

RGB5263HS

Session: **Winter**

Year: **2011**

Course Title: **The Hebrew Psalter**

Professor: **Michael Kolarcik**

1. **Prerequisites:** One year of Hebrew and One year of Greek.

2. **Course Description:** This course studies the Hebrew Psalter as a literary composition of the Second Temple Period. The literary forms of specific psalms are analyzed according to the main categories of Lament, Trust, Declarative Praise, and Descriptive Praise (C. Westermann). Contemporary studies on the Psalms are explored in order to evaluate the structures proposed by Westermann. Finally the structure of the Psalter as a whole and individual collections from within the Psalter are both studied in light of the socio-religious context of the Second-Temple Period.

The aim of the course is to provide Biblical AD students with a solid basis for exploring the literary structure of the various psalm types and the theological implications of the structure of the Psalter as a whole.

3. **Outcomes:** Students who successfully complete the course will demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- 3.1 An understanding of the structure of the Psalter in its unity as well as individual collections within the Psalter.
- 3.2 An ability to explain the literary structure of various types of psalms in general as well as the specific structural application of the types in selected psalms.
- 3.3 A familiarity with the socio-religious currents in the Second Temple period which gave rise to the formation of the Hebrew Psalter.
- 3.4 An ability to read a number of psalms studied during the course in Hebrew and translate into English.

4. **Assignments:**

- 4.1 By weekly preparations of selected psalms for reading in Hebrew
- 4.2 Major paper Outline with description, method and selected bibliography
- 4.3 Depending on the number of students, each student presents a seminar of one hour on a specific topic to be determined from the course outline at the beginning of the course. .
- 4.3 Major paper of 15-20 pages.

5. **Grading:**

- 5.1 Hebrew Readings: 10%
- 5.2 Major paper Outline: 10%
- 5.3 Seminar: 30%
- 5.4 Major Paper: 50%

6. **Selected Bibliography**

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ALTER, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York: Basic Books, 1987.

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BERLIN, Adele. "Parallelism." *ABD* Vol.5 (1992): 155-162.

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- BRUEGGEMANN, W. *Abiding Astonishment, Psalms, Modernity and the Making of History*. (Pss 78, 105, 106, 136). Louisville: John Knox, 1991.
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- COLE, Robert L. *Shape and Message of Book III (Psalms 73-89)*. New York, London: T & T Clark International, 2000.
- COTTRILL, Amy C. *Language, Power, and Identity in the Lament Psalms of the Individual*. New York, London: T & T Clark International, 2008.
- COXE, A.C. ed. *St. AUGUSTINE: Exposition on the Book of Psalms. The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 8. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1974.
- CRAIGIE, Peter C. *Psalms 1-50*. Word Biblical Commentary. Vol. 19. Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1983.
- CREACH, Jerome F. D. *Yahweh as Refuge and the Editing of the Hebrew Psalter*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1996, New York, London: T & T Clark International, 1996.
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- BROYLES, Craig C. *Psalms*. New International Biblical Commentary. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999.
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- EATON, John H. *Psalms of the Way of the Kingdom: A Conference with the Commentators*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1995, New York, London: T & T Clark International, 2009
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- FEUER, Avraham Chaim, Nosson SCHERMAN, Meir ZLOTOWITZ. *Tehillim, A New Translation with a Commentary Anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabbinic Sources*. 2 volumes. Brooklyn, New York: Mesorah Publications Ltd., 1985-2001.
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1) Jan 11	Introduction, organization, areas, procedure
2) Jan 18	Overview of genres, Lament, Trust, Thanksgiving, Praise
3) Jan 25	Hebrew Poetry (Parallelism, Imagery) (ABD, Parallelism, A Berlin) (Hebrew reading: Psalms 22, 51)
4) Feb 1	Laments
5) Feb 8	Thanksgiving (Declarative Praise) (Hebrew reading: Psalms 29, 30)
6) Feb 15	Praise (Descriptive)
Feb 23	(Reading Week)
7) Mar 1	Enthronement (Hebrew reading: Psalms 33, 96)
8) Mar 8	Liturgical / Cult (<i>Korah, Asaph, royal</i>)
9) Mar 15	Wisdom (Hebrew reading: Psalms 1, 37)
10) Mar 22	Hebrew Psalter
11) Mar 29	Qumran (Hebrew reading: Psalms 42, 63)
12) Apr 5	To Be Determined (MT, Septuagint)