



Nipawin Bible College
BI-3053 Major Prophets I: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations
Winter 2024
3 Credit Hours
Mr. Jordan Bergen
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides an introduction to the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations. These books contain powerful messages originally given to the people of Judah as God's method of calling a wayward people back to Himself. As people of God who still find ourselves "prone to wander," these books are applicable to our lives as we seek to walk ever more closely with God. Throughout these books, the seriousness of sin and its consequences will be seen. Lamentations also provides an example of an appropriate expression of grief over sin and its consequences.

Though these books contain warnings of judgment, there are also threads of hope running through each book. The hope that one day God will make all things right was the greatest hope of the original audience, and it remains our hope as we look for the glorious return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The Bible (A translation, not a paraphrase).

Walker, Larry L., and Elmer A. Martens. *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary: Volume 8: Isaiah, Jeremiah & Lamentations*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2005.

Reading: 570 Pages (Including Scripture Reading).

THE BIG QUESTION

What are the messages of the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations to their original audiences and for our lives as followers of Jesus?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will gain:

1. A growing appreciation for the spiritual value of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations.
2. Basic familiarity with the Old Testament books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations.
3. Knowledge and ability to use basic principles for interpreting Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations in context.

4. Comprehension of how Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations inform our understanding of the New Testament.
5. The ability to relate the message of these prophetic books to their own life and ministry.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Participation – 5%

- The student will be engaged in class discussion and classroom practical activities throughout the course.

Bible Reading – 10%

- The student will read the entirety of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations throughout the class (text is included in the textbook). At the beginning of the class period in which the reading is due, they will indicate how many chapters they read out of the 123 chapters from Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations.

Due: April 4th

Bible Memorization – 5%

- The student will memorize the following verses throughout the semester. The student will write out the verse verbatim (in NEO) **with a classmate to witness that it is from memory**. The student will indicate **their translation and the name of the student who witnessed them writing the verse**. The verses to be memorized are:
 - Isaiah 9:6 ***Due: January 25th***
 - Isaiah 61:1-2 ***Due: February 12th***
 - Jeremiah 1:4-5 ***Due: February 29th***
 - Jeremiah 31:34 ***Due: March 25th***
 - Lamentations 3:22-24 ***Due: April 4th***

Textbook Reading Quizzes – 35%

- The student will be prepared for a quiz that corresponds to the assigned reading for the class period. All quizzes will be at the beginning of class and based on the content of: Walker, Larry L., and Elmer A. Martens. *Isaiah, Jeremiah & Lamentations*.

Due: See Class Schedule

Exegetical Paper and Presentation – 25%

- The student will write a **7-10 page** exegetical paper, consulting at least **seven sources (including at least four commentaries)**, on a passage from Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Lamentations.

- Some guidelines for this paper are as follows (headings are preferred, you can use the same main headings as below):

Basic Outline:

Introduction: .5 page. Have the main point of the passage italicized.

- I. **Context:** 1.5 pages (some passages may need more or less contextual consideration)
 - A. **Historical Context:** Is there a determinable historical context behind the specific passage? Does any of the historical context behind the general period of the book as a whole **help to interpret the passage?**
 - B. **Literary Context:** Why is this passage in this part of the book? Is there anything in the passage preceding my passage or the passage following my passage that **helps to interpret it?**
 - II. **Content:** 4 pages of exegetical work through the specific passage (i.e. key terms, interpretive decisions, evaluation of competing theories, etc.).
 - III. **Application:** .75-1 page. Show how the main point of the passage applies to your life or ministry today. Be specific about personal changes you ought to make in light of your understanding of the text.
- The week following the due date for the written paper, the student will then present their findings orally in class. The presentations should be **2-3 minutes long** and there will be penalties for anything longer than 5 minutes. The presentations will address the following questions:
 - “Why did I choose this topic?”
 - “What are some insights on this passage that I didn’t know before?”
 - “What is the significance of this passage for **us** today?” (Rework your personal application from your paper and broaden it to apply to others.)

Paper Due: February 8th
Presentation Due: February 15th

Final Exam – 20%

- The student will take a final exam covering the content of the course. The quizzes and memory verses will be valuable preparation.

Due: Exam Week

GRADING:

Participation:	5%	Bible Reading:	10%
Bible Memory:	5%	Quizzes:	35%
Exegetical Paper/Presentation:	25%	Final Exam:	20%

NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers (**see NBC Sample Paper**). Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

Assignments will be due **at the beginning of class on the date assigned**.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2023-2024

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2023-2024

Reading: 570 Pages

Writing: 7 Pages

Memory: 9 Verses

MAJOR PROPHETS I CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
1/15	Syllabus Review		
1/18	Isaiah Introduction	Isaiah Introduction & Isaiah 1-12 (55p)	Quiz 1
1/22	Isaiah 1-23	Isaiah 13-23 (45p)	Quiz 2
1/25	Isaiah 1-23		Memory: Isaiah 9:6
1/29	Isaiah 24-53	Isaiah 24-39 (65p)	Quiz 3
2/1	Isaiah 24-53		
2/5	Isaiah 24-53	Isaiah 40-53 (70p)	Quiz 4
2/8	Isaiah 54-66		Exegetical Paper (7pg)
2/12	Isaiah 54-66	Isaiah 54-66 (45p)	Quiz 5 Memory: Isaiah 61:1-2
2/15	Presentations		Presentations
2/26	Jeremiah Introduction	Jeremiah Introduction & Jeremiah 1-10 (70p)	Quiz 6
2/29	Jeremiah 1-10		Memory: Jeremiah 1:4-5
3/4	Jeremiah 11-29	Jeremiah 11-29 (80p)	Quiz 7
3/14	Jeremiah 11-29		
3/18	Jeremiah 11-29		
3/21	Jeremiah 30-39	Jeremiah 30-39 (40p)	Quiz 8
3/25	Jeremiah 30-39		Memory: Jeremiah 31:34
3/28	Jeremiah 40-52	Jeremiah 40-52 (60p)	Quiz 9
4/1	Jeremiah 40-52		
4/4	Lamentations	Lamentations (35p)	Quiz 10 Memory: Lam. 3:22-24 Bible Reading
4/10-11			Final Exam

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Huey, Jr. F. B. *The New American Commentary: Jeremiah, Lamentations*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993.
- Longman III, Tremper, and David E. Garland, Eds. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 6 Proverbs – Isaiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.
- _____. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 7 Jeremiah - Ezekiel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- Oswalt, John N. *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament: The Book of Isaiah Chapters 1-39*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986.
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- Thompson, J. A. *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament: The Book of Jeremiah*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987.
- Young, Edward J. *The Book of Isaiah: Volume I*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1976.
- _____. *The Book of Isaiah: Volume II*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1977.
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