



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

LCBS3328-30 Old Testament Studies: Psalms and Wisdom in Ancient Israel
Spring 2020, Term 203
Thursday, 6:00 pm -7:50 pm

Dr. Paul L. Dunteman Office by appointment before or after class
Adjunct Professor of Biblical languages and Theology
paullety@bellsouth.net
Cell phone: (786) 356-6145

Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission

Core Value

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is **Spiritual Vitality**: We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.

Course Description

Student will be introduced to the academic study of Israel's worship and wisdom books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. Emphasis will be given to the various critical issues related to the composition, reception, and interpretation of the books. Additionally, students will study relevant texts and theological themes related to the books. Prerequisites: Old Testament Survey and Hermeneutics

General Education Competencies (GECs)

Leavell College has identified four General Education Competencies:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Quantitative Reasoning

This course addresses GEC #1 and #3.

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry Program Student Learning Outcomes (BACM PSLOs) AND Bachelor of Arts in Music with an Emphasis in Worship Program Student Learning Outcomes (BAM PSLOs)

Leavell College has identified three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BACM and three Program Student Learning Outcomes for the BAM:

1. Biblical Interpretation (BACM PSLO #1)
1. Worship Leadership (BAM PSLO #1)
2. Service and Leadership (BACM PSLO #2 and BAM PSLO #2)
3. Historical and Theological Interpretation (BACM PSLO #3 and BAM PSLO #3)

This course addresses BACM PSLO #1 and #3.

Student Outcomes

The course is designed to examine the book of Psalms in light of theological and exegetical challenges. At the completion of the class, each student will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate** knowledge of the various types of psalms.
2. **Identify** and **critically evaluate** the introductory issues related to the book, including issues of canonical shaping, theology, and interpretation.
3. **Identify** the basic literary features of biblical poetry and their function for interpreting the Psalms.
4. **Identify** and **explain** important theological themes in the Psalter.

Course Texts

The following textbooks are required:

1. The primary text is the Old Testament itself. Students are encouraged to use a modern translation/version of the Old Testament such as RSV, NRSV, NIV, HCSB, NASB, ESV, NET, etc.
2. Goldingay, John, *Psalms 1–41*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006. (ISBN: 9780801027031)
3. deClaisse-Walford, Nancy, Rolf A. Jacobson, and Beth LaNeel Tanner. *The Book of Psalms*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. (ISBN: 9780802824936)

Course Requirements and Grading

1. *Attendance and Participation*
Students are expected to attend and participate in class. *This assignment relates to GECs #1, #2, BAM PSLOs #1, and CSLO #1.*
2. *Assigned Reading*
Reading is an integral part of the course objectives, providing important background material to the lectures. Students are required to complete the assigned reading for each

class meeting. Students must read the commentary on each of the assigned Psalms in the syllabus. Additionally, the Psalter must be read in its totality before coming to class, even if we do not discuss every psalm. *This assignment relates to BACM PSLOs #1, #3, and CSLOs #1, and #2.*

3. *Critical Introduction*

Write a **critical introduction** to the Psalter. The purpose of this assignment is to provide a thorough, yet thoughtfully relevant, introduction to the book. The structure of the critical introductions should be gleaned from research. The required commentaries and the course handouts should be consulted. Students are expected to examine other scholarly works for the assignment. The assignment should include liberal, moderate, and evangelical viewpoints. Introductions should be documented and written in **12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, and roughly** 6–8 full pages single-spaced. The critical introduction is due April 16th. *This assignment relates to BACM PSLOs #1, #3, and CSLOs #1, and #3.*

4. *Paraphrases*

Students must paraphrase 5 psalms from the Psalter. The paraphrases must be from the various types of psalms and must show creative and thoughtful consideration for each psalm's literary artistry and theology. The paraphrases are due February 27th. *This assignment relates to BACM PSLOs #1, #3, and CSLOs #1, and #3.*

5. *Exams*

Students will complete a Midterm and a comprehensive Final exam. The mid term and final exam will consist of questions from the materials discussed in class as well as pertinent material from the required readings. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, listing, short answer, and essay questions. The midterm is due on March 26th and the final exam is due on May 13th. *This assignment relates to GEC #1, #3, BACM PSLOs #1, #3, and CSLOs #1, #2, #3, and #4.*

6. The grading scale as outlined in the Leavell College catalog will be utilized:

A = 93–100
B = 85–92
C = 77–84
D = 70–76
F = 69 and below

7. The final breakdown for the course will be tabulated according to the following percentage breakdown:

Class Participation	10%
Assigned Reading	20%
Critical Introduction	30%
Paraphrases	10%
Mid Term	15%

Final Exam

$\frac{15\%}{100\%}$

Course Outline

All topics and dates (excluding the final exam) are subject to change. Note: Reading should be completed prior to coming to class.

New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT)

	Week of	Topic	Textbook Reading	Assignment
1	January 23	Course Syllabus Review Introduction to the Psalms	NICOT pp. 1–12, 43–47	
2	January 30	Biblical Poetry and Interpreting the Psalms	Introduction in Goldingay	
3	Feb. 6	Approaching the Psalter Interpretation of the Psalter	NICOT pp. 12–38 Psalms 1–2, and 149–50	
4	Feb. 13	Theology and History of the Psalms		
5	Feb. 20	Psalms of Praise and Lament	Psalms 22, 42–43, 79, 96, 98, 113–114	
6	Feb 27	Thanksgiving Psalms	Psalms 118, 123–126	Paraphrases Due February 27th
7	March 5	Psalms of Trust	Psalms 11, 27, 40, 58	
8	March 12	Wisdom Psalms Review	Psalms 69, 78, 90, 119	
9	March 16-20	Spring Break		
10	March 26	Midterm		Midterm Due March 26th

	Week of	Topic	Textbook Reading	Assignment
11	April 2	Torah Psalms	Psalms 27, 119	
12	April 9	Imprecatory Psalms	Psalms 136, 137	
13	April 16	Royal Psalms	Psalms 45	Critical Introduction Due April 16th
14	April 23	Messianic Psalms	Psalms 2, 20, 110	
15	April 30	The New Testament's use of the Psalms		
16	May 7	Review		
	May 13	Final Exam		Final Exam on Blackboard Due by May 13th 6:00 pm

Additional Course Information

1. *Attendance Policy:* Per the Leavell College catalog, school policies regarding absences and tardies will be strictly enforced. Any student missing more than nine hours will automatically receive a grade of "F" for the course. Every three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early for class will be counted as one hour of absence. The student is responsible for contacting the teacher if he or she is tardy and the roll has been taken. The student is responsible for all material, including that which was covered during an absence.
2. *Writing Style Guide:* Writing assignments should follow the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style (revised August 2019). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf.
3. *Blackboard/Self-Serve:* The student is responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents, and announcements. The student is also responsible for maintaining current information and current e-mail address on the Blackboard system and Self-Serve. As Blackboard and Self-Serve do not communicate with one another, students

will need to enter updates on both platforms.

4. *Netiquette*: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will
5. promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.
6. *Classroom Behavior*: Students are expected to maintain a Christian attitude both inside and outside the classroom. Derogatory and abusive language will not be tolerated. Any behavior not becoming of a minister may result in dismissal from class. First time offenses will be documented and subsequent offenses will be submitted to the Dean of Leavell College.
7. *Academic Honesty Policy*: All students, whether on-campus, Internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.
8. *Plagiarism Policy*: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
9. *Emergency Plan*: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event or epidemic, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
10. *For Technical Assistance*: For general NOBTS technical help, go to: www.NOBTS.edu/itc/

Selected Bibliography

Specialty Books

- Bullock, C. Hassell. *Encountering the Book of Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- _____. *Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2007.
- Crenshaw, James. *The Psalms: An Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Day, John. *Psalms*. Old Testament Guides. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990.
- deClaissé-Walford, Nancy L. *Introduction to the Psalms: A Song from Ancient Israel*. Atlanta: Chalice Press, 2004.
- Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*. Handbooks for Old Testament Exegesis. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
- Gunkel, Hermann. *The Psalms: A Form-Critical Introduction*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1967.
- Gunkel, Hermann and Joachim Begrich, *An Introduction to the Psalms*. Translated by James D. Nogalski. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1998.
- Hunter, Alastair G. *An Introduction to the Psalms*. T & T Clark Approaches to Biblical Studies. London: T & T Clark, 2008.
- Johnston, Philip S. and David G. Firth, eds. *Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2006.
- Kraus, Hans-Joachim. *Theology of the Psalms*. Continental Commentary. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
- Miller, Patrick D. *Psalms*. Interpreting Biblical Texts. New York: Abington, 2009.
- Westermann, Claus. *Praise and Lament in the Psalms*. Louisville: John Knox, 1981.

Biblical Poetry

- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York: Basic Books, 1985
- _____. "The Poetic and Wisdom Books." *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Berlin, Adele. *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Day, John. *Psalms*. Old Testament Guides. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990.

Dobbs-Allsopp, Fred W. "Hebrew Poetry." *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2009.

_____. *On Biblical Poetry*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Klein, William, Craig L. Blomberg, and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, rev. ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Fokkelman, J. P. *Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide*. Translated by Ineke Smit. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Kugel, James. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. Johns Hopkins, 1981.

Watson, Wilfred G. E. *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques*. London: T & T Clark, 2007.

Commentaries

Allen, Leslie C. *Psalms 101–150*. Word Biblical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Brueggemann, Walter and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms*. New Cambridge Bible Commentary. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

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

deClaisse-Walford, Nancy, Rolf A. Jacobson, and Beth LaNeel Tanner. *The Book of Psalms*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

Goldingay, John. *Psalms*. Volumes 1–3. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006–2009.

Kidner, D. *Psalms 1-72 and Psalms 73-150*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1973, 1975.

Longman III, Tremper. *Psalms*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentary. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2014.

Mays, James L. *Psalms*. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster, 1994.

Tate, Marvin E. *Psalms 1–50*. Word Biblical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Tucker, W. Dennis and Jamie A. Grant. *Psalms 73–150*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.

Wilson, Gerald H. *Psalms 1–72*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

How to Write a Critical Introduction?

Critical introductions are essential to the serious Bible student. A well-crafted critical introduction will maintain its relevance for years to come. The purpose of a critical introduction is to synthesize the scholarly materials on a given biblical book. A typical approach to a critical introduction is below. This is merely a guide. Students should allow the scholarly discussions to assist in the structure of the critical introduction.

- I. Title
 - A. Hebrew Title of the Book
 - B. LXX or Latin Title of the Book (if it has bearing on the English title)
 - C. English Title of the Book
2. Authorship
 - A. Traditional view
 - B. Historical-critical views (could be more than one)
3. Setting of the Book
 - A. The setting of the book is typically related to the authorship of the book.
 - B. The traditional view will have one setting.
 - C. Historical-critical views could possibly have several settings for the book. It is here that students must use parenthetical citations.
4. Structure of the book
 - A. Scholars, many times, differ on the structure of biblical books.
 - B. Obviously, you will want to limit what you include in this section.
5. History of Interpretation
 - A. This section is crucial. Students should read widely to grasp the relevant approaches to interpreting the book.
 - B. Every major interpretive approach must be summarized. These summaries should include examples.
6. Critical Issues
 - A. Critical issues should extend beyond the authorship and setting of the book.
 - B. Do scholars question the unity of the book?
 - C. Do scholars question the historicity of the book?
7. Major Theological Themes
 - A. This section should not be a list, but rather example based.
 - B. Biblical examples should be used to illustrate major themes.
8. Bibliography
 - A. Introductions (2–3 sources)
 - B. Dictionary Articles (3–4 sources)
 - C. Specialized Introductions (2–3 sources)
 - D. Major Commentaries (5–7 sources)
 - E. Significant Monographs (1–2 sources)
 - F. Relevant Journal Articles (3–5 sources)