NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BIBL 7170-01: SYMPOSIUM ON THE THEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE
THEME: THE HOLY LAND: BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES AND CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS
FALL, 2019 (19/S1): 08/26/19 - 12/13/19 (SYMPOSIUM, 09/26/19 – 09/28/19)
3 CREDIT HOURS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION: Rev. Dr. Andrew E. Larsen
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COURSE AIM
The aim is to enable students to explore Biblical Perspectives on the Holy Land and the Contemporary Conflict, and to reflect critically, theologically, ethically and pastorally.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is held in conjunction with the annual North Park Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture. The course will foster concentrated reflection on the papers presented at the Symposium and allow students to participate more meaningfully in the Symposium event.

This year’s symposium focuses on the Holy Land and the current conflict. The center of the course will be the three-day seminar (meeting from Thursday September 26 to Saturday, September 28), which includes the Symposium itself and two additional cohort sessions combining students from both NPTS and Bethlehem Bible College (our partner school in Bethlehem) before and after the Symposium lectures. Attendance at all sessions is required and reading of the entire symposium materials is assumed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
1. Analyze major historical and theological perspectives on the land and the modern conflict.
2. Engage in theological and contextual reflection on the Holy Land including conflict and the work of reconciliation within diverse perspectives. Besides the symposium papers we will also have cross-cultural conversations between students from BBC and NPTS.

This course contributes towards the following program learning outcomes:
- Interpret the Christian historical and theological tradition for appropriation in the life and mission of the church (MDiv, MATS, parallel outcomes in MACF and MACM)
- Engage diversity and exhibit growth towards inter-cultural competence for ministry reflective of God’s global redemptive work (all degree programs).
REQUIRED TEXTS
1. Symposium papers (to be distributed when they are available from the authors)
2. Additional personal readings selected by each student for course assignments listed above.

ASSIGNMENTS
Students will:
1. Attend the entire Symposium and ask at least one question in a Q & A session of their choosing. It may be helpful to write out your question before speaking and if desired, you can query the professor beforehand for coaching on relevance and focus.
2. Attend and enter discussion in the additional cohort sessions on: Thursday, September 26 (3:00pm-5:00pm) and Saturday, September 28 (4:00pm-5:00pm). Asking questions and responding to inputs from other students and professor is part of a successful discussion and satisfactory grade.
3. Write two 400-word minimum self-audit reflections, one before and one after responding to the questions below. One should be completed before the Symposium, by September 25th. The 2nd by Dec. 13th. These are to be more like journal reflections, not academic papers.
4. Write a reflection/interaction of up to 1000 words of one item of reading or viewing on a chosen resource related to Palestine/Israel and the conflict from the resource list provided below. Due before the Symposium, by September 25th.
4. Read all the Symposium papers in advance.
5. Write a 5000-word research paper addressing a topic arising from the lectures and conversations in this class (with special attention to the cohort sessions before and after the lectures). Be attentive to the following: the importance of the land, just peace, advocacy, human rights, God's covenant with his people, Zionism, Christian Zionism, geo-political factors and foreign policy, theology, and interfaith relations. Seek to also answer how this conflict is important to the North American church in general, and to Christian discipleship in particular.

Students need to have their research topic and ideas approved by the professor before beginning writing (suggested due date by Oct. 11th). Final research paper is due by Dec. 13th although its much preferred earlier as the professor will be in Israel/Palestine after Thanksgiving.

Self-audit questions:
- Which historical and theological narrative were you more familiar with before this symposium, the Israeli or Palestinian? Why (address your background, what were the assumptions, explicit or implicit in your spiritual/religious community or any other relevant influences)?
- What questions do you bring to the topic of this course and Symposium, before and after?

GRADING (percentage of total marks awarded for each assessment)
Reflections assignments (# 3 &4 above) 40%
Research Paper 40%
Class Participation (#1 &2 above) 20%
GRADING (Scale)
A = 95–100; A- = 93–94
B+ = 91-92; B = 88-90; B- = 86-87
C+ = 84-85; C = 80-83; C – = 78-79
D+ = 76-77; D = 72-75; D – = 70-71
F = 69 and below

ADDITIONAL COURSE GUIDELINES
State attendance, late submission, and other course policies. Consider pointing students to the inclusive language policy in the Student Writing Handbook.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:
1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the Seminary Academic Catalog, pp. 25–27.

ACCOMMODATIONS
North Park is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this class related to a disability, contact the Center for Student Engagement by email ada@northpark.edu or phone at 773-244-5737 to schedule an appointment with the Learning Specialist. You can also stop by The Center for Student Engagement, located on the first floor of the Johnson Center.

TITLE IX
Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773-244-6276 or TitleIX@northpark.edu) for information about reporting, campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University’s Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the
requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to North Park’s Safe Community site for reporting, contact information and further details. [http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Safe-Community](http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Safe-Community)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**
The special cross-cultural cohort sessions will convene on Thursday, September 26th from 3:00pm-5:00pm (Room TBD) and on Saturday, the 29th, 4pm-5pm (Room TBD).

**RESOURCE LIST**

**Books**


Brueggemann, Walter, *Chosen? Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. 2015


Kairos USA, *Call to Action: U.S. Response to the Kairos Palestine Document*. 2012


Olson, Pamela, *Fast Times in Palestine: A Love Affair with a Homeless*

Movies/Websites/News blogs and Analysis:
+972, https://972mag.com/
Breaking the Silence http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/
Churches for Middle East Peace. CMEP works to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East. https://cmeprg.org/resources/ Christian Zionism. A Place to Discover and explore God’s heart for the Holy Land.
https://www.christianzionism.org/
Jewish Voice for Peace, https://www.jvpnyc.org/resources
Mondoweiss, https://mondoweiss.net/