SYLLABUS

Course: HBX698 Reading the Hebrew Bible Through Postcolonial Eyes

Dates/Time: July 11-15 / 8:30am – 11:30 am

Instructor: Dr. Ira D. Mangililo
Lecturer in Hebrew Bible and Feminist Theologies at the Faculty of Theology of Satya Wacana Christian University, Salatiga, Indonesia.

Description: This course introduces postcolonial hermeneutics as a reading strategy that challenges the biblical texts, especially the Hebrew Bible as metanarratives composed by the center for interpreting the empire. Viewing the text through this lens allows us to explore the dynamics of the relationships between the colonizer/colonized and alerts us to the powerful rhetorical instruments of imperialism. This course also focuses on the present context in which the biblical text has been used to promote, both as a tool of domination and as a resource for resistance to, the unjust excesses of imperialism.

Competencies:
- Be familiar with postcolonial approaches to biblical interpretation, especially the Hebrew Bible.
- Define the key concepts of postcolonialism such as ambivalence, mimicry, hybridity and the third space.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the political impact of empires on the composition of the Hebrew Bible.
- Discuss how postcolonial approaches can enrich our understanding of how the biblical text has been used to promote, both as a tool of domination and as a resource for resistance to, the unjust excesses of imperialism.

Readings: Recommended texts
Schedule

July 11: Postcolonial Theory
- What is postcolonial theory? Defining postcolonial theory and method.
- Mapping the Empire and Orientalism

July 12: Key Concepts in Postcolonialism
- Ambivalence, mimicry and hybridity.
  - Homi K. Bhabha, “Of Mimicry and Man” and “Signs Taken for Wonders,” from The Location of Culture.
- Third Space

July 13: Postcolonialism in Biblical Studies
- Bible as tools of the empire
- Israel and Empire
  - Leo G. Perdue and Warren Carter, Israel and Empire: A Postcolonial History of Israel and Early Judaism, 37-128.
July 14: Reading the Exodus and Conquest Narratives through Postcolonial eyes (Exodus 1-20; Joshua 1-6)

July 15: Postcolonial Feminist analysis of the Rahab story
- McKinlay, Judith E. McKinlay, “Reading Rahab and Ruth,” from Reframing Her: Biblical Women in Postcolonial Focus, 37-56.

- Critical Engagement: Reviewing what we already learned and questions asked during the learning process; where we go from here?

Note: This is a full-day class for MDiv students; afternoon tutorials are required for them.