

 <p><b>NEW ORLEANS</b> BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY</p> <p>ANSWERING GOD'S CALL</p>	<p><b>Jonah: Text, History, and Interpretation PhD Seminar Thursdays 2:00-4:30pm</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Ethan C. Jones</b></p>
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*Contact Information*

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*Office Hours*

Please feel free to stop by or make an appointment for the times below. If you would like to meet outside these hours, then please email me to schedule an appointment. I enjoy meeting with students so do not hesitate to schedule a meeting.

Office: Dodd 211

**MISSION STATEMENT**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Advanced, doctoral study of the text, history, and interpretation of the book of Jonah.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- 1) Give proper consideration to the fundamental issues that underlie the current research regarding the biblical text, especially as it relates to interpretation, doctoral research, and publication;
- 2) Read significant and creative research, primarily in the form of articles and essays;
- 3) Present original research concerning the text, history, or theology of the book of Jonah.

## **COURSE TEXTS (Overview by Week)**

### **WEEK 1 – Biblical Texts**

Hebrew Text of Jonah

Greek Text of Jonah

W. Dennis Tucker Jr., *Jonah: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text*, revised edition (Baylor Handbook on the Hebrew Bible; Baylor University, 2018)

F. Martinez, “The Text of the XII Prophets at Qumran” *OTE* 17 (2004): 103-119

### **WEEK 2 – Exegetical Studies**

Brent Strawn, “On Vomiting: Leviticus, Jonah, Ea(a)rth”, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 74 (2012): 445-464

Ehud Ben Zvi, “Jonah 4:11 and the Metaphoric Character of the Book of Jonah” *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 9: 1-13

Philippe Guillaume, “Rhetorical Reading Redundant: A Response to Ehud Ben Zvi”, *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 9: 1-9.

Tzvi Abusch, “Jonah and God: Plants, Beasts, and Humans in the Book of Jonah (An Essay in Interpretation)”, *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 13 (2013); 146-152

R. W. Moberly, “Preaching for a Response?: Jonah’s Message to the Ninevites Reconsidered”, *Vetus Testamentum* 53 (2003): 156-168

T. Dozeman, “Inner-Biblical Interpretation of Yahweh’s Gracious and Compassionate Character”, *JBL* 108 (1989): 207-223

Y. Kim, “The Function of *hytb* in Jonah 4 and Its Translation”, *Biblical* 90 (2009): 389-393

C. Meredith, “The Conundrum of *htr* in Jonah 1:13” *Vetus Testamentum* 64 (2014): 147-152

A. Pinker, “The Semantic Field of ‘*st* in the Hebrew Bible” *Vetus Testamentum* 57 (2007): 390-399

Ernst Wendland, “Song from the Seabed—How Sweet does it Sound? Aspects of the Style, Structure and Transmission of Jonah’s ‘Psalm’”, *Journal of Semitics* 11 (2002): 211-244

T Bolin, "Jonah 4,11 and the Problem of exegetical anachronism", *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament* 24 (2010): 99-109

### **WEEK 3 – Canon and Intertextuality**

Hyun Chul Paul Kim, "Jonah Read Intertextuality", *JBL* 126 (2007): 497-528

Jason LeCureux, "Reading Jonah as 'history'?: The implications of canonical location for Jonah and the Book of the Twelve" *Pacifica* 28 (2015): 68-79.

Marian Kelsey, "The book of Jonah and the theme of exile", *JSOT* 45 (2020): 128-140

Gregory Goswell, "Jonah among the Twelve Prophets", *JBL* 135 (2016): 283-299

M. Beck, "Das Dodekapropheten als Anthologie", *ZAW* 118 (2006): 558-583

### **WEEK 4 – History of Interpretation**

Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer, *Jonah Through the Centuries* (Wiley Blackwell Bible Commentaries, 2021)

### **WEEK 5 – Current Readings**

Dragan Radic, "The Reception of the Book of Jonah by Theodoret of Cyrus", *ASE* 37 (2020): 89-100

Joel Anderson, "Yhwh's Surprising Covenant *Hesed* in Jonah", *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 42 (2012): 3-11

Will Kynes, "Beat Your Paradoies into Swords and Your Parodied Books into Spears: A New Paradigm for Parody in the Hebrew Bible" *Biblical Interpretation* 19 (2011): 276-310

Jonathan Kaplan, "Jonah and moral agency", *JSOT* 43 (2019): 146-162

Stuart Lasine, "Jonah's Complexes and Our Own: Psychology and the Interpretation of the Book of Jonah", *JSOT* 41 (2016): 237-260

A Hunter, "Creating Waves: Why the Fictionality of Jonah Matters", pp.101-116 in *Sense and Sensitivity*, ed A Hunter and P. Davies (Sheffield Academic, 2002).

C Fortune, "The Book of Jonah as a Comic Novella", *Scripture Bulletin* 36 (2006): 64-73

L Handy, "Of Captains and Kings: A Preliminary Socio-Historical Approach to Jonah" *BR* 49 (2004): 31-48

J Anderson, "Jonah's Peculiar Re-creation", *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 41 (2011): 179-188

R Barrett, "Meaning More Than They Say: The Conflict between Yhwh and Jonah" *JSOT* 37 (2012): 237-257

J Mathews, "Jonah as a Performance: Performance Critical Guidelines for Reading a Prophetic Text", *BCT* 12 (2016): 23-39

L Claassens, "Surfing with Jonah: Reading Jonah as Postcolonial Trauma Narrative", *JSOT* 45 (2021): 5760587

### **WEEK 6 – Theology and Theological Readings**

Mark Gignilliat, *Reading Scripture Canonically* Baker Academic, 2019)

Mark Gignilliat, "The Gospel Promised by the Prophets: *The Trinity and the Old Testament*" pp20-33 in *Evangelicals and Nicene Faith*, ed Timothy George (Baker Academic, 2011)

John Webster, "The Domain of the Word", pp3-31 in *The Domain of the Word* (T&T Clark, 2012)

John Webster, "Biblical reasoning", pp 115-132 in *The Domain of the Word* (T&T Clark, 2012)

R. W. Moberly, "Educating Jonah", pp181-210 in *Old Testament Theology* (Baker Academic, 2013)

David Carr, "Ordinary Christology: Reflection from an Old Testament Perspective on the Theological Significance of Jesus", *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 56 (2003): 30-47.

### **Seminar Requirements**

The assignments for this seminar are modeled after key movement in the life of academic theology: PhD examinations, submissions for publication, professional meetings, and a dissertation defense.

**Readings** – Students will be responsible for completing any reading assignment given during class. It is the student's responsibility to make up readings that are missed for any reason. Completion of the reading is essential to your success in this course and proper participation in the discussions regarding the readings. The student may bring a summary/notes for each work to be discussed. The summary/notes should not exceed one page (30% of seminar grade).

**Presenting** – Students will be expected to discuss their own research and provide beneficial feedback to the work of others. The student discussion is one of the most important learning activities during the time of the seminar. Every student is expected to be prepared with an insightful, carefully considered contribution to the discussion. Each student should bring a

printed report of their research update in order to present before the seminar (30% of seminar grade).

**Writing** – The student will complete one research paper for the seminar. The paper should be between 5,000-10,000 words. In presenting his or her research paper, the student will summarize it and answer questions. Just like any publication submission, each paper will receive one of three responses: 1) acceptance with minor changes, 2) an invitation to address some concerns and then resubmit for reconsideration, and 3) a rejection. **PAPER IS DUE MONDAY, MAY 2.** This accounts for 60% of the seminar grade.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

The class schedule is divided into three parts: 1) reading and discussion, 2) research update, and 3) research presentation.

### **Reading and Discussion**

#### **Week 1 – Jan 19 – BIBLICAL TEXT**

Read Hebrew text carefully 10 times.  
Read Greek text carefully 2 times.  
Read *Jonah* Hebrew Handbook and Qumran essay.

#### **WEEK 2 – Jan 26 – EXEGETICAL STUDIES**

Read Hebrew text carefully 2 times.  
Read all articles and essays.

#### **WEEK 3 – Feb 2 – CANON AND INTERTEXTUALITY**

Read Hebrew text carefully 2 times.  
Read all articles and essays.

#### **WEEK 4 – Feb 9 – HISTORY OF INTREPRETATION**

Read Hebrew text carefully 2 times.  
Read *Jonah Through the Centuries*.

#### **WEEK 5 – Feb 16 – CURRENT READINGS**

Read Hebrew text carefully 2 times.  
Read all articles and essays.

#### **WEEK 6 – Feb 23 – THEOLOGY AND THEOLOGICAL READINGS**

Read Hebrew text carefully 2 times.  
Read articles, essays, and monograph.

## **Research Updates and Discussion**

### **WEEK 7 – March 2**

Research Update

Presentation for each student

- 1) Proposed topic
- 2) Proposed methodology
- 3) Updated annotated bibliography with at least 7 sources (5 articles and 2 monographs)
- 4) 1,000 word summary of their thinking on the topic (clear and concise)

### **WEEK 8 – March 9**

Presentation for each student

- 1) Narrowed topic
- 2) Refined methodology
- 3) Updated annotated bibliography with at least 14 sources (10 articles and 4 monographs)
- 4) 1,000 word summary of their thinking on the topic (clear and concise)

### **SPRING BREAK: MARCH 13-17**

### **WEEK 9 – March 23**

Presentation for each student

- 1) Proposed thesis
- 2) Proposed lines of argumentation
- 3) Problem areas
- 4) Updated annotated bibliography with at least 21 sources (15 articles and 6 monographs)
- 5) 1,000 word summary of their thinking on the topic (clear and concise)

### **WEEK 10 – March 30**

Presentation for each student

- 1) Thesis statement
- 2) Lines of argumentation
- 3) Problem areas
- 4) Writing sample of best prose (1,000 words of research writing)
- 5) Updated annotated bibliography with at least 28 sources (20 articles and 8 monographs)

### **WEEK 11 – April 6**

Presentation for each student

- 1) Thesis statement
- 2) Lines of argumentation
- 3) Problem areas

- 4) Writing sample of best prose (revision from previous week)
- 5) Updated annotated bibliography with at least 35 sources (25 articles and 10 monographs)

**WEEK 12 - April 13**

The art of being a colleague

- 1) Read each other's sample and thesis statement
- 2) Make charitable suggestions of argumentation

**WEEK 13 – April 20**

Writing

**WEEK 14 – April 27**

Writing

**Research Presentations**

**WEEK 15 – May 4**

Presentations

## **Select Bibliography:**

### *Books and Commentaries*

- Aalders, G. C. *The Problem of the Book of Jonah*. London: Tyndale, 1948.
- Almbladh, K. *Studies in the Book of Jonah*. Uppsala: University Press, 1986.
- Alexander, T. D. *Jonah: An Introduction and Commentary*. TOTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1988.
- Allen, L. C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah*. NICOT. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.
- Baldwin, J. "Jonah." In *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary*. Edited by T. E. McComiskey. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
- Bewer, J. A. "Commentary on Jonah." In *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi and Jonah*. ICC. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1912.
- Bowers, R. H. *The Legend of Jonah*. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1971.
- Brichto, H. C. *Toward a Grammar of Biblical Poetics: Tales of the Prophets*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Craig, K. M., Jr. *A Poetics of Jonah: Art in the Service of Ideology*. Columbia: University of South Carolina, 1993.
- Ellison, H. L. "Jonah." EBC vol. 7. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985.
- Fairbairn, P. *Jonah: His Life, Character and Mission*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1964 [1849].
- Fretheim, T. *The Message of Jonah: A Theological Commentary*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1977.
- Gaebelein, F. E. *Four Minor Prophets: Obadiah, Jonah, Habakkuk, and Haggai*. Chicago: Moody, 1977.
- . *The Servant and the Dove: Obadiah and Jonah*. New York: Our Hope, 1946.
- Glaze, A. J., Jr. "Jonah." BBC vol. 7. Nashville: Broadman, 1972.
- Good, E. M. *Irony in the Old Testament*. Reprint. Sheffield: Almond, 1981.
- Gordis, R. *The Word and the Book: Studies in Biblical Language and Literature*. New York: Ktav, 1976.
- Hasel, G. F. *Jonah: Messenger of the Eleventh Hour*. Mt. View, Cal.: Pacific, 1976.
- Keil, C. F. and F. Delitzsch. "Jonah." COT. Reprint. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.
- Kendall, R. T. *Jonah: An Exposition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Kennedy, J. H. *Studies in the Book of Jonah*. Nashville: Broadman, 1956.
- Knight, G. A. F. *Ruth and Jonah: The Gospel in the Old Testament*. London: SCM, 1966.
- Knight, G. A. F. and F. W. Golka. *The Song of Songs and Jonah: Revelation of God*. ITC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Limburg, J. *Jonah: A Commentary*. OTL. Louisville: WJKP, 1993.
- Magonet, J. *Form and Meaning: Studies in Literary Techniques in the Book of Jonah*. Bern/Frankfurt: Herbert Lang/Peter Lang, 1976.
- Price, V. F. and E. A. Nida. *A Translator's Handbook on the Book of Jonah*. N.Y.: UBS, 1978.
- Sasson, J. M. *Jonah*. AB. New York: Doubleday, 1990.
- Stuart, D. *Hosea-Jonah*. WBC. Waco: Word, 1987.
- Trible, P. "The Book of Jonah: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections." *New Interpreter's Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- . *Rhetorical Criticism: Context, Method, and the Book of Jonah*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.
- Walton, J. *Jonah*. Bible Study Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.
- Watts, J. D. W. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah*. CBC. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975.

Wolff, H. W. *Obadiah and Jonah*. Translated by M. Kohl. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1986.

### *Articles*

- Alexander, T. D. "Jonah and Genre." *TynBul* 36 (1985): 35–59.
- Barré, M. L. "Jonah 2:9 and the Structure of Jonah's Prayer." *Bib* 72 (1991): 237–48.
- Blank, S. H. "'Doest thou well to be angry?' A Study in Self-pity." *HUCA* 26 (1955): 29–41.
- Burrows, M. "The Literary Category of the Book of Jonah." In *Translating and Understanding the Old Testament*. Edited by H. T. Frank and W. L. Reed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1970, 80–107.
- Childs, B. S. "The Canonical Shape of the Book of Jonah." In *Biblical and Near Eastern Studies*. Edited by G. A. Tuttle. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978, 122–28.
- . "Jonah: A Study in Old Testament Hermeneutics." *SJT* 11 (1958): 53–61.
- Christensen, D. L. "Narrative Poetics and the Interpretation of the Book of Jonah." In *Directions in Biblical Hebrew Poetry*. Edited by E. R. Follis. *JSOTSup* 40. Sheffield: Academic Press, 1987, 29–48.
- . "The Song of Jonah: A Metrical Analysis." *JBL* 104 (1985): 217–31.
- Clements, R. E. "The Purpose of the Book of Jonah." *VTS* 28 (1975): 16–28.
- Craig, K. M., Jr. "Jonah and the Reading Process." *JSOT* 47 (1990): 103–14.
- Crenshaw, J. L. "The Expression *mi yodea'* in the Hebrew Bible." *VT* 36 (1986): 274–88.
- Cummings, C. "Jonah and the Ninevites." *TBT* 21 (1983): 369–75.
- Day, J. "Problems in the Interpretation of the Book of Jonah." In *Quest of the Past: Studies on Israelite Religion, Literature and Prophetism*. Edited by A. S. Van der Woude. *OTS* 26. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1990, 32–47.
- Deeley, M. K. "The Shaping of Jonah." *TToday* 34 (1977): 305–10.
- Dozeman, T. B. "Inner-Biblical Interpretation of Yahweh's Gracious and Compassionate Character." *JBL* 108 (1989): 207–23.
- Dyck, E. "Jonah among the Prophets: A Study in Canonical Context." *JETS* 33 (1990): 63–73.
- Ellul, J. *The Judgment of Jonah*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.
- Eybers, J. H. "The Purpose of the Book of Jonah." *TE* 4 (1971): 211–22.
- Halpern, B. and R. E. Friedman. "Composition and Paronomasia in the Book of Jonah." *HAR* 4 (1980): 79–92.
- Hauser, A. J. "Jonah: In Pursuit of the Dove." *JBL* 104 (1985): 21–37.
- Holbert, J. C. "Deliverance Belongs to Yahweh! Satire in the Book of Jonah." *JSOT* 21 (1981): 57–81.
- Kidner, D. "The Distribution of Divine Names in Jonah." *TynBul* 21 (1970): 126–28.
- Landes, G. M. "The Canonical Approach to Introducing the Old Testament: Prodigy and Problems." *JSOT* 16 (1980): 32–39.
- . "The Kerygma of the Book of Jonah." *Int* 21 (1967): 3–31.
- . "The 'Three Days and Three Nights' Motif in Jonah 2:1." *JBL* 86 (1967): 446–50.
- Lawrence, P. J. N. "Assyrian Nobles and the Book of Jonah." *TynBul* 37 (1986): 121–32.
- Longacre, R. E. and S. J. J. Hwang. "A Textlinguistic Approach to the Biblical Hebrew Narrative of Jonah." In *Biblical Hebrew and Discourse Linguistics*. Edited by R. D. Bergen. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics, 1994, 336–58.
- Merrill, E. H. "The Sign of Jonah." *JETS* 23 (1980): 23–30.
- Miles, J. A. "Laughing at the Bible: Jonah as Parody." *JQR* 65 (1975): 168–81.
- Payne, D. P. "Jonah from the Perspective of Its Audience." *JSOT* 13 (1979): 3–12.
- Peifer, C. "Sackcloth and Ashes: Jonah 3:6–8." *TBT* 21 (1983): 386–87.

- Prout, E. "Beyond Jonah to God." *ResQ* 25 (1982): 139–42.
- Roffey, J. W. "God's Truth, Jonah's Fish: Structure and Existence in the Book of Jonah." *AusBR* 36 (1988): 1–18.
- Segert, S. "Syntax and Style in the Book of Jonah: Six Simple Approaches to Their Analysis." In *Prophecy: Essays Presented to Georg Fohrer*. Edited by J. A. Emerton. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1980, 121–30.
- Stek, J. H. "The Message of the Book of Jonah." *Calvin Theological Journal* 4 (1969): 23–50.
- Stewart, R. A. "The Parable Form in the Old Testament and the Rabbinic Literature." *EvQ* 36 (1964): 133–47.
- Walsh, J. T. "Jonah 2:3–10: A Rhetorical Critical Study." *Bib* 63 (1982): 219–29.
- Walton, J. "The Object Lesson of Jonah 4:5–7 and the Purpose of the Book of Jonah." *Bulletin of Biblical Research* 2 (1992): 47–58.
- West, M. "Irony in the Book of Jonah: Audience Identification with the Hero." *Perspectives* 11 (1984): 233–42.
- Wilson, R. D. "The Authenticity of Jonah." *Princeton Theological Review* 16 (1918): 280–98.
- Wilt, T. L. "Lexical Repetition in Jonah." *JTT* 35 (1992): 252–64.
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- Zyl, A. H. van. "The Preaching of the Book of Jonah." *OTWSA* 14 (1971): 92–104.