### Course Description (from the graduate catalog on Scripture courses):
The Scripture courses offer serious, in-depth study of a Bible book(s). Based on the English text, attention is given to backgrounds, critical issues, and original language insights. Critical issues of the individual books are reviewed in relation to the wider issues of the surrounding biblical material. Characteristic of each course is a careful reading of the specific book, a study of the general contents, and the integrating of the book into Bible history.

### Course Goals and Objectives:

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<tr>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>How Delivered</th>
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<th>Goals</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students completing this course will:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Master the contents of Jeremiah and Lamentations</td>
<td>Readings in biblical text.</td>
<td>Journals, exams.</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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<td>2. Understand these books in the historical and literary contexts.</td>
<td>Readings (text books), lectures.</td>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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<td>3. Know the critical issues of the books.</td>
<td>Readings (text books), lectures.</td>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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<td>4. Understand OT prophetic and poetic texts in general, and how to interpret them.</td>
<td>Readings (text books and online resources), lectures.</td>
<td>Exams, term paper, class participation.</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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<td>5. Know the major theological themes of the books.</td>
<td>Readings (text books and online resources), lectures.</td>
<td>Exams, participation.</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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<td>6. Apply the content, themes and theology of these books to the life of the church and the Christian.</td>
<td>Readings (text books and online resources), lectures.</td>
<td>Term paper, book review, class participation.</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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<td>7. Gain an appreciation for readings of the text from differing social and cultural perspectives.</td>
<td>Assigned readings, class discussion.</td>
<td>Class participation.</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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Required Texts:


5. A modern, committee translation of the Bible (e.g., NRSV, NIV, ESV, NASB).

6. Other readings (articles, web posts, etc.) will be placed in the appropriate folder for the week in Blackboard under the "Additional Readings" link.

7. The term paper must follow the formats laid out in *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Hendrickson, 1999). The student should also acquire this book if he/she does not already have it.

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance and Participation.** Each student must be present and on time for each class period. **One excused absence** is permitted, but a second absence will result in a 50% reduction in this portion of the grade. Three absences will result in an F for the course. **Leaving early or coming late can also lower this portion of the grade.**

   **Good participation** means that all reading and other assignments are completed before class and that the student is able to helpfully and intelligently contribute to the class discussion and discuss the readings.

2. **Journal.** Most weeks you will be asked to write a two-part journal of at least 600 words. (1) Write **at least 300 words** giving your insights, thoughts, and applications that occur to you as you read. **Do not summarize or repeat the biblical text**, reflect on it. **Do this exercise prior to reading the commentaries.** That is, I am interested in your fresh thinking on the text. (2) **Then** write **at least 300 words** engaging the commentaries. Discuss helpful or challenging insights gained or disagreements with the commentators.

   The journal is due by the start of class each week that a journal is required (see the course schedule below). Post the journal on Blackboard under the "Journal" link and the appropriate date. Attached a file in **Word format** (.doc or .docx). **If I cannot open the file in Word, it will not be counted.** Turning in the assignment late will reduce this portion of the grade by 5 points each time. Failing to turn in a journal will reduce the grade by 10 points each time. **No journal will be accepted if it is more than one week late. You do not need to do the journal for the first day of class.**
3. **Book Review.** Write a **1200-1500** word (about 4-5 pages, typed, double-spaced) book review on Brueggemann's *Prophetic Imagination*. You will need to: (1) state the general purpose and theme(s) of the work; (2) identify the author's method and presuppositions (**be sure to read the prefaces**); (3) summarize the general content and main points of the **introduction, each chapter, and the conclusion**; (4) indicate the strengths and weaknesses of this work. This last item should deal with the author's approach to the text, application of his method, how well he does or does not make his case, etc. It should not simply be a list of what you like and don't like about the book, though you may include that as well. The grade is based on demonstrating that the book has been read, understood, thoughtfully engaged, and thoughtfully critiqued. **Note: You demonstrate that you understand the book, in part, by being able to put the author's ideas in your own words. That is, do not fill the paper with quotations from the book.**

The review is due via e-mail by **Mar 26**. Late reviews will be penalized 10 points/day.

4. **Curriculum/Sermon Series Outline.** The student will outline a 13 week Sunday school curriculum or sermon series on Jeremiah. Further details will be given in class. The assignment is due **April 9**. Late assignments will be penalized 10 points/day.

5. **Midterm Exam.** This exam will cover the text, class lectures and discussion, and assigned readings through the prophet Micah. The exam is due via e-mail by **Feb 26**. Class will not meet the week of the midterm. Late exams will be penalized 10 points/day.

6. **Term Paper.** The student will write a **3000-4000** word term paper on an assigned text. More specific paper guidelines will be given in class. Papers are due via e-mail by **Feb 19**. Late papers will be penalized 10 points/day.

7. **Final Exam.** This exam will cover the text, class lectures and discussion, and assigned readings since the midterm exam. The final exam is due via e-mail by **Apr 23**. Late exams will be penalized 10 points/day.

**Grading Percentages and Grade Scale:**

Journals, 10%; Participation, 10%; Review of *Prophetic Imagination*, 10%; Curriculum/Sermon Series Outline, 10%; Midterm Exam, 20%; Term Paper, 20%; Final exam, 20%.

Grade scale: 100-93% = A; 92-83% = B; 82-70% = C; below 70% = F

**NOTE:** No “Incomplete” will be given except for extreme emergency for the student or his/her immediate family.

**Academic Integrity:** In keeping with our identity as a Christian University and our goal to help shape lifelong disciples of Christ, academic integrity will be taken very seriously in this class. Unless specific permission is given to collaborate on assignments with other students, each student's work shall be his/her own. Cheating on exams or assignments and plagiarizing on written assignments will, depending on the severity of the case, result in penalties ranging from a significantly reduced grade on the assignment to failing the course. Instances of cheating or
plagiarism may also be reported to appropriate members of the administration, depending on the situation. Decisions in these matters rest with the instructor. For information on Lipscomb’s policies and procedures see the “Academic Integrity” page on Lipscomb’s website (http://academics.lipscomb.edu/content.asp?CID=5329&SID=12).

**Dropping the Course:** A decision to stop attending class or to not turn in assignments does **not** constitute dropping the course. Please see the "Graduate Catalog" for the official policies and procedures for dropping a course. If a student's name appears on the roster at grading time and the course has not been officially dropped, he/she will receive a grade based on the course requirements and grading percentages above.

**Students Requiring Accommodations:** If you require classroom accommodations for a documented disability, please discuss your circumstances with the instructor ASAP, preferably prior to the class week. If you are entitled to accommodations but have not yet registered with the Counseling Center, contact that office immediately at 966-1781.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** In the case of snow or hazardous weather, please contact the Bible office (966-6051) to see if class will meet. If possible, the instructor will e-mail the class and/or leave a voicemail on his office phone. If weather prevents the student from coming to class, see the attendance policy above.

**Class Schedule**

Before class each week, read the biblical text, the corresponding sections Allen and Lalleman commentaries, and any other assignments listed in *italics* with the dates.

**Jan 8**  
Course intro; Intro to OT prophets and to Jeremiah; **Jer 1:1-2:3.**  
*Also read the introductions in both commentaries.*

**Jan 15**  
**Jer 2:4-6:30.**

**Jan 22**  
**Jer 7-10.**  

**Jan 29**  
**Jer 11-15.**

**Feb 5**  
**Jer 16-20.**  
*Also read: Kathleen M. O'Conner, "Lamenting Back to Life,"* Interpretation 62 (2008), 34-47.  
*Terence Fretheim "Caught in the Middle: Jeremiah's Vocational Crisis,"* Word & World 22 (Fall 2002): 351-360.

**Feb 12**  
**Jer 21-25.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td><strong>Midterm exam</strong> – due via e-mail no later than 11:59 P.M. <strong>Class will not meet.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td><strong>Jer 30-33.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Also read: Jack R. Lundbom, &quot;2 Excurses on the New Covenant&quot; from his commentary, Jeremiah 21-36.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td><strong>Jer 34-39.</strong></td>
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<td>Mar 19</td>
<td>Spring Break. <strong>Class will not meet.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 26</td>
<td><strong>Jer 40-45;</strong> Review of <em>Prophetic Imagination</em> due.</td>
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<td>Apr 2</td>
<td><strong>Jer 46-52;</strong> theology of Jeremiah; the prophetic ministry</td>
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| Apr 9 | Introduction to Lamentations; **Lam 1-3**<br>Also read: Miriam Bier, "Theology and Lamentations: A Polyphony of Protest and Penitence."
| Apr 16| **Lam 4-5;** theology of Lamentations; pastoral implications<br>Also read: Brian L. Webster and David R. Beach, "The Place of Lament in the Christian Life," Bibliotheca Sacra 164 (2007): 387-402. |
| Apr 23| **Final exam** – due via e-mail no later than 11:59 P.M. **No class.** |
Bibliography

Books on Prophecy in General


Commentaries on Jeremiah and/or Lamentations


