

BI 327W Loss, Grief, and Hope: Lament in the Hebrew Bible as a Congregational Resource

Advanced Hebrew Bible

Three Credits

Grade or Credit/No credit

FACULTY Helen Chukka, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course explores biblical understanding of lament, and the elements of loss, grief, and hope included in it. Crying out, protesting, coping, seeking vengeance, trusting God, and affirming God's sovereignty amidst various losses are accessible in the laments of the Hebrew Bible. This course explores these various responses of individuals and communities in the Scripture. It will look at expressions and specific forms of lament, as well as the biblical figures as models of piety and prayer and intends to present lament as a powerful and pious expression of faith in and for the Christian church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students will be able to

- grow in understanding the nature, function, and power of laments
- describe the various forms of lament and recognize the complexity of loss, grief, and hope in the Hebrew Bible
- appreciate lament as a pious and powerful expression of faith
- use lament as a congregational resource in various contexts

EVALUATION

Students will be primarily evaluated on written assignments and class participation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Required)

Bible (NRSV or NRSVue)

Billman, Kathleen, and Daniel Migliore, eds. *Rachel's Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006.

McClintock, Karen A. *Shame-Less Lives, Grace-Full Congregations*. Blue Ridge Summit: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Incorporated, 2011.

RECOMMENDED (select chapters will be required but purchase is not required)

Rah, Soong-Chan. *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2015.