



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

**OTHB9445 OLD TESTAMENT
EXEGESIS:
BOOK OF PSALMS
FALL 2019**

Tues 4:00-8:00pm Room # TBA

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NOBTS Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

NOBTS Core Value Focus

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for the 2019-20 academic year is Spiritual Vitality: Maintaining a close relationship to Jesus Christ through all life endeavors. We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian and Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation. The curriculum competency specifically addressed in this course is Biblical Exposition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar provides an overview of the Book of Psalms with special attention to the overall structure, form-critical genres, analysis of Hebrew poetry, theological themes, and understanding psalms in their literary contexts. Selected individual psalms will be studied in depth. This course will explore the major theories about the nature of Hebrew poetry, with the aim of identifying the driving mechanism(s) behind this rich literary form.

As such, the course has both a theoretical and a practical component, and the goal of full and proper exegesis of poetic texts is constantly kept in view.

COURSE GOALS – Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have demonstrated a superior grasp of:

1. The essentials of Hebrew poetry at all levels (from word to phrase::line to poem), including the major theories for explaining this poetry.
2. Valid hermeneutical principles for applying this knowledge to the task of elucidating the meaning of a poetic text.
3. Essential skills required for holistic exegesis of a poetic text, including relating it to other texts.
4. The major form-critical genres of the Psalms.
5. The overall structure and message of the Psalter.

TEXTBOOKS: REQUIRED

Robert Alter. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. Basic Books, 1985.

Adele Berlin. *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*. Indiana University Press, 1985.

Bullock, C. Hassell. *Encountering the Book of Psalms: A Literary and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Braun, Joachim. *Music in Ancient Israel/Palestine: Archaeological, Written, and Comparative Sources*. Translated by Douglas W. Stott. The Bible in its World, ed. David Noel Freedman. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002.

J. Clinton McCann, Jr., ed. *The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter*. JSOTSup 159. JSOT, 1993.

David L. Petersen and Kent Harold Richards. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*. Fortress Guides to Biblical Scholarship. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.

Waltke, Bruce and J. M. Houston, & Erika Moore. *The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

_____. *The Psalms as Christian Lament: A Historical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

Wilfred Watson, *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques*

Gerald H. Wilson. *The Editing of the Hebrew Psalter*. SBLDS 76. Scholars Press, 1985.

Claus Westermann. *Praise and Lament in the Psalms*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1981.

TEXTBOOKS: RECOMMENDED

David M. Howard, Jr. *The Structure of Psalms 93–100*. University of California at San Diego Biblical and Judaic Studies 5. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1997.

H.-J. Kraus. *Theology of the Psalms*. Augsburg, 1986.

Eaton, John. *The Psalms Come Alive: Capturing the Voice and Art of Israel's Songs*

Samuel Terrien. *The Psalms: Strophic Structure and Theological Commentary*. Eerdmans, 2003

OTHERS

Manniche, Lise. *Music and Musicians in Ancient Egypt*

Foster, John L. *Hymns, Prayers, and Songs: An Anthology of Ancient Egyptian Lyric Poetry*

Dumbrill, Richard. *Music of the Ancient Near East: The Musicology and Organology of the Ancient Near East 3500-500 BC*

Sachs, Curt. *The Rise of Music in the Ancient World (East and West)*

Pierce, Timothy M. *Enthroned on Our Praise: An Old Testament Theology of Worship*

Sendrey, Alfred. *Music in Ancient Israel*

Suter, Ann. Editor. *Lament: Studies in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading (10%): Students are expected to read widely in the areas of Hebrew poetry, in addition to the assigned reading indicated on the schedule below. This supplementary reading should reflect a variety of sources, including both book-length and article-length treatments. The reading must be accounted for by two annotated bibliographies (typed, single-spaced). The first half of the reading is due at class time on **October 22**. The second is due at class time on **December 10**, covering the remaining portion of the reading. Late or incomplete work will be penalized proportionately. Works read must be listed with full bibliographic information, and summarized (1) in one or more paragraphs (for each article) or (2) in a 1-2 page summary (for each book). Please (1) indicate total pages read from each work and (2) give a grand total for all reading. Minimum 500.

2. Book Reviews (15%): Students will write 3 Critical Book Reviews of 6+ pages each as assigned in the initial class meetings.

3. Class Preparation and Participation (25%): Students are expected to come to class each day fully prepared to engage in discussion based upon the work assigned for that day. This includes all the assigned readings indicated below. Since this is a doctoral seminar, students are expected to display preparation at an exceptional level, including wide reading in the areas of Hebrew poetry (see #1 above).

4. Research Paper (50%): Each student is to prepare a term paper of no less than 20 text pages single-spaced (excluding title page, bibliography, appendixes, etc.), to be presented orally in class on one of the dates indicated below (the written paper is due one week before the oral presentation). The research paper is to address some aspect of Psalms research, such as in the areas of canon, linguistics, genre analysis, historical research, or other related topic. The research topic is to be presented to the professor by the October 1 meeting of the seminar with a statement of the title, thesis, and hypotheses. The paper may involve poetry from the OT outside the Book of Psalms.

In the presentations on Dec 3 & 10, PowerPoint presentations (or other software) are encouraged, and minimally a 1-2 page handout highlighting the paper's major points should be prepared to pass out in class in the week *prior* to the paper's being read. Papers are due one week before the presentations, and a paper respondent will be assigned for each paper. Papers will be posted in DropBox.

Exegetical portions of the paper should contain the following elements

1. Translation: An original translation is to be prepared, rendered in good, idiomatic English, yet reflecting all the nuances possible of the Hebrew text, including any salient grammatical and syntactical features that contribute to the poem's understanding.
2. Textual Notes: Attention must be given to the most important textual notes listed in the BHS apparatus.
3. Structural and Poetic Analysis: The poem's overall structure and its components must be analyzed in depth, including in-depth attention to poetic analyses at all levels, after the fashion of the methodologies introduced in the course. This is to be the major portion of the paper.
4. Thematic Analysis: The major theme(s) of the poem is/are to be identified and justified. This analysis is to arise from the previous three stages of analysis.

Students will have approximately 40 minutes in which to make their paper presentations, and 20 minutes will be devoted to respondents and questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

8/20 9/3 9/17 10/1 10/22 11/5 11/19 12/3 12/10

Aug 20 **Course Introduction - Foundations of Hebrew Poetry**

Translate Psalms 1, 23 Foundations

Read the following articles prior to the first class meeting:

N. Gottwald, "Poetry, Hebrew," *IDB* 3 (1962): 832-38

R. K. Harrison, "Hebrew Poetry," *ZPEB* 3 (1975): 76-87

D.N. Freedman, "Another Look at Biblical Hebrew Poetry," in E. Follis, ed., in *Directions in Biblical Hebrew Poetry* (JSOTSup 40, 1987): 11-28.

Ridderbos/Wolf, "Poetry, Hebrew," *ISBE* 3 (1986): 891-98

M. Dahood, "Poetry, Hebrew," *IDBSup* (1976): 669-72

B. Hrushovski, "Prosody, Hebrew," *EncJud* 13 (1971): cols 1195-1203

D. L. Petersen & K. H. Richards, *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry* (1992): 1-112.

Book Reviews:

Wilfred Watson, *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques*

Gunkel, Hermann. *Introduction to Psalms: The Genres of the Religious Lyric of Israel*. **Ron Lindo**

R. Alter, *The Art of Biblical Poetry*

Adele Berlin, *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*

Sept 3 **Music and Poetry in the Ancient Near East**

Foster, John L. *Hymns, Prayers, and Songs: An Anthology of Ancient Egyptian Lyric Poetry*

Sachs, Curt. *The Rise of Music in the Ancient World (East and West)*

Book Reviews:

Braun, Joachim. *Music in Ancient Israel/Palestine: Archaeological, Written, and Comparative Sources*

Sendrey, Alfred. *Music in Ancient Israel*

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms*

Waltke, Bruce and J. M. Houston, & Erika Moore. *The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary*. Eerdmans, 2010.

Translate Psalms 96, 98, 136 Hymns of Praise

Translate Psalms 84, 87, 121-122 Celebration of Jerusalem Temple

Sept 17 Psalms of Lament

Book Reviews:

Suter, Ann. Editor. *Lament: Studies in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond*.

Waltke, Bruce & James Houston, with Erika Moore. *The Psalms as Christian Lament: A Historical Commentary*.

Claus Westermann, *Praise and Lament in the Psalms*. 1981.

Bautsch, Richard J. *Developments in Genre Between Post-Exilic Penitential Prayers and the Psalms of Communal Lament*. 2004

Translate Psalm 22 (A 1-19)(B 20-32) Individual Lament

Translate Psalm 79, Lamentations 1 Lament over Jerusalem

Translate Psalms 63, 116 Salvation / Deliverance

David Howard, *The Structure of Psalms 93-100*

Francis Kimmitt, *The Shape of Psalms 42-49*

October 1 Royal Psalms

Translate Psalms 2, 29, 93, 110 Yahweh as King

Translate Psalms 11, 27, 40 Psalms of Trust

Book Reviews:

Sigmund Mowinckel, *The Psalms in Israel's Worship*

G. Wilson, *The Editing of the Hebrew Psalter*.

J. Clinton McCann, Jr., ed. *The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter*.

October 13-19 Fall Break

October 22 Didactic and Acrostic Hymns

Translate Psalms 78, 107 Historical Didactic Hymns

Translate Psalms 25, 111 Acrostic Didactic Hymns

November 5 Imprecatory Psalms

Translate Psalms 5, 10, 58, 137

Book Reviews:

MA Thesis: Raphael Forrer, "Revisiting the Imprecatory Psalms in Light of a Canonical Psalter"

Barker, Kit. *Imprecation as Divine Discourse: Speech-Act Theory, Dual Authorship, and Theological Interpretation*. JTI Supp 16. Eisenbrauns, 2016.

Kim, Jungho, *A literary and theological study of imprecatory Psalms 35 and 137 as a defense for their integrity* [microform]. 2004

November 12 No Meeting – ASOR. ETS, SBL Meetings, San Diego

December 3 Paper Presentations (4)

December 10 Paper Presentations (4)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, Leslie. C. *Psalms 101--150*. WBC 21. Waco: Word Books, 1983.
- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. Basic Books, 1985.
- Barker, Kit. *Imprecation as Divine Discourse: Speech-Act Theory, Dual Authorship, and Theological Interpretation*. *Journal of Theological Interpretation Supp*, 16. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2016.
- Bautsch, Richard J. *Developments in Genre Between Post-Exilic Penitential Prayers and the Psalms of Communal Lament*. *Academia Biblica*, 7. Leiden: Brill, 2004.
- Beckwith, R. and M.J. Selman, eds. *Sacrifice in the Bible*. Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical and Theological Research. UK: Paternoster Press. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
- Bellinger, William H. *A Hermeneutic of Curiosity and Readings of Psalm 61*. Macon: Mercer Univ. Press, 1995.
- _____. *The Testimony of the Poets and Sages: The Psalms and Wisdom Literature*. Macon: GA: Smyth and Helwys, 1998.
- Berlin, Adele. *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*. Indiana University Press, 1985.
- Bouzard, Walter C., Jr. *We Have Heard With Our Ears, O God: Sources of the Communal laments in the Psalms*. Atlanta: Scholar's Press, 1997.
- Brenner, Athalya, and C.R. Fontaine. *Wisdom and Psalms*. *Feminist Companion to the Bible*, 2, Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1998.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *David's Truth: In Israel's Imagination and Memory*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.
- _____. *Israel's Praise*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.
- _____. *The Psalms and the Life of Faith*. Fortress, 1995.
- Brueggeman, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. Augsburg OT Series.
- Craigie, Peter C. *Psalms 1-50*. WBC 19. Waco: Word Books, 1983.
- Crenshaw, James. *The Psalms: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Crow, Loren D. *The Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-134): Their Place in Israelite History and Religion*. SBL Dissertation Series 148. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1996.
- Cole, Robert. *The Shape and Message of Book III (Psalms 73-89)*. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 2000.
- Daly-Denton, Margaret. *David in the Fourth Gospel: The Johannine Reception of the Psalms*. Leiden: Brill, 2000.
- Davidson, Robert. *The Vitality of Worship: A Commentary on the Book of Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Dobbs-Allsopp, F.W. *On Biblical Poetry*. New York: Oxford Press, 2015.
- Flint, Peter W. *The Dead Sea Psalms Scrolls and the Book of Psalms*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1997.
- Forrer, Raphael. "Revisiting the Imprecatory Psalms in Light of a Canonical Psalter." MA Thesis, NOBTS, 2017.
- Freedman, David Noel. *Pottery, Poetry, and Prophecy: Collected Essays on Hebrew Poetry*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1980.
- Holladay, William L. *The Psalms Through Three Thousand Years*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
- Howard, David M., Jr. *The Structure of Psalms 93-100*. UCSD Biblical and Judaic Series 5. Eisenbrauns, 1997.
- Gillingham, S.E. *The Poems and Psalms of the Hebrew Bible*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1994.
- Goldingay, John. *Psalms* (3 vols). Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006-2008.
- Goulder, Michael D. *The Psalms of Asaph and the Pentateuch: Studies in the Psalter, III*. JSOT Sup 233. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1996.
- _____. *The Psalms of the Return: (Book V, Psalms 107-150): Studies in the Psalter, V*. JSOT Sup 258. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1998.

- Graham, Matt and S. McKenzie, eds. *The Chronicler as Author: Studies in Text and Structure*. JSOT Supplement, 263. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1999.
- Gray, George Buchanan. *The Forms of Hebrew Poetry: Considered with Special Reference to the Criticism and Interpretation of the Old Testament*. Wipf and Stock, 2002 (1915).
- Gruber, Mayer I. *Rashi's Commentary on the Psalms: With English Translation, Introduction, and Notes*. South Florida Studies in the History of Judaism, 161. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.
- Gunkel, Hermann. *Introduction to Psalms: The Genres of the Religious Lyric of Israel*. Completed by Joachim Begrich. Trans. J.D. Nogalski. Macon: Mercer Univ. Press, 1998.
- Keel, Othmar. *The Symbolism of the Biblical World: Ancient Near Eastern Iconography and the Book of Psalms*. Trans. T. Hallett. New York: Crossroad, 1985.
- Kidner, Derek. *Psalms 1-72: An Introduction and Commentary on Books I and II of the Psalms*. TynOT. Downers Grove: IVP, 1973.
- _____. *Psalms 1-72: An Introduction and Commentary on Books III - V of the Psalms*. TynOT Downers Grove: IVP, 1975.
- Kim, Jungho. *A Literary and Theological Study of Imprecatory Psalms 35 and 137 as a Defense for Their Integrity* [microform]. Theological Research Exchange Network, 2004.
- Kraus, H.-J. *Theology of the Psalms*. Augsburg, 1986.
- _____. *Psalms 1-59: A Continental Commentary*. Trans. by H.C. Oswald. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
- _____. *Psalms 60-150: A Continental Commentary*. Trans. by H.C. Oswald. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
- Kugel, James. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. New Haven: Yale, 1981. Reprint, 1998.
- Lohfink, N. and Erich Zenger. *The God of Israel and the Nations: Studies in Isaiah and the Psalms*. Trans. E.R. Kalin. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2000.
- Matthews, Victor; B.M. Levinson, and T. Frymer-Kensky. *Gender and Law in the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East*. JSOT Sup, 262. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1998.
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- McCann, J. Clinton, Jr., ed. *The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter*. JSOTSup 159. JSOT, 1993.
- McCann, J. Clinton, Jr. and Clinton McCann. *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms*. NY: Abingdon, 1993.
- McNamara, Martin. *The Psalms in the Early Irish Church*. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 2000.
- Mitchell, David C. *The Message of the Psalter: An Eschatological Programme in the Books of Psalms*. JSOT Sup 252. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1997.
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- Pemberton, Glenn. *Hurting with God: Learning to Lament with the Psalms*. Abilene: Abilene Christian University Press, 2012.
- Perowne, J.J. Stewart. *The Book of Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1966.
- Petersen, David L. and Kent Harold Richards, *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*. Fortress Guides to Biblical Scholarship. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.
- Sabourin, Leopold. *The Psalms: Their Origin and Meaning*. New York: Alba House, 1974.
- Seybold, Klaus. *Die Psalmen Handbuch zum Alten Testament 15*. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr, 1996.
- Starbuck, Scott. *Court Oracles in the Psalms: The So-Called Royal Psalms in Their Ancient Near Eastern Context*. Atlanta: SBL Dissertation Series 172, 1999.

- Steinberg, Julius and Timothy J. Stone, eds. with Rachel Stone. *The Shape of the Writings*. Siphut 16, Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2015.
- Sternberg, Meir. *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987.**
- Tate, Marvin. *Psalms 51-100*. WBC 20. Waco: Word Books, 1990.
- Terrien, Samuel A. *The Psalms: Strophic Structure and Theological Commentary*. Eerdmans, 2003.
- _____. *The Psalms and Their Meaning for Today*. Indianapolis: Bobbs - Merrill, 1952.
- VanRooy, H.F. *Studies on the Syriac Apocryphal Psalms*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1999.
- Waltke, Bruce & James Houston, with Erika Moore. *The Psalms as Christian Lament: A Historical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.
- _____. *The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
- Watson, Wilfred. *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques*. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1984.
- Weiser, Artur. *Psalms: A Commentary*. OTL. Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox, 1996.
- Claus Westermann, *Praise and Lament in the Psalms*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1981.
- Whybray, R. N. *Reading the Psalms as a Book*. JSOT Sup 222. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1996.
- Gerald H. Wilson, *The Editing of the Hebrew Psalter*. SBLDS 76. Scholars Press, 1985.