Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Teaching Team: 
Jennie English-Dumont Pastor@bethlehem-chicago.org; 
Klaus-Peter Adam kpadam@lstc.edu

Rationale for the course
This class seeks to introduce to the book of Job as a rich spiritual and practical resource for ministerial leaders, as well as for the practice of ministry.

Our exploration of the tradition of the book of Job will focus on three lines of interpretation of the book.
Job in its relation to wisdom, Job in its relation to the Psalms and, finally, Job in its relation to law and legal tradition of Ancient Israel. 
We will analyze the various versions of the story of Job, will meditate on the occasions to read and to pray with texts from the book of Job. Traditions of lament and prayers of the individual, traditions of wisdom literature and the understanding of Job as opponent to god in a lawsuit will be important.

Likewise we will explore the ways in which the differing forms in the book of Job of classical lament/complaint, of wisdom tradition and of legal dispute give voice to the complex realities of the life of faith in a crisis. We will consider how to use the book of Job as resource for spiritual care of ourselves and others in moments of crisis.

We will immerse ourselves into the metaphors and the faith world of the book of Job through reading, prayer and meditation. We will also read selected interpretations and recreations of Job from contextual perspectives, such as reading in light of the holocaust, readings of the book through atheist positions and in the context of theodicy. We will consider how the situation of the suffering just, the imagery of the book and the constellation of the various players invite us to expand and reflect on our images and metaphors for God.

We hope a reading of Job helps us develop our own spirituality when navigating our own struggles as we deepen our own faith in the God of the Bible.

This class aims at immersing ourselves into the faith-world of the book of Job and at gaining strength in faith through this testimony of our ancestor’s faith in a time of tribulation.

Outcomes
This course intends to train students in Spiritual Formation. It attempts to help students to self-identify as persons created and called to live ethically in community and, more specifically as people of faith who are called to give witness to Jesus Christ, their Trinitarian faith, care for creation, and community with human neighbors (Competency M.Div. MA, MAM #1). This course also enables the student to understand their religious heritage in the form of the scripture of the Old Testament (Competency M. Div., MA, MAM # 2). Also, it enables the student to become aware of the cultural contexts of the biblical texts (Competency M. Div. MA, MAM #5).

**Suggested bibliography:**
