

OTHB9445 OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: BOOK OF PSALMS SPRING 2011

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Tues 8:30-11:00

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Dodd Faculty 201

SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of the Book of Psalms with special attention to the overall structure and themes, form-critical genres, analysis of Hebrew poetry, 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

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 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.

SEMINARY CORE VALUES

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowledge and Practice of the Word of God
Characteristic Excellence: Pursuit of God's Revelation with Diligence
Spiritual Vitality: Transforming Power of God's Word
Mission Focus (2010-2011): Our mission is to change the world,

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.
- 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.
- 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

- Bayer, Bathja. *Material Relics of Music in Ancient Palestine and Its Environs*
- 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)*
- C. Hassell Bullock, *Encountering the Psalms*
- Eaton, John. *The Psalms Come Alive: Capturing the Voice and Art of Israel's Songs*
- Kleinig, John W. *The Lord's Song: The Basis, Function and Significance of Choral Music in Chronicles*
- 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 (20%): 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 **March 28**. The second is due at class time on **May 3**, 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 (10 %): Students will write 2 Book Reviews of 4–6 pages each as assigned in the initial class meetings.

3. Class Preparation and Participation (20%): 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. (This will be accounted for by the form below, to be handed in on March 10). 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. Term Paper (50%): Each student is to prepare a term paper of no less than 20 text pages (excluding title page, bibliography, appendixes, etc.), to be presented orally in class on one of the dates indicated below (the written paper is due at the time of the oral presentation). The paper is to be on one Hebrew poem, either from the Psalter or elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible. If a poem outside of the Psalter is chosen, careful attention must be given to justifying the limits of the poem (i.e., it must be a logically discrete unit). Students must obtain the professor's approval for the passage chosen at least *three weeks* prior to the date of their paper's presentation. 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.

The term paper is to consist of 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 one hour in which to make their paper presentations. This will include reading of the paper itself, with appropriate reference to the handout, and the entertaining of questions. (Suggested time for reading of papers: 30–45 minutes, with 15–30 minutes devoted to discussion.) *All* students are expected to have read the passage in question *prior* to coming to class, and all are expected to enter into the discussion of the day. The students reading their papers will be

responsible for conducting the entire class period that day (in anticipation of presenting such papers, and teaching seminars and classes, in the future).

COURSE SCHEDULE

January	18	Course Introduction Book Review: R. Alter, <i>The Art of Biblical Poetry</i>
January	25	Music and Poetry in the Ancient Near East Foster, John L. <i>Hymns, Prayers, and Songs: An Anthology of Ancient Egyptian Lyric Poetry</i> Sachs, Curt. <i>The Rise of Music in the Ancient World (East and West)</i> Suter, Ann. Editor. <i>Lament: Studies in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond</i> . NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 2008. Braun, Joachim. <i>Music in Ancient Israel/Palestine: Archaeological, Written, and Comparative Sources</i> Sendrey, Alfred. <i>Music in Ancient Israel</i>
February	1	Foundations of Hebrew Poetry Translate Psalms 1, 23 Foundations Articles: N. Gottwald, "Poetry, Hebrew," <i>IDB</i> 3 (1962): 832-38 R. K. Harrison, "Hebrew Poetry," <i>ZPEB</i> 3 (1975): 76-87 Ridderbos/Wolf, "Poetry, Hebrew," <i>ISBE</i> 3 (1986): 891-98 M. Dahood, "Poetry, Hebrew," <i>IDBSup</i> (1976): 669-72 B. Hrushovski, "Prosody, Hebrew," <i>EncJud</i> 13 (1971): cols 1195-1203 D. L. Petersen and K. H. Richards, <i>Interpreting Hebrew Poetry</i> (1992): 1-112.
February	8	Translate Psalms 2, 29, 93, 110 Yahweh as King Sigmund Mowinckel, <i>The Psalms in Israel's Worship</i>
February	15	Translate Psalms 63, 116 Salvation / Deliverance David Howard, <i>The Structure of Psalms 93-100</i>
February	22	Translate Psalm 22 (A 1-19)(B 20-32) Individual Lament D.N. Freedman, "Another Look at Biblical Hebrew Poetry," in E. Follis, ed., in <i>Directions in Biblical Hebrew Poetry</i> (JSOTSup 40, 1987): 11-28.
March	1	Translate Psalms 11, 27, 40 Psalms of Trust Review: G. Wilson, <i>The Editing of the Hebrew Psalter</i> .
March	8	Translate Psalms 113-114, 118 The Hallel Adele Berlin, <i>The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism</i> , chs. 1-3

March	22	Translate Psalms 79, Lamentations 1	Lament over Jerusalem Adele Berlin, <i>The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism</i> , Chs. 4-6
March	29	Translate Psalms 78, 107	Historical Didactic Hymns Review: Kimmit diss. "The Shape of Psalms 42-49"
April	5	Translate Psalms 96, 98, 136	Hymns of Praise Walter Brueggemann, <i>The Message of the Psalms</i>
April	12	Translate Psalms 84, 87, 121-122	Celebration of Jerusalem Temple
April	19	Translate Psalms 58, 137	Imprecatory Psalms
April	26	Paper Presentations (2)	
May	3	Paper Presentations (2)	
May	10	Paper Presentations (2)	

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- 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.
- Brenner, Athalya, and C.R. Fontaine. *Wisdom and Psalms*. Feminist Companion to the Bible, 2, Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1998.
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- _____. *Israel's Praise*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.
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- _____. *The Psalms and the Life of Faith*. Fortress, 1995.
- 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.
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- Craigie, Peter C. *Psalms 1-50*. WBC 19. Waco: Word Books, 1983.
- Crenshaw, James. *The Psalms: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
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- _____. *The Psalms of the Return: (Book V, Psalms 107-150): Studies in the Psalter, V*. JSOT Sup 258. Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1998.
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