

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Violence in the Bible

TERM: Fall 2018-19

PROFESSOR: Jerome Creach

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 20
AUDITORS: 3

UNLIMITED _____
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the many dimensions of violence in the Bible. The course considers the portrait of God (apparently) acting violently and destructively, the (seeming) divine approval or sanction of violent acts, and accounts of venerated figures acting violently. The ultimate goal of the course is to provide ways of reading texts that seem to promote violence as integral parts of Christian scripture.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Discuss the vocabulary of violence in the Bible (e.g. Hebrew *hamas* and associated terms).
- Identify the various dimensions of violence in the Bible including violence attributed to God; divinely-sanctioned violence; violence against women; violence in economic systems; and eschatological violence in the form of eternal punishment.
- Articulate the relationship between key tenets of the Christian faith -- including theology proper and the work of Christ -- and the issue and problem of violence.
- Discuss perspectives on biblical authority, especially as it pertains to the relationship between Old and New Testaments.
- Use principles for interpreting problematic texts, informed by biblical studies and complementary disciplines (theology, ethics, church history).
- Articulate ways to use violence as a lens through which to read the whole of Christian scripture.

PREREQUISITES:

- OT 110 or OT 120 (New Curriculum) or
- OT 01 or OT 02 (Old Curriculum)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Creach, Jerome. *Violence in Scripture*. Interpretation: Resources for the Use of Scripture in the Church. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013, ISBN: 978-0664231453.

Select articles and essays.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Class discussion. One book review. One major paper.

ATTENDANCE: Required.