

ADVANCED EXEGESIS OF PSALMS
OT 209-3, Spring 2007
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Wednesday, Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m.
Gardencourt 206

Instructor:

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This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supercedes that of the online syllabus.

Course Description

We will concentrate on reading and becoming familiar with the book of Psalms, especially in terms of the theological and spiritual resources it has offered in the past and continues to offer to communities of faith today. Topics to be addressed include: prayer and ritual in ancient Israel, biblical Hebrew poetry, the forms of the Psalms and structure of the Psalter, theologies of the Psalms, and the use of the Psalms in Jewish and Christian tradition. With the rest of the time we will explore the book and focus exegetical and interpretive inquiry on several psalms of various kinds. Assignments will include reading of the psalms and of secondary materials, exegetical study of psalms, responses to the psalms as prayer, and teaching and preaching psalms.

Students are expected to use proper bibliography and/or footnoting in all written work. Failure properly to document sources of information in written work will result in the paper's being returned ungraded. Plagiarism is subject to a failing grade and a report to the dean's office.

In keeping with seminary policy, inclusive language is expected in relation to humans in all written work. The discussions of God's nature in the Psalms provide an ideal opportunity to ponder the issue of language for God and to experiment with pronouns and nouns to describe the God in whose image all humans are made.

Bibliography--in Bookstore and on Reserve

- Brown, William P. *Seeing the Psalms: A Theology of Metaphor*. Louisville: WJKP, 2002.
- Craven, Toni. *The Book of Psalms*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1992.
- deClaissé-Walford, Nancy L. *Introduction to the Psalms*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2004.
- Gillingham, Susan E. *The Poems and Psalms of the Hebrew Bible*. Oxford UP, 1994.
- Lathrop, Gordon, and Gail Ramshaw, eds. *Psalter for the Christian People*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 1993. (This is an inclusive-language translation of the Psalms, from which the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* Psalter is derived.)
- Levine, Herbert J. *Sing unto God a New Song: A Contemporary Reading of the Psalms*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995.
- Miller, Patrick. *They Cried to the Lord: The Form and Theology of Biblical Prayer*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.
- Wallace, Howard Neil. *Words to God, Word from God: The Psalms in the Prayer and Preaching of the Church*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2005.

On Reserve

- Attridge, Harold W., and Margot E. Fassler, eds. *Psalms in Community: Jewish and Christian Textual, Liturgical, and Artistic Traditions*. Vol. 25, Symposium Series. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.

Broyles, Craig. *The Conflict of Faith and Experience in the Psalms, Jsot Supp*, 1989.

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984.

Firth, David, and Philip J. Johnston, eds. *Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2005.

Holladay, William. *The Psalms through Three Thousand Years: Prayerbook of a Cloud of Witnesses*. Fortress Press, 1993.

Human, Dirk J., and Cas J. A. Vos, eds. *Psalms and Liturgy*. New York: T&T Clark, 2004.

Miller, Patrick. *Interpreting the Psalms*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.

Reid, Stephen Breck, ed. *Psalms and Practice: Worship, Virtue, and Authority*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2001.

Sarna, Nahum. *Songs of the Heart: An Introduction to the Book of Psalms*. Schocken, 1993.

Stuhlmüller, Carroll. *The Spirituality of the Psalms*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2002.

Commentaries on Reserve

Allen, L.C. *Psalms 101-150*. Word Biblical Commentary, 1983.

Clifford, Richard. *Psalms 1-72 and Psalms 73-150*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002, 2003.

Craigie, P.C. *Psalms 1-50*. Word Biblical Commentary, 1983.

Gerstenberger, Erhard. *Psalms: Part I, with an Introduction to Cultic Poetry*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

_____. *Psalms, Part 2 and Lamentations Fotl*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Kraus, H.-J. *Psalms 1-59 and Psalms 60-150*, Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1989

Schaefer, Konrad. *Psalms*. Berit Olam. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2001.

Tate, Marvin. *Psalms 51-100*. Word Biblical Commentary, 1990.

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

Grading

Reading, exegetical preparation, and class discussion	40%
Weekly postings and responses	20%
Final presentations and sermons	40%