

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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**TITLE:** The Psalms

**TERM:** September – December 2018 [20189]

**PROFESSOR:** Rev. Frederick Y. Chung

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO 30

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The Psalter can be viewed as a distillation of Israel's history, Torah, spirituality, liturgy, messianic hopes, and wisdom. This course will examine some of the key elements of Hebrew poetry exemplified by the Psalms. In the study of the Psalms according to their literary forms or genres, their unique poetic and thematic features will be highlighted. Some consideration will be given to thematic groupings of Psalms such as Creation Psalms and Penitential Psalms. The spirituality of the Psalms will be explored both through Patristic literature and modern authors; messianic and Christological reading of the Psalms will be considered. This course will also begin exploring Wisdom Literature with which the Psalter has traditionally been associated in the Writings/Ketubim.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

After engaging in the class discussions and assignments, the student is expected to:

- Learn skills in research, exegetical writing, and participating in discussions.
- Develop an appreciation for the poetry of the Psalms, their structure, and literary forms; appreciate their association with liturgy and music; make intertextual links to other passages of the Old Testament and New Testament; and consider the perspective of Jewish and Patristic authors.
- Apply the spiritual and theological themes of the Psalms to his/her personal journey and prayer life, finding a common language or "voice" for interior experiences.
- Grow in understanding of the Psalter's significance in communal singing, Lectionary preaching, and the reciting of the Liturgy of the Hours.

**PREREQUISITES:** Introduction to the Old Testament

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. A modern **English translation of the Bible** with notes and cross-references. Recommended editions: *The Catholic Study Bible: The New American Bible Revised Edition (2016)*; or *The HarperCollins Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version (2006)*.
2. All readings will be made available via the internet on the "Blackboard"/"Learning Portal" (PDF).

Some Readings will be assigned from the following sources (purchase of any of these books is **only optional**):

- Crenshaw, James L. *The Psalms: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans, 2001.
- Firth, David G. and Philip Johnston, eds. *Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2005.
- Lucas, Ernest. *A Guide to the Psalms and Wisdom Literature*. Vol. 3 of *Exploring the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

## POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

Participation	20% (10% before midterm; 10% after midterm)
Presentation	10%
Exegetical Paper	35%
Final Exam (oral)	35%

## ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

### 1. Psalms and General

- Allen, Leslie C. *Psalms 101-150*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. WBC 21. Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2002.
- Alonso Schökel, Luis. *A Manual of Hebrew Poetics*. Subsidia Biblica 11. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1988.
- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York: Basic Books, 1985.
- Attridge, Harold W. and Margot E. Fassler, eds. *Psalms in Community: Jewish and Christian Textual, Liturgical, and Artistic Traditions*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- Blaising, Craig A. and Carmen S. Hardin, eds. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Old Testament*. Vol. 7, *Psalms 1–50*. Vol. 8, *Psalms 51–150*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2008.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984.
- Byassee, Jason. *Praise Seeking Understanding: Reading the Psalms with Augustine*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans, 2007.
- Craigie, Peter C. and Marvin E. Tate. *Psalms 1-50*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. WBC 19. Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 2004.
- Crenshaw, James L. *The Psalms: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans, 2001.
- Eaton, J. H. *The Psalms: A Historical and Spiritual Commentary with an Introduction and New Translation*. New York: Continuum, 2005.
- Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Firth, David G. and Philip Johnston, eds. *Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2005.
- Fokkelman, J. P. *Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Futato, Mark David. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*, Handbooks for Old Testament Exegesis, edited by Howard, Jr., David M. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2007.
- Gerstenberger, Erhard. *Psalms, Part 1: With an Introduction to Cultic Poetry*. FOTL 14. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 1988.
- Gillingham, Susan E., "The Messiah in the Psalms: A Question of Reception History and the Psalter." In *King and Messiah in Israel and the Ancient Near East Proceedings of the Oxford Old Testament Seminar*, edited by John Day, 209-237. JSOT.S 270. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.
- Grogan, Geoffrey. *Psalms*. Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans, 2008.
- Holladay, William Lee. *The Psalms through Three Thousand Years: Prayerbook of a Cloud of Witnesses*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Kraus, Hans-Joachim. *Psalms 1-59: A Continental Commentary*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Lucas, Ernest. *A Guide to the Psalms and Wisdom Literature*. Vol. 3 of *Exploring the Old Testament*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Mays, James Luther. *The Lord Reigns: A Theological Handbook to the Psalms*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1994.

- Ross, Allen P. *A Commentary on the Psalms*. Kregel Exegetical Library. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011.
- Schaefer, Konrad. *Psalms*. Berit Olam. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2001.
- Stuhlmüller, Carroll. *The Spirituality of the Psalms*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2002.
- Tate, Marvin E. *Psalms 51-100*. WBC 20. Dallas, Tex.: Word Books, 1990.
- Wenham, Gordon J. *Psalms as Torah: Reading Biblical Song Ethically*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Wilson, Gerald H. "King, Messiah, and the Reign of God: Revisiting the Royal Psalms and the Shape of the Psalter." In *The Book of Psalms: Composition and Reception*, edited by Peter W. Flint, Patrick D. Miller, Aaron Brunell and Ryan Roberts. Leiden: Brill, 2005.
- Zenger, Erich. *A God of Vengeance?: Understanding the Psalms of Divine Wrath*. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.

## 2. Wisdom Literature

- Calduch-Benages, Núria, ed. *Wisdom for Life: Essays Offered to Honor Prof. Maurice Gilbert, SJ on the Occasion of His Eightieth Birthday*. Boston: De Gruyter, 2014.
- Corley, Jeremy. *Sirach*. New Collegeville Bible Commentary 21. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2013.
- Crenshaw, James L. *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.
- Estes, Daniel J. *Hear, My Son: Teaching and Learning in Proverbs 1-9*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 1997.
- Fox, Michael V. *A Time to Tear Down and a Time to Build Up: A Rereading of Ecclesiastes*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 1999.
- Fredericks, Daniel C., and Daniel J. Estes. *Ecclesiastes & the Song of Songs*. Apollos Old Testament Commentary 16. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2010.
- Harrington, Daniel J. *Jesus Ben Sira of Jerusalem: A Biblical Guide to Living Wisely*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2005.
- Hartley, John E. *The Book of Job*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.
- Horne, Milton P. *Proverbs-Ecclesiastes*. Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2003.
- Longman III, Tremper. *The Book of Ecclesiastes*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 1998.
- Murphy, Roland E. *Proverbs*. Word Biblical Commentary 22. Dallas: Word, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Tree of Life: An Exploration of Biblical Wisdom Literature*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2002.
- Perdue, Leo G. *Wisdom Literature: A Theological History*. 1st ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.
- Pope, Marvin H. *Job: Introduction, Translation, and Notes*. 1st ed. The Anchor Bible 15. Garden City: Doubleday, 1965.
- Treier, Daniel J. *Proverbs & Ecclesiastes*. Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2011.
- Troxel, Ronald L., Kelvin G. Friebel, and Dennis Robert Magary, eds. *Seeking Out the Wisdom of the Ancients: Essays Offered to Honor Michael V. Fox on the Occasion of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday*. Eisenbrauns: Winona Lake, 2005.
- Whybray, R. N. *The Book of Proverbs*. Cambridge [Eng.]: University Press, 1972.