

Being Introduction to Postcolonial Preaching  
L. Daniel Hawk  
Syllabus  
Mondays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
August 19 through October 7, 2024

**Description**

This course approaches the Bible as a decolonizing text that presents a vision of human dignity, justice, and peace, and that exposes and opposes the false truths of colonial regimes. It introduces students to basic methods of biblical interpretation and to elements of postcolonial interpretation, with the assumption that a thoughtful and faithful interpretation of the text forms the foundation for the passage’s extension into the life of the church through preaching.

**Course Texts**

The Holy Bible. Any modern translation.  
Kat Armas. *Abuelita Faith*. Brazos Press, 2021.

*Bring a Bible, in print or digital form, to all online sessions.* A large part of our work will center on discussions of biblical texts.

**Assignments**

1. Read the designated chapter(s) in Armas and the assigned biblical texts and be prepared to talk about them in class.
2. *Course Journal.*  
Writing down your thoughts before and after a class is one of the best ways of making what you’ve learned part of you. This exercise gives you an opportunity to do that! To prepare for class every week, you’re invited to write your thoughts about the week’s readings in a journal. Your reflections may follow the examples below or respond to questions you’ve raised.
  - On *Abuelita Faith*. What insights did you receive? What do you want to think more about – and to talk about with others? Did you have points of disagreement? etc.
  - On *biblical books and passages*. How do these passages look when viewed through the lens of Empire? How is Empire reflected in this book or passage? How does the message resist Empire and equip God’s people to live in its shadow?
  - Is there a biblical passage that speaks to you? Jot down some preaching points!

Journal entries will be most useful to you in the future, and in the courses to come, if you write your reflections in 2-5 sentences.

**Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments for Class</b>
1	August 19	Orientation to Postcolonial Interpretation	Matthew 2 Armas, chapter 1: “Research Grief.”
2	August 26	Being Human	Genesis 1-11, Psalm 8

			Armas, chs. 2 and 6
	September 2	No class. Labor Day.	
3	September 9	Identity	Genesis 15:1-22:19; Deuteronomy 7:1-11; Joshua 2:1-24; 6:22-25 Armas, chs. 11 and 3
4	September 16	Liberation, Covenant, And Justice	Exodus 1-24, Deuteronomy 5, 15, Psalms 99, 110 Armas, chs. 4 and 9
5	September 23	Hybridity	Daniel 1-8; Esther 1-10; Nehemiah 1-13 Armas, chs. 10 and 12
6	September 30	Contesting Imperial Truths	Isaiah 1, 6, 11, 40-55; Micah 4; Ezekiel 37:1- 14 Armas, chs. 5 and 8
7	October 7	Practicing Postcolonial Interpretation	Deuteronomy 23:3-6; Ezra 7-10; Ruth 1-4 Armas, ch. 7