

# BIBL 544: JEREMIAH: PAIN AND HOPE FOR TROUBLE TIMES

Lissa M. Wray Beal

May 16 – 20; 1:30 – 4:30 pm

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

In-person, live online & Recorded

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The prophet Jeremiah ministered to disobedient Israel, urging them to return to God, and warning of judgment. The people refused his message and experienced the dislocation and disruption of exile. The book is raw and at times graphic and shocking, and reflects the pain, pathos, and anguish of the prophet, the people, and even God. Yet amidst the darkness of Jeremiah's ministry, the faithfulness of God sustained the prophet and held out to the people the promise of hope. Working closely with the text in its historical, literary, and canonical contexts, and utilizing the insights of trauma studies and readings from the church around the globe and across time, this course attends to the book's message for Jeremiah's contemporaries and its exilic compilers, and finds its resonance in our own uncertain times. For any who wrestle with God or seek to find him in difficult times, for any who minister to God's people in the midst of such challenges, and for any who desire a fuller understanding of God's faithful work amidst his people, this course will enliven and challenge.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:**

1. Describe the message of Jeremiah within its historical, literary, theological, and canonical dimensions.
2. Consider Jeremiah's message as it speaks to contemporary Christian belief, practice, and ministry, with particular consideration of faithfulness, suffering, and hope.
3. Explore thoughtfully some of the major themes within the book of Jeremiah.
4. Engage critically and constructively with different interpretive approaches, particularly the application of trauma studies and canonical readings.

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Day 1 May 16** A Prophetic Life: Jeremiah's Ministry in the Book

**Day 2 May 17** The Problem: Broken Covenant

**Day 3 May 18** The Pain: Prophetic Lament and the Pain of God

**Day 4 May 19** The People: Interlocutors and Challengers; Partners and Saviors

**Day 5 May 20** The Promise: Covenant Renewed

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Carvalho, Corrine. *Reading Jeremiah: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2016.

Ellington, Scott A. "Jeremiah and the Vocation of Shared Suffering." Pages 130–162 in *Risking Truth: Reshaping the World Through Prayers of Lament*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2008. (Available in Moodle).

Goldingay, John. *The Theology of Jeremiah: The Book, the Man, the Message*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2021. **(Additional for 2-credit course only).**

O'Connor, Kathleen M. *Jeremiah: Pain and Promise*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

Wray Beal, Lissa M. "The Monstrous, the Prophetic, and the Enduring: Yahweh's Servants of Horror and Grace in Jeremiah 25:1–14." Draft manuscript for publication in *From the Rising to the Setting Sun: Global Perspectives on Bible and Violence*. Edited by Helen Paynter and Michael Spalione. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, forthcoming. (Available in Moodle).

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Message of Jeremiah: Against Wind and Tide*. BST. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014. **(Additional for 2-credit course only).**

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: [moodle.regent-college.edu/login](https://moodle.regent-college.edu/login)

