

I'm not sure exactly when the suffering of others came to pose a problem for my own faith; but I do remember clearly when the issues first crystalized for me. I started my teaching career at Rutgers University while I was a PhD student working on my dissertation in 1984. It was a fantastic job for me (teaching at a very good research university, without yet even having my degree), but it was not tenure-track. I was a poorly-paid adjunct instructor, teaching two or three courses a semester, in a range of areas: Introduction to the New Testament; Introduction to the Hebrew Bible; The Life and Letters of Paul; The Gospel of John; and so on.

I had never taught any of these courses before, of course, since this was just the beginning of my career. And back then my idea was that when I gave lectures, I would actually write out them out, word for word, by hand (I didn't own a computer then), on yellow pads. If I was teaching three courses - say New Testament, Hebrew Bible, and writings of Paul, I would have to lecture twice a week for an hour and fifteen minutes for each course. So that would be six long lectures a week (although I did mix it up with class discussions as well).
Written by hand.

It's hard to write a 75-minute lecture by hand. And to do four, five, or six of them each and every week, from scratch - that's really hard. And I was supposed to be writing my dissertation at the time. And I had a wife and two children. Yikes.

My schedule was pretty crazy. Basically,

The Rest of this Post is for members of the blog only. If you don't belong yet, why not join? It won't cost much, every penny goes to charity, and you get masses for your dosh. So join already!!

You need to be logged in to see this part of the content. Please [Login](#) to access.



[The Variety of Views of Suffering in the Bible
Is Suffering Our Fault?](#)