It is the student's responsibility to read the entire syllabus and to be familiar with the expectations and requirements of the course.

**Jeremiah-Lamentations (GB 5233) – Web Course**  
Summer 2015  
Lipscomb University

**Instructor:** Dr. Phillip Camp  
**Office:** Ezell 212  
**Phone:** 615-966-6130  
**E-mail:** phillip.camp@lipscomb.edu

This course begins **Tuesday, May 26**. There is an assignment for this shortened week. See the course schedule below.

**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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<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>How Delivered</th>
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<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>Homework questions, discussion board, 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 and online resources), lectures.</td>
<td>Homework questions, discussion board, 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 and online resources), lectures.</td>
<td>Homework questions, exams.</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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<td>4. Understand OT prophetic and poetic texts in general.</td>
<td>Readings in Lundbom's <em>The Hebrew Prophets</em>.</td>
<td>Quizzes.</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.</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, discussion board.</td>
<td>Exegetical summaries and lesson plans, discussion board posts and responses.</td>
<td>Minimum grade: 70%</td>
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**Required Texts:**


   - **Be sure you have the 2013 edition, not the older edition by Harrison.**


5. Any modern, committee translation of the Bible (e.g., NIV, NRSV, NASB, ESV). The instructor will use primarily the NRSV but refer to other versions.

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

**Going On-Line in Blackboard:**
This course will be run through Blackboard, which you can access through your "My Lipscomb" page. To receive credit, all assignments must be sent through Blackboard. Therefore, it is essential that you familiarize yourself with Blackboard, its components (e.g., Content Page, the Discussion Board, Tegrity, Grade Book, Quizzes, etc.), and its functions before the class begins. You cannot access the course on Blackboard until you are officially registered for it.

Weekly assignments will be posted under the "Weekly Assignments" link on Blackboard, and there will be a link for each week. Items under that link will include additional readings, notes, and reading questions (see below under course requirements). You will need to go through everything for the week along with the assignments in the course schedule for the textbooks.

Plan to go to the web course at least three times each week. By **Monday** of each week, check under "Weekly Assignments" then that week's link to get the reading questions and additional readings and to acknowledge on the discussion board that you read all of the posts for the previous week (see below). By **Wednesday**, go to "Discussion Board" to make your initial response to weekly Discussion Question (see below) and post your journal for the week (see instructions below). By **Friday** respond to classmates' postings on the Discussion Question. **You should also check your e-mail each time you go to Blackboard.**

Note in the instructions for the journal below, under "Course Requirements" below, you should read the assigned biblical texts first and write the first part of your journal. Then do the commentary and additional readings and write the second part of the journal.

It is assumed that the student is competent when it comes to using his/her computer, the internet, and Blackboard. **The student is responsible for solving his/her technical problems.** If you are having trouble, please contact Lipscomb's Computer Center ASAP.
Keep in mind that strange things happen in cyberspace (e.g., messages get lost, servers go down, etc.). Therefore, do not wait until the last minute to do your work and send it in. Allow plenty of time to meet deadlines in case of computer problems. The student is solely responsible for getting work in on time. Also, back up all of your work and returned assignments on a jump drive. Save everything in this way until you receive your final grade in the course.

For the writing assignments (journals and papers) files must be saved in Word format (.doc or .docx). Please save files and reopen them before sending them to make sure there are no corruption issues. If I cannot open it because the program won't open in Word or because the file is corrupted, it will be counted late.

In determining whether work is turned in on time, the only consideration will be the date on the message or Discussion Board post. The assignment must come within the due date. That is, I will look at the date, not the time on assignments.

Finally, keep in mind that a summer course puts what would normally be covered in a 15 week semester into 10 weeks. So the workload may be somewhat heavier than what you experience in a full-semester course.

Course Requirements:

1. **Readings, lecture notes and/or Tegrity presentation, and readings questions.** Do the readings each week according to the course schedule below and go through whatever is under the link for the week under "Weekly Assignments." The reading questions are designed to make sure you are getting the information you need from your readings and to cause you to think about the readings and their relevance. You do not have to turn these in, but they will help you prepare for the exam. **Suggestion:** Read the questions before doing the readings. Then you will know what to look for as you read.

2. **Journal.** Each week you will be asked to write a two-part journal. (1) Write at least 300 words giving your insights, thoughts, and applications that occur to you as you read. Do not summarize or quote 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) Write at least 300 words engaging your commentaries (Allen and Lalleman on Jeremiah; Berlin and Lalleman on Lamentations). Discuss helpful or challenging insights gained or disagreements with the commentator. Click the "Journal" link on Blackboard, then post the journal under the appropriate date. Post by attaching a Word file (.doc or .docx).

3. **Discussion Board Questions and Replies.** The student will post a response to the threaded discussion question given by the instructor each week and to the responses of at least two of his/her classmates. You must post your first response, a response to the question itself, no later than **Wednesday** of a given week. By **Friday**, you must respond to your classmates. Additional substantive responses are encouraged and will be taken into consideration in the course grade when students are "on the line" between grades.
The responses need not be long (but consider 75-100 words a minimum for the initial posting and 50 words for your comments on other’s responses). The first posting should respond fully to the instructor’s question, be thoughtful, and reflect an awareness of the readings and lectures for the week in some way. A good response will demonstrate critical thinking on the issue raised in light of the readings and lectures for the week, whether in agreement or disagreement. That is, you are being asked for your opinion, but an informed opinion.

Likewise, responses to classmates' postings should demonstrate good reasoning and should reflect upon or expand upon what they posted. That is, the posts should do more than simply express agreement or disagreement.

By Monday of the following week, go back to the discussion board and reply to the instructor's post with a simple "yes" indicating that you have read all the posts and replies for that week. Reading all the posts and indicating so to the instructor is part of the Discussion Board grade. You are not required to read any posts made after the instructor's post (which will be done no later than the Sunday following the Friday replies for a given week).

The grade for this component is based both on completing the assignment and on the quality of the responses. You will be informed if your responses are not meeting expectations.

Keep in mind that there may be disagreements in the course of the threaded discussions, and that is fine. But responses must be polite, respectful, and address the person’s comment not the person him/herself (i.e., no personal attacks or impugning another student's motives or character). The grade will be lowered significantly for inappropriate participation. And do not use the Discussion Board to send personal messages to the instructor or other students. Use e-mail for that.

Please do not get behind on the Discussion Board requirement. The grade for this requirement will be lowered for late and missed responses. If you should miss a deadline, post the response(s) ASAP and get some credit. But no post will be accepted more than a week after the due date (and the posts for week 9 will not be accepted after July 29).

4. Reading Quizzes on Lundbom's, The Hebrew Prophets: An Introduction. There will be six timed quizzes, one for each chapter of the book, taken with the "Quiz" function in Blackboard. The quizzes are open-book, but, since they are timed, you need to read the chapter before starting the quiz. The quizzes are in the content folder labeled "Quizzes on The Hebrew Prophets. You must take the first quiz (on chapter 1) no later than Saturday, May 30, but afterward you may take the other five when you choose, as long as they are all completed no later than July 18. Each quiz must be taken in one sitting in the time allotted. Once you start a quiz you must complete it.
5. **Lesson/Sermon Plans.** In order to move your work on Jeremiah-Lamentations into the church you will create 10 lessons/sermon plans and outlines on Jeremiah. Each lesson will deal with an individual text, and the 10 will cover representative texts from the various kinds of oracles and other genres of the book. Further instructions will be posted once the class begins. **The lesson plans are due no later than July 25, and all 10 must be submitted at one time as a single document.** The assignment will not be accepted after July 25, so please do not wait until the last minute.

6. **Final Exam.** The final exam is cumulative and will cover the biblical text, class lectures, assigned readings. It will be a closed book and note exam. The final exam will be due by **noon on August 1. Late exams will not be accepted.**

**Grading Percentages:** Journal (20%); Discussion Board (20%); Quizzes on *The Hebrew Prophets* (10%); Lesson/Sermon Plans (25%); Final Exam (25%).

**Grade Scale:** 100-93 = A; 92-83 = B; 82-70 = C; below C= F.

**Excused "Absence."** Recognizing that summer is a time for vacation, camps, etc., each student has one "absence" from a class week, for his/her replies to other students on the discussion board. **The assignments will be up far enough in advance that you can complete and send in your other assignments before the due dates on the week you miss.** You still must post replies, but you can do so in this one case, within one week of original due date (**except for Week 9, which must be completed by July 30**).

**NOTE:** No “Incomplete” will be given except for extreme emergency for the student or his/her immediate family. Failure to complete any assignment will result in a grade of no better than C for the course.

**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](http://academics.lipscomb.edu/content.asp?CID=5329&SID=12))

**Dropping the Course:** A decision to stop participating in the 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 accommodations for a documented disability, please discuss your circumstances with the instructor ASAP, preferably prior to the beginning of class. If you are entitled to accommodations but have not yet registered with the Counseling Center, contact that office immediately at 615-966-1781.

**Schedule**

For each week: (1) read the assigned biblical text; (2) write the first part of your journal; (3) read the corresponding sections in the commentaries (Allen, Lalleman, and Berlin), though you can skip the translation notes in Allen's and Berlin's commentaries; (4) write the second part of our journal; (5) go through any other material for that week under "Weekly Assignments" on Blackboard.

A simplified schedule for weekly requirements (unless otherwise indicated) is:

- **Monday:** Get additional readings, Tegrity presentations, reading questions and any other materials for the week from Blackboard. Also indicate on the previous week's Discussion Board post that you have read all the posts.

- **Wednesday:** Post your response to the discussion board question and post your journal.

- **Friday:** Post your replies to your colleagues.

**Week 1 (May 26-30)** – Read 2 Kings 18-25, the introductions to Jeremiah in Allen and Lalleman. There is no journal due this week. Also read the introduction and chapter 1 (pp. 1-31) in Lundbom's *Hebrew Prophets*, and take the first quiz on Blackboard by Saturday, May 30.

**Week 2 (May 31-June 6)** – Jeremiah 1-6

**Week 3 (June 7-13)** – Jeremiah 7-14

**Week 4 (June 14-20)** – Jeremiah 15-22

**Week 5 (June 21-27)** – Jeremiah 23-29

**Week 6 (June 28-July 4)** – Jeremiah 30-38

**Week 7 (July 5-11)** – Jeremiah 39-45

**Week 8 (July 12-18)** – Jeremiah 46-52. All quizzes on Lundbom must be completed by the end of this week.

**Week 9 (July 19-25)** – Lamentations 1-5; Lesson/Sermon Plans due by July 25 at 11:59 PM.

**Week 10 (July 26-30)** – Final Exam due by noon on July 30
Bibliography

Books on Prophecy in General


Commentaries on Jeremiah and/or Lamentations


