grant students permission to submit late work. See “Completion of Course Work” below.			

REQUIRED READING AND MATERIALS

NOTE: Hyperlinks to Amazon.com are placed here for your convenience. Please be aware that there may be other websites (by publishers or by other ebook publishers) that may sell the same item for cheaper prices. Please shop around! In addition, some sites offer ebook rental prices for a limited number of weeks. These may also be cost effective. Just be sure to buy the right edition and recognize some of the smaller sellers may not deliver books in a timely fashion.

Berrigan, Daniel (1999). *Jeremiah: The World, the Wound of God*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress. [Here](#).

Brueggemann, Walter (2001). *The Prophetic Imagination*; 2nd ed. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress. [Here](#).

Dempsey, Carol (2007). *Jeremiah: Preacher of Grace, Poet of Truth*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press. [Here](#).

Marshall, Chris (2005). *The Little Book of Biblical Justice*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books. [Here](#).

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

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

Goldingay, John (2002). *God’s Prophet, God’s Servant: A Study in Jeremiah and Isaiah 40-55*; rev ed. Toronto: Clements Publishing.

McConville, Gordon (1993). *Judgment and Promise: An Interpretation of the Book of Jeremiah*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns.

COURSE PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy and Grades

It is important to arrive on time and be actively engaged in every minute (literally, every minute) of class time. Class time is valuable – to you, to your classmates, and to the professor. Class time is thoughtfully prepared by the professor and crafted with intricacy for maximum learning effectiveness.

Students are also expected to login to the E-campus course site regularly and participate in the course activities in a timely manner. If you know you are going to be absent from the course site for more than three or four days, please notify the instructor and group members (if applicable) in advance. Nevertheless, recognize that your grade may be lowered for tardiness or absences at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance in this course constitutes both 1) coming to class and 2) logging in to the E-campus course site and participating in the online or out-of-class activities assigned throughout the course. Students are responsible for reading and familiarizing themselves with the material posted on the E-campus course site throughout the course.

Student usage of the course site is tracked by the E-campus software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who need to be absent from the course site for three or more days during a discussion forum activity or required web conference should email the professor in advance of the absence (see Attendance Policy and Grades in this syllabus). Students may email the instructor at any time if they have questions about the course.

Completion of Course Work

All course work is to be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic administration committee. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the last class of the term. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the last day of classes. Variance forms for this purpose are available in the academic office or on BTS' website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted.

Policies and Procedures

Format

Papers should be formatted with one-inch margins all around, Times New Roman 11 or 12 point font, and double-spaced. Note that page requirements do not count the title or bibliographic pages.

Attendance and Participation

A good deal of our live class time will involve not simply lectures, but active seminar-like participation of all students. Weekly reading and writing assignments will ensure that every student will have something to offer as we gather together. For the "missional reading" assignment every week, each student is to read the corresponding pages from Berrigan's *Jeremiah*.

Critical Reflection Papers

Every week, each student must write and submit a brief (2-3 pages) response paper to the reading for the week. The response papers should be submitted through the course website prior to that evening's class; please also bring a copy (either paper or electronic) to class,

since this response paper will provide the basis for your participation in discussion. You should deal with the following types of questions in your response papers: what struck you as most important or insightful in the reading? What are some of the *implications* for this reading in your ministry context? In light of these two questions, how might God be calling you to change, to (re)align yourself with *his* narrative in the world? All good theology, in my opinion, engages in critical reflection on *praxis*. Allow these papers to provide you the opportunity to do just that.

Final Project

At the conclusion of the course each student must prepare and submit a final project, which should include at least the following three parts:

- (1) A critical assessment of learning for the whole course; did the course meet its stated objectives *for you*?
- (2) What are some of the implications of the course for your faith community? What might the restoration of *shalom* (Jeremiah 29) look like in your community, and how can you engage in that restoration, and lead others in that same engagement?
- (3) Using a missional hermeneutic as described in class, choose a passage from Jeremiah and *engage* in a “missional” reading of that passage, reading it “towards” your ministry context. For this assignment, I expect you to consult at least one commentary beyond Berrigan. We will share our preliminary results the final evening of class. We will discuss more specific guidelines during the semester.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND GRADING

Assessment will be based in three areas.

1. Participation (including in online discussion forums) and Attendance. 20%. Unexcused absences will reduce your grade in this portion by 12 points (out of 100) per absence. You are allowed to miss *one* class for an approved reason. Active participation is expected in the classroom, particularly during the “missional readings” discussion that will initiate every class time. The passages from Jeremiah that will form the basis for our “missional reading” discussions will be announced in class, and clearly presented on the course homepage.
2. Critical Reflection Papers. 40%. See below for a description of this assignment. You will be graded on the basis of: (1) thoroughness of engagement with the material; (2) concrete reflection on a ministry context and demonstration of integration of class material with real life; (3) clarity of writing, and (4) on-time submission. I will take off three points per day the critical reflection papers are submitted late. You must secure my permission prior to handing in any assignment late.
3. Final Project. 40%. See below for a description of this assignment. You will be graded on the basis of: (1) on-time submission. I will deduct 3 points from the project grade for every day, M-F, the project is late; (2) successful engagement with each of the three portions of the project; (3) creativity in engagement with the passage from Jeremiah and presentation of your results; (4) clarity of writing; (5) profundity of analysis both of the biblical passage and missional application of that passage to the ministry context.

COURSE SCHEDULE

See “Assignment Checklist” (separate document) for course schedule.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic Policies: Students are fully responsible to know and follow all seminary rules, regulations, and deadlines published in Missio Seminary's Academic Catalog, and all requirements concerning their degree programs. The catalog is found on Missio's website. www.Missio.edu.

Course Syllabus: Students are fully responsible to know and fulfill the requirements stated in the course syllabus. Students should speak with the professor about issues related to course work and deadlines during the course. See "Completion of Course Work" below for policies on course extensions.

E-campus Course Site: Students are fully responsible for course content and materials that are posted on the course site. Students are encouraged to check the course site frequently during the course. Student usage of the course site is tracked by the software and monitored by the professor of the course. Students who experience difficulty accessing or using the E-campus should email helpdesk@Missio.edu and include their student ID# in their correspondence.

Academic and General Integrity: As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to integrity and Christ-likeness in all areas of life. What this means in the academic realm is that the completion of all assignments and assessments are to reflect your own work. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of zero on the assessment and will follow the process outlined in the Student Handbook. See Missio's Academic Catalog for more information on plagiarism and Missio's policies related to cheating and plagiarism.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND GRADES

Students are expected to arrive on time and attend all class sessions. Attendance is especially crucial in courses formatted in block scheduling with evening or all day Saturday class sessions. If you know you are going to miss a class or arrive late, contact the course instructor in advance via email. Nevertheless, your grade may be lowered for absences or lateness at the discretion of the instructor.

COMPLETION OF COURSE WORK – VARIANCE FORMS

All course work is to be completed by the last day of classes for the term or by the date posted in the course syllabus. Extensions to this time limit will be made only by the academic affairs committee. The individual faculty member does not have the authority to grant any extensions of time beyond the last class of the term. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the committee at least one week prior to the last day of classes. Variance forms for this purpose are available in the academic office or on Missio's website. All requests should specify the reasons for the extension and the length of the extension desired. Requests are not automatically granted.

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

Student course evaluations are an important part of Missio's commitment to continuous improvement. Students are required to complete the course evaluation within one week of the final due date of the course.

STUDENT PC SECURITY STATEMENT

Missio Seminary recognizes the need for computer use throughout the entire educational process today. Computers equipped with Internet access and applications that help deliver information and knowledge are vital. Students are encouraged to bring their electronic computing devices to campus to facilitate their course work and supplemental activities. Given the current climate of online dangers such as viruses, malware, phishing scams, and other related risks it is critical to secure all such devices regardless if they're being used on campus or not. Please take the appropriate steps to safeguard the security of your own electronic devices to protect the integrity of the student network on campus and provide a safe computing environment for everyone to use.

GRADING SYSTEM

To remain in good academic standing, a student must maintain the grade point average designated for his or her program (see Missio's Academic Catalog for details).

MISSIO SEMINARY GRADING SYSTEM			
A	4.00	93.0 -100	Superior
A-	3.67	90.0 – 92.9	
B+	3.33	87.0 – 89.9	
B	3.00	83.0 – 86.9	Good
B-	2.67	80.0 – 82.9	
C+	2.33	77.0 – 79.9	
C	2.00	73.0 – 76.9	Fair
C-	1.70	70.0 – 72.9	
D+	1.30	67.0 – 69.9	Poor
D	1.00	63.0 – 66.9	
D-	.70	60.0 – 62.9	
F	0.00	00. - 59.9	Failing