

B405 Memory and Trauma: Monarchy in Samuel and Kings

May 15 to June 8
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
from 6 pm to 8:15 pm
Classroom: Online (Remote)

Instructors

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Woo Min Lee
e-mail: woolee@mccormick.edu
phone: 857-363-0082
Office Hours: TBD (Online)
Educational Assistant: TBD
e-mail: TBD

Course Description

The books of Samuel and Kings are full of traumatic memories about the Israelite monarchy including fertility, corruption, conflicts, betrayal, murder, sexual violence, warfare, and idolatry. This course puts emphasis on the analysis of the traumatic events in sociological and psychoanalytical terms. Students will relate their readings of the narrative to their own current contexts while developing sound biblical scholarship.

Course Outline

This course familiarizes the participants with the monarchy of ancient Israel in the books of Samuel and Kings. Students will employ multiple approaches including but not limited to literary, historical, and postcolonial criticisms to the narrative for exegesis and contemporary theological-biblical hermeneutics.

Participants will analyze the traumatic impacts on the kingdom in sociological and psychoanalytical terms. They will also engage their readings of Samuel and Kings in the context of real-world situations while developing sound biblical scholarship.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will have identified and evaluated traumatic memories about monarchy in the biblical narrative. (*Think critically*, PLSO #1)
2. Students will have constructed theological meaning of trauma based upon Christian tradition. (*Construct theological meaning using Christian tradition(s)*, PLSO #2)
3. Students will have assessed the different types of traumatic events in the books of Samuel and Kings and will have related them to events in their own social contexts. Students will have also developed their capacities to respond to the communal and systemic nature of trauma. (*Exhibit cross-cultural competence*, PLSO #4)

Course Format

This course is a remote course. This course consists of seminar/lecture, in-class presentations, and discussion as described below:

Lecture (Asynchronous, pre-recorded video clips will be available at Alexandria): 45 minutes
Follow-up discussion (Synchronous): 30 minutes

In-class presentations with Q&A sessions (Synchronous): 1 hour

Requirements

Attendance (10%)

Participation (20%): Class discussions

Presentations (20%): In-class presentations

Midterm paper (20%)

Final term paper (30%)

Evaluation rubric for papers and presentations

	5	4	3	2
Critical thoughts	The essay/presentation makes arguments that are clearly articulated, critically insightful, and thoughtfully responsive to the questions or themes posed.	The essay/presentation makes arguments that are reasonably clear, insightful, and responsive to the questions or themes posed.	The essay/presentation makes arguments but there are some problems with the arguments.	The essay/presentation does not make clear arguments.
Construction of theological meaning using Christian tradition(s)	The arguments are persuasively supported by appropriate sources of Christian tradition(s).	The arguments are adequately supported by appropriate sources of Christian tradition(s).	The arguments reflect lack of appropriate sources of Christian tradition(s).	The essay/presentation does not draw support from appropriate sources of Christian tradition.
Exhibition of cross-cultural competence	The essay/presentation relates its arguments to contexts of the contemporary society in such a way as to shed new	The essay/presentation competently relates its arguments to contexts of the contemporary society.	The essay/presentation relates its arguments to contexts of the contemporary society but is not fully effective.	The essay/presentation does not address the contexts of or the contemporary society.

	light on the issues of the contemporary society.			
Writing	The essay/presentation reflects mastery of the arts of academic writing—organization, style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, diction, formatting, and citations.	The essay/presentation reflects competence in the arts of academic writing.	The essay/presentation reflects notable deficiencies in some aspects of academic writing.	The essay/presentation reflects serious deficiencies in academic writing skills.

Course Materials

1. Required Textbooks

Study Bible

(New Revised Standard Version Study Bible, New International Version Study Bible, Common English Bible Study Bible, or the Jewish Study Bible)

Janzen, David. *Trauma and the Failure of History: Kings, Lamentations, and the Destruction of Jerusalem*. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019. (Available online at JKM library website)

Janzen, David. *The Violent Gift: Trauma's Subversion of the Deuteronomistic History's Narrative*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2012. (Available online at JKM library website)

Boase, Elizabeth, and Christopher G. Frechette, eds. *Bible through the Lens of Trauma*. Vol. 86. Semeia Studies. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2016. (Available online at JKM library website)

2. Commentaries

Anderson, A. A. *2 Samuel*. Vol. 11. Word Biblical Commentary. Dallas, Tex: Word Books, 1989. (Reference section (BS1325.3.A530 1989), JKM Library) (*WBC-2S*)

Brueggemann, Walter. *1 & 2 Kings*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys, 2000. (BS1335.3.B7894 2000, JKM Library) (*SHBC II*)

Cartledge, Tony W. *1 & 2 Samuel*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys, 2001. (SHBC I)

Cogan, Mordechai. *1 Kings*. Anchor Bible Commentary. N.Y. : Doubleday, 2001. (BS1335.53 .C640 2001, JKM Library) (ABC-1K)

Cogan, Mordechai and Hayim Tadmor. *II Kings*. Anchor Bible Commentary. Garden City, N.Y. : Doubleday & Company, Inc. 1988. (ABC-2K)

DeVries, Simon J. *1 Kings*. Word Biblical Commentary. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers. 2003. (WBC-1K)

Hobbs, T.R. *2 Kings*. Word Biblical Commentary. Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1985. (WBC-2K)

Klein, Ralph W. *1 Samuel*. Word Biblical Commentary; Vol. 10. Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1983. (Reference section (BS491.2.W67 2008) or BS1325.3.K560 1983), JKM Library) (WBC - 1S)

McCarter, P. Kyle. *1 Samuel*. Anchor Bible Commentary. Garden City, N.Y. : Doubleday, 1980. (BS1325.3 .M30, JKM Library) (ABC-1S)

McCarter, P. Kyle. *II Samuel*. Anchor Bible Commentary. Garden City, N.Y. : Doubleday, 1984. (BS1323 .M320 1984, JKM Library) (ABC-2S)

Park, Song-Mi Suzie. *2 Kings*. Wisdom Commentary. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2019. (Reference section (BS491.3.W570 vol.12 REF), JKM Library) (WC)

Tsumura, David Toshio. *The First Book of Samuel*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich: William B. Eerdmans, 2007. (BS1325.53.T78 2007, JKM Library) (NICOT I)

Tsumura, David Toshio. *The Second Book of Samuel*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2019. (BS1325.53.T783 2019, JKM Library) (NICOT II)

3. Trauma Healing Initiative Series (THI) (<https://www.mccormick.edu/trauma-healing-initiative>)

Including but not limited to:

“Connecting COVID, Trauma and Mental Health - Trauma Symposium (4-9-20)”
(<http://videos.mccormick.edu/video/416071604>)

“Vulnerable Children in Times of Heightened Stress - Trauma Symposium (4-16-20)”
(<http://videos.mccormick.edu/video/416116464>)

“Resilient Children & Parents (Part 1) - Trauma Symposium (8-6-20)”
(<http://videos.mccormick.edu/video/454061545>)

“Resilient Children & Parents (Part 2) - Trauma Symposium (8-6-20)”
(https://vimeo.com/454091936?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=10630875)

4. Supplementary Resources

Will be introduced for each session

Course Process (the overall flow of the semester, main topics)

This course will cover following topics as written below:

1. Introduction

- a. Syllabus and textbooks
- b. Historical and literary survey about the books of Samuel and Kings
 - i. The outline of the books of Samuel and Kings
- c. Definition of Trauma
 - i. Required readings
 1. *Trauma and the Failure of History*, 1-40.
 2. *The Violent Gift*, 1-63.
 - ii. Trauma Healing Initiative Series
 1. “Connecting COVID, Trauma and Mental Health - Trauma Symposium (4-9-20)” in Trauma Healing Initiative Series (<http://videos.mccormick.edu/video/416071604>) (<https://www.mccormick.edu/trauma-healing-initiative>)
 - iii. Follow-up questions for discussion
 1. What is “Deuteronomistic History (DH)”?
 2. What is “trauma”?
 3. What was social-historical background of trauma in DH?
 4. Are there traumatic events in your historical, social, or cultural contexts?