



ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

## OTHB9450 OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: JEREMIAH New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Spring Semester 2016

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### Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for academic year 2015-2016 is *Mission Focus*. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

### Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses six competencies directly and one indirectly.

1. **Biblical Exposition:** by preparing students to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** through study of historical and modern methods of interpreting Scripture, thus enhancing the development of theological and interpretive principles.
3. **Discipleship Making:** by modeling the principles of discipleship through classroom deportment.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** through interaction among students within the group.
5. **Servant Leadership:** by modeling and reflecting the attitude of Christ in the life of a disciple.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** through discussion and modeling of spiritual disciplines.

### Course Description

This seminar is designed for intensive exegetical work in the Book of Jeremiah. Attention is given to the issues of background, history of interpretation, language, authorship, literary nature, and other critical problems as well as theology of the book.

### Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, in order to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, the student should:

1. Be able to demonstrate a mastery of the historical background, the history of interpretation, the critical issues, and the current status of the study of Jeremiah.
2. Value the contributions of Jeremiah to the theology of the Church.
3. Be able apply, into both scholarly and church settings, in-depth analysis of the various texts of Jeremiah, with the help of resources.
4. Be able to translate the Hebrew text of Jeremiah, with the help of resources.

## Course Teaching Methodology

The methodologies for the seminar include:

1. The professor will employ the lecture method to introduce the seminar.
2. The student will prepare and present critical reviews of books and articles related to various issues of Jeremiah.
3. The student will discuss critical issues, such as composition, LXX and MT differences, historical background, Deuteronomic reform, as well as theological teachings of the book.
4. The student will prepare and present background studies related to Jeremiah.
5. The student will translate, outline, and analyze a selected portion of Jeremiah.
6. The student will prepare and present a seminar paper related to Jeremiah.

## Required Textbooks

Thompson, J. A. *The Book of Jeremiah*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980.

### One of the following 2-volume commentary sets

Holladay, William L. *Jeremiah 1*. Hermeneia. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Holladay, William L. *Jeremiah 2*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.

Or

Craigie, Peter C., Page H. Kelley, and Joel F. Drinkard, Jr. *Jeremiah 1-25*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas: Word Books, 1991.

Keown, Gerald L., Pamela J. Scalise, and Thomas G. Smothers. *Jeremiah 26-52*. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas: Word Books, 1995.

## Course Requirements

The student will:

1. Read and review a share of the books and articles related to critical issues in Jeremiah.
2. Translate, outline, and analyze significant portions of the text of Jeremiah.
3. Prepare and present background studies related to critical issues in Jeremiah.
4. Prepare and present a seminar paper related to issues in Jeremiah.
5. Complete a final examination.

## Course Evaluation

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Class participation. . . . .	10%
Book/Article Reviews. . . . .	15%
Translation, Outline, and Analysis. . . . .	15%
Background Studies. . . . .	20%
Seminar Paper. . . . .	30%
Final Examination. . . . .	10%

## Course Schedule

Jan 19	Introduction to the Course Distribution of the Work of the Seminar	
Jan 26	Critical Book Reviews _____	- John Skinner, <i>Prophecy and Religion</i> - John Bright, <i>Jeremiah</i> , in Anchor Bible
Feb 2	Critical Book Reviews _____	- Robert P. Carroll, <i>Jeremiah</i> , in OTL - Walter Brueggemann, <i>Jeremiah 1-25: To Pluck Up, To Tear Down and Jeremiah 26-52: To Build, To Plant</i>
Feb 9	<b>Mardi Gras - No Classes</b>	
Feb 16	Background Study _____	- Masoretic Text versus Septuagint - Date of Jeremiah's call
Feb 23	Background Study _____	- The Foe from the North

	_____	– Jeremiah and the Deuteronomic Reform
	_____	– The Composition of Jeremiah
Mar 1	Translation, Outline, and Analysis	_____ – Jeremiah 1-10 (Translate 1:1-19; 2:1-37; and 7:1-34)
Mar 8	Translation, Outline, and Analysis	_____ – Jeremiah 11-20 (Translate 11:1-23; 12:1-17; 16:1-21; 18:1-12; 20:1- 18)
<b>March 14-18</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Mar 22	Translation, Outline, and Analysis	_____ – Jeremiah 21-29 (Translate 21:1-14; 23:1-32; 25:1-14; 29:1-32)
Mar 29	Translation, Outline, and Analysis	_____ – Chapters 30-52 (Translate 31:1-40; 32:1-15; 37:1-21; 39:1-18)
Apr 5	Review and Discussion of John Thompson’s, <i>The Book of Jeremiah</i> in NICOT	
Apr 12	Review and Discussion of William Holladay’s <i>Jeremiah 1</i> and <i>Jeremiah 2</i> in Hermeneia	
Apr 19	Review and Discussion of 2-Volume Set Word Biblical Commentaries	
Apr 26	Seminar Paper Presentations	_____
		_____
May 3	Seminar Paper Presentations	_____
		_____
May 10	FINAL EXAMINATION	

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### Sample Topics for Major Papers

The Chronology of Jeremiah  
 Sin and Repentance in Jeremiah  
 The "Word of the LORD" in Jeremiah  
 Jeremiah's relationship with and teaching concerning other prophets  
 The influence of Moses on Jeremiah  
 Jeremiah's polemic against the Canaanite cult  
 Effect of Jeremiah's personal life on subsequent ministry  
 Individualism in Jeremiah as compared to Ezekiel  
 Attitude of Jeremiah toward ritual as compared to Ezekiel  
 Comparison of themes in Isaiah and Jeremiah  
 Wisdom and Jeremiah  
 Messianic themes in Jeremiah

Covenant themes in Jeremiah  
The New Covenant - Implications and Applications