

OT212 Psalms  
Eugene Bible College  
Winter 2010  
Mon., Wed., Fri., 9:00-9:50am

**Instructor:** Brad Copp, [bradcopp@ebc.edu](mailto:bradcopp@ebc.edu) , (541)510-4768  
Office hours are posted on office door (in the Doris Hunt Music Building).

### **College Mission Statement:**

“Eugene Bible College, an institution of higher education, exists to disciple emerging Christian leaders by developing their theology, ministry skills, and character in order to win souls, plant fruitful churches, and lead as exemplary Ambassadors for Christ in the ministry and marketplace.”  
To fulfill its mission Eugene Bible College is committed to these [partial] goals:

- provide a quality education that complements intellectual challenge and stimulation with practical application.
- develop students with personal integrity and Christian character while they acquire ministry and leadership skills
- produce graduates who will go forth from their college experience equipped and committed to a lifetime of taking the person and message of Jesus Christ to the world.

### **College Academic Outcomes**

The College academic programs exist to encourage and facilitate students in the development of:

- Leadership potential and effectiveness
- Mental discipline and intellectual capacity that will shape and guide their life and work
- Tools and attitudes conducive to Spirit-filled ministry
- Effective communication tools for life and ministry
- Awareness of the world in which evangelism and ministry will occur
- Clarity regarding the philosophical foundations of ministry

### **Bible/Theology Mission and Objectives:**

Because Eugene Bible College understands the Bible to be the ultimate authority for judging doctrine, experience and practice, the Bible and Theology courses are designed to equip students with a functional knowledge of the Bible and to provide the basis for development of a Biblical worldview that is integrated with other areas of study and with personal life.

- Gain a basic understanding of the content and nature of the Old and New Testaments
- Ability to apply Bible study skills to better understand and interpret the Bible
- Ability to articulate a Biblical position in major areas of theology
- Ability to reason clearly and Biblically about the Christian faith
- Integrate Biblical study with personal spiritual growth and effective ministry

### **Bible Certificate Program Mission and Objectives:**

Through the Bible Certificate Program the College proposes to provide a learning environment, tools, and processes by which students under test conditions or life situations become enabled to—

- Evidence spiritual growth through commitment to spiritual disciplines
- Demonstrate an awareness of Old and New Testament content and themes
- Show ability to use skills and resources for personal Bible study and for Biblical interpretation
- Articulate an understanding of how to apply a Biblical worldview to evaluation of personal decisions and issues of contemporary society

## Course Objectives:

Upon completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. articulate the place of the Book of Psalms in the overall revelation of Scripture.
2. understand the techniques of Hebrew poetry and how the author used these techniques to communicate meaning.
3. perform the art of interpreting Hebrew poetic literature through instruction, worked examples and practice.
4. demonstrate a knowledge of the overall themes, theology, structure, and message of the book of Psalms.
5. apply Psalms to their own practice of prayer, worship, and devotion and lead others in so using the Psalms.
6. continue to research, interpret, teach, preach, and interact with the Psalms throughout their personal lives and ministries.
7. acquire a love for the Psalms.

## Course Description:

A study of the Book of Psalms with emphasis on understanding the Psalms according to their historical context, theological themes and literary characteristics and on using the Psalms in teaching, worship, and prayer.

## Textbooks and Suggested readings:

### Required reading-

Holy Bible in a literal [formal equivalent] or dynamic equivalent [functional equivalent] translation (no paraphrase)

Longman III, Tremper, How To Read The Psalms, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1988.

**223.2 L856h**

Peterson, Eugene, Answering God- The Psalms as Tools For Prayer, San Francisco, Harper Collins, 1989.

OT212 Course Pack, Eugene Bible College

### Recommended Reading- relevant sections in the following

Allen, Leslie C., Word Biblical Themes- Psalms, Waco, Word, 1987.

Arnold, Bill T. and Bryan E. Beyer, Encountering the Old Testament, Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 1999. **221.61 A752e**

Dillard, Raymond B. and Tremper Longman III, An Introduction to the Old Testament, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1994. **221.61 D578i**

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart, How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2003 [1981, 1993]. **220.61 F295h**

Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart, How to Read the Bible Book by Book, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2002. **220.61 F295hb**

Howard, Evan B., Praying the Scriptures, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1999. **242.5 H848p**

Lasor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard and Frederic William Bush, Old Testament Survey, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1982. **221.61 L345o**

Peterson, Eugene, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, Downers Grove, InterVarsity, 1980. **223.2 P485L**

Stuart, Douglas, Old Testament Exegesis, Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2001 [1980, 1984]. **221.6 S929o**

Zogbo, Lynell, "Features of Hebrew Poetry" in Zogbo, Lynell and Ernst R. Wendland, Hebrew Poetry in the Bible, New York, United Bible Societies, 2000, pp. 19-60.

## Course Requirements:

1. **Class attendance-** Student is to be present, to be on time, and to actively participate in class discussion. See EBC attendance policy below.
2. **Bible Reading-** Students will read the Psalms in their entirety in a literal or dynamic equivalent translation (no paraphrases). As part of the midterm and final exams, students will report the approximate percentage of the assigned readings completed. This percentage will have bearing on the mark of the exam. For the midterm, students are to have read Psalms 1-78; for the final, students are to have read Psalms 79-150.
3. **Scripture Devotion/Prayer Journal-** In conjunction with the Scripture reading, each student should use the Scripture reading as a devotional practice. This ideally includes listening and prayer. Each student will write a weekly journal of their devotional and prayer time from the Psalms. Each weekly entry will record what God is speaking from the Psalms, and how the student is responding in prayer and obedience. Please keep each weekly entry at approximately ½ to 1 page in length. **Due Friday Mar. 12.**
4. **Scripture Memorization-** Students will memorize four Scriptures over the term, two for the midterm and two for the final exam. The students will choose two passages from each of the following lists and memorize them verbatim from the NIV translation (including punctuation). Students will then write out from memory the passages on the respective exams.
 

<b>For the Midterm- choose 2</b>					
Psalms	1:6	4:1	8:1	19:13	24:3-4
	25:1-2	33:1	42:11	51:1-2	56:3-4
	57:1	86:11	73:25-26	78:4	
<b>For the Final Exam- choose 2</b>					
Psalms	90:13-14	91:1-2	93:1	95:1	115:1
	116:1-2	117:1-2	121:1-4	123:1-2	128:1-2
	130:1-2	135:5-6	143:8	146:5-6	
5. **Weekly exegesis exercises-** Students will complete a weekly exercise in the Psalms. These will be tied in with the course lectures and the textbook How to Read the Psalms by Tremper Longman III. Exercises will be handed out/assigned in class weekly and will be due weekly. **See Class Schedule for due dates.**
6. **Textbook reading and Book Report-** Students will write a book report on the textbook Answering God by Eugene Peterson. The book report must be typewritten and contain the following items: 1) Describe the overall thesis/message of the book. 2) Summarize each of the chapters and how each chapter contributes to the overall message. 3) Describe what about the book impacted you the most and how it will impact your life and ministry. And 4) Describe the action steps you plan to take to implement and apply what you have learned and gained from reading this book. **Due Monday, Mar. 8.**
7. **Midterm Exam-** A 45 minute exam covering all of the material covered up to that point, all of the textbook reading assigned up to that point, the assigned Scripture reading and Scripture memory. **Monday Feb. 8.**
8. **Final Exam-** A 100 minute exam covering all of the material covered after the midterm, all of the textbook reading assigned after the midterm, the assigned Scripture reading and Scripture memory. **Thursday, Mar. 18, 8am.**
9. **Extra Credit for leading Scripture song and/or prayer.-** Student may earn 1 percent extra credit point (max. 5) for each time they lead the class in a worship song and/or prayer- the lyrics/words of which are based (almost exclusively) on the text of a passage from the Psalms. Student must schedule with the instructor beforehand on a first come- first served basis.

## Course Evaluation

Weekly exercises	25%
Book Report	15%
Devotion/Prayer Journal	10%
Midterm Exam (including Scripture reading and memory)	20%
Final Exam (including Scripture reading and memory)	<u>30%</u>
	100%

## Course Schedule

Week of	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Reading Due
Wk. 1 Jan. 4-8	<b>Registration</b>	Course Introduction Course Syllabus	Hebrew Poetry Parallelism	Longman p. 9-15, 89-122
Wk. 2 Jan. 11-15	Hebrew Poetry Parallelism	<b><u>EE1 Due</u></b> Hebrew Poetry Parallelism cont	Hebrew Poetry Stanzas	Longman p. 63-85
Wk. 3 Jan. 18-22	<b>MLK Day NO CLASS</b>	<b><u>EE2 Due</u></b> Hebrew Poetry Symbolism/Imagery	Hebrew Poetry Poetic Devices Allusions/quotes	Longman p. 37-62
Wk. 4 Jan. 25-29	<b><u>EE3 Due</u></b> Intro. To Psalms	Historical Context Life Contexts	Theology and Themes	Longman p. 19-36
Wk. 5 Feb. 1-5	<b><u>EE4 Due</u></b> Arrangement and Ordering	Psalms Types and Forms	Psalms Types and Forms	Longman p. 125-149
Wk. 6 Feb. 8-12	<b><u>Midterm Exam</u></b>	World Evangelism Conference <b>NO CLASS</b>	Wisdom Intro Psalm 1, 2	Peterson p. 1-32
Wk. 7 Feb. 15-19	<b><u>EE5 Due</u></b> Laments Psalm 42, 56	Laments Psalm 22	Penitential Psalms Psalms 51, 32	Peterson p. 33-56
Wk. 8 Feb. 22-26	<b><u>EE6 Due</u></b> Thanksgiving Psalm 30, 116, 107	Salvation Historical Psalm 78	Wisdom Psalm 73 (111)	Peterson p. 57-92
Wk.9 Mar. 1-5	<b><u>EE7 Due</u></b> Psalms of Trust Psalm 23, (121,131)	Psalms of Guidance Psalms 25, 86 (143)	Kingship Psalm Psalm 110 (45)	Peterson p. 93-117
Wk. 10 Mar. 8-12	<b><u>Book Report Due</u></b> Hymns Psalm 95,96	Hymns Psalm 150	<b><u>Journal Due</u></b> Psalms in the New Testament	Peterson p. 119-140
<b><u>Final Exam</u></b> Thursday, March 18, 8:00-9:50 AM				

# Bibliography

## Hebrew Poetry and Interpretation

- Alter, Robert, The Art of Biblical Poetry, New York, Basic Books, 1985.
- Berlin, Adele, The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1985.
- Berry, Donald K., Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament, Nashville, Broadman & Holman, 1995.
- Broyles, Craig C., "Traditions, Intertextuality, and Canon", in Interpreting the Old Testament- A Guide for Exegesis, Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2001.
- Cotterell, Peter, "Linguistics, Meaning, Semantics, and Discourse Analysis", in Willem A. VanGemeren ed., A Guide to Old Testament Theology and Exegesis, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1999.
- Dillard, Raymond B. and Tremper Longman III, An Introduction to the Old Testament, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1994.
- Fee, Gordon D. and Douglas Stuart, How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, especially ch. 10 "The Prophets[contains their discussion of Hebrew Parallelism]", ch. 10 "The Psalms", and ch 12 "Wisdom", Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2003 [1981, 1993].
- Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg and Robert L. Hubbard Jr., Introduction to Biblical Interpretation, especially, ch. 7 "General Rules of Hermeneutics- Old Testament Poetry", Nashville, W Publishing Group/Thomas Nelson, 1993.
- Lasor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard and Frederic William Bush, Old Testament Survey, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1982.
- Longman, Tremper III, "Poetry: Take a New Look" and "Poetry: Language of the Heart" in Reading the Bible With Heart & Mind, Colorado Springs, NavPress, 1997.
- Osborne, Grant R., The Hermeneutical Spiral, especially ch. 7 "Poetry" and ch. 8 "Wisdom", Downers Grove IL, InterVarsity Press, 1991.
- Schultz, Samuel J., The Old Testament Speaks, especially ch. 17 "Interpretation of Life", San Francisco, Harper Collins, 1990.
- Stuart, Douglas, Old Testament Exegesis, Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2001 [1980, 1984].
- Zogbo, Lynell, "Features of Hebrew Poetry" in Zogbo, Lynell and Ernst R. Wendland, Hebrew Poetry in the Bible, New York, United Bible Societies, 2000, pp. 19-60.

## Psalms

- Allen, Leslie C., Psalms 101-150- Word Biblical Commentary, Waco TX Word Books, 1983.
- , Word Biblical Themes- Psalms, Waco TX, Word Books, 1987.
- Anderson, Bernhard W., Out of the Depths: the Psalms Speak For Us Today, Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2000.
- Bullock, C. Hassell, Encountering the Book of Psalms, Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2001.
- Bruggemann, Walter, The Message of the Psalms, Minneapolis, Augsburg, 1984.
- , Spirituality of the Psalms, Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2002.
- Craigie, Peter C., Psalms 1-50- Word Biblical Commentary, Waco TX Word Books, 1983.
- Howard, Evan B., Praying the Scriptures, especially ch. 3 "Praying the Psalms", Downers Grove IL, InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Longman, Tremper III, How to Read the Psalms, Downers Grove IL, InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- Mays, James L., The Lord Reigns- A Theological Handbook to the Psalms, Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 1994.
- Merton, Thomas, Praying the Psalms, Collegeville MN, The Liturgical Press, 1956. .
- Peterson, Eugene H., A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, Downers Grove IL, InterVarsity Press, 1980.
- , Answering God- The Psalms As Tools for Prayer, San Francisco, Harper Collins, 1989.
- Tate, Marvin E., Psalms 51-100- Word Biblical Commentary, Waco TX, Word Books, 1990.
- Witvliet, John D., The Biblical Psalms in Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2007.

## **EBC Absence Policy:**

Regular punctual attendance is required in all classes and assembly periods. Students should not miss classes except for illness or unavoidable emergency situations.

To accommodate such cases, a student may have one absence for each credit hour of the course without penalty. However, if absences for any class exceed twice the number of credit hours, the student automatically fails the class.

A student entering the class within fifteen minutes after attendance check is recorded as tardy. Every three tardy entries are counted as one absence. Work situations and other campus schedules must be held as secondary to class attendance. Students are not permitted to arrive late for class or leave early to accommodate other schedules.

A student will not be penalized by grade reduction when absences have prior approval by the administration and the student has given prior written notification to instructors; however, total absences in any course (including those excused) can not exceed two times the number of credit hours represented by that course (e.g. 6 in a 3-hour course) without failure.

## **Class Policies**

In order to be fair to all students, to organize my workweek, and to be prompt with marking, the following policies will be adhered to. It is also an important aspect of preparation for life after EBC that students should learn to plan and use their time effectively so as to meet deadlines, and learn also to work within the parameters set for assignments.

- All assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on the date they are due. If class will be missed because of illness, assignments may be submitted via e-mail *before* scheduled class time. Any assignment not submitted at the requested time will be considered late.
- Late work will receive a deduction of 10% per day late (excluding weekends) up to 50% deduction. You may submit a late assignment either in class, via e-mail or via the receptionist.
- Extensions for late work may be given for a short period when circumstances arise which in my view could not reasonably have been foreseen and which are sufficiently serious to warrant an exception to the rule.
- All work must be neat and legible. All work must be typewritten (excluding journals and exams).
- All assignments must be your own work. Work sharing and plagiarism are not acceptable.
- Because of the limited number of exegesis tools in the library, I ask that you be considerate of others and not monopolize the resources. I would also ask that dorm students give priority to off campus students or those with more limited schedules.
- I expect all students to think critically and be willing to disagree with the texts, teacher, or each other. I am confident that all of you will do so in manner fitting Bible College students and ministers.

## Helpful Information

- Your best resource for this course is the people around you. The instructor is willing and available to help you as much as my very busy schedule will allow. Please see the sign up sheet on my office door (in the Doris Hunt Music Center) for available office hours. However, your peers are an invaluable source of insight. And you will be wise to share with other students outside of class and help each other explore and develop, meditate upon and apply the concepts of this course.
- I cannot read minds. If you don't understand something or are struggling, I want to help. But in many cases I won't become aware of the problem until it is too late. Please feel free to take the initiative and approach me with questions or problems and I will do my best to help.
- Course Stuff will be posted on the web. The address is [www.bradcopp.com](http://www.bradcopp.com). Follow the appropriate link to the OT212 Pages. Please check back often because the website will be regularly updated.
- Please realize that, at best, this course can only be an introduction to the Psalms. It is hoped that this course will give you a foundation upon which to launch a lifetime of study, devotion, teaching and preaching from this book. Be encouraged to continue in the Psalms even after the course.
- Finally, do not lose God in the process of education. Take advantage of the College Student Ministry and Discipleship. Take time to interact with Jesus about every part of your life. Specifically, invite the Lord to teach and lead you in the course material. These books were written as acts of prayer, worship, devotion and wisdom's wrestling with everyday life. It would be a tragedy and violation of the books if you treated this course as only an intellectual exercise. I also hope that you learn to rely on Him for the strength to learn and grow and fulfill all of the expectations placed on you at EBC. "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God." Phillips Brooks.