

TH651 Text & Tradition

Instructor	Drs. Joel Shuman & Brian Volck
Schedule	Fridays 6–9 pm, Saturdays 8:30 am –4:30 pm: Aug 25-26, Sept. 22-23, Oct. 20-21
Description	In this first module of CONNECT, we will read representative texts from the breadth of the biblical narrative to discover and describe what Scripture has to say about human flourishing and the role of health and healing in the pursuit of flourishing.
Requirements	Reading: See below for August sessions; remainder of readings will be in the syllabus.
	Writing: Three 1000-1200 word essays throughout course.
	Other Assignments

Required Texts:

Author and Title (Press, Year, Edition)	Cost	Pages to be read
Walter Brueggemann, <i>The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary</i> (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984) ISBN: 978-0806621203	\$19.00	
Peter De Vries, <i>The Blood of the Lamb</i> (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961/2020) ISBN: 978-0226143880	\$14.00	
Frederick J. Gaiser, <i>Healing in the Bible: Theological Insight for Christian Ministry</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010) ISBN: 978-0801031014	\$12.50	
Stanley Hauerwas, <i>God, Medicine, and Suffering</i> (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994) ISBN: 978-0802808967	\$21.50	
Allen Verhey, <i>Reading the Bible in the Strange World of Medicine</i> (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003) ISBN: 978-0802822635	\$32.50	
An approved Study Bible		

Reading for (1st class) August 25-26:

Students should begin reading Dr Vries' *Blood of the Lamb* as soon as possible; we'll refer to it at various times during the module, and spend significant time with it when we discuss lament.

For the first weekend, please read the following pages from the required texts:

- Frederick Gaiser, *Healing in the Bible*, 1-5, 6-20, 74-85.
- Stanley Hauerwas, *God, Medicine, and Suffering*, ix-xiv.

Students should also read the following shorter readings, which will be posted to the course Canvas page:

- Philip Kenneson, et al, "The Shape of God's Reign: Wholeness." #
- Nicholas Lash, "Performing the Scriptures." #
- Stanley Hauerwas, "Salvation and Health: Why Medicine Needs the Church." #
- Kate Bowler, "Death, the Prosperity Gospel, and Me." #

Written Assignment Following August Classes:

Essay One (due 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 1) During the first and second sessions we asserted and reasserted the anti-gnostic claim of Irenaeus that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments tell a single story of God's saving work. Yet, we've noted some decided differences in the way the two testaments imagine and deal with the nature and significance of health, healing, and human flourishing. Write a well-crafted essay reflecting on and trying to account for these differences considering Irenaeus's claim.