

Preliminary Syllabus for BIBL 5230-01
Old Testament 3: Wisdom and Israel's Praise

Fall 2017 Campus (17/S1) 3 Credit Hours

Thursday Evenings

North Park Theological Seminary

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Moodle Log in: Canvas

Introductory Comments/Course Description

Welcome to Old Testament 3. I look forward to our interaction with the wisdom books and the books that give us windows into the two historical settings in which they were collected: the first and second Temples in Jerusalem. OT3 is a graduate-level seminary course on the basic theological literature of the Hebrew Bible. (We will use English translations).

This three-hour graduate course requires a substantial amount of reading and writing. Please read the syllabus thoroughly for details. It is your roadmap. You will need access to a good Old Testament library to do your written work. If you do not have access, you will need at least two (2) Bible Dictionaries, two (2) Introductions to the Bible, and one (1) book for deeper historical background *in addition to your textbooks*. (See recommended list below.) The online-site for this course contains many of the course documents in digital form.

This course will explore the poetic biblical traditions of psalms and wisdom, beginning with Israel's origins and continuing through the united monarchy, exile, and return. It will study the books known as the Writings (*Ketuvim*) and the early formation of the monarchy. It will investigate the wisdom and praise books of the Old Testament (Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Songs, Ecclesiastes) as well as their various narrative and historical settings, described in Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel and, in the Second Temple, Esther, Ezra-Nehemiah, 1 and 2 Chronicles. The course will provide an understanding of the over-arching content (events, characters, and themes) and its original cultural and historical settings (13th—5th centuries B.C.E.). Attention will be given to literary genres, critical issues, and inter-biblical interpretations as they aid interpretation of texts. An introduction to the Hebrew alphabet and Hebrew words is also included. The goal is to prepare students to appreciate, interpret, and teach from these books in ministries of the Church.

The power and passion of the narratives and laws we will read are essential parts of the "Scripture" to which 2 Timothy 3:16 refers. You can begin by reading the primary biblical document, starting with First and Second Kings.

Required Textbooks

Limburg, James. *Psalms*. Westminster Bible Companion Series (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000). 0664255574

Ballard, Jr., H.W. and Tucker, Jr., W.D. *An Introduction to Wisdom Literature and the Psalms* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2000). 0865546525

Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim, and Petersen, *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, 2nd edition (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005). paperback 9780687066766. Please note that this textbook is required for OT 1, 2, and 3 at NPTS.

Highly Recommended

D. N. Freeman editor. *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000). Please note that the ISBN is 0802824005. Please note that this textbook is required for OT 1 and 2 at NPTS.

NOTE: This is NOT the Eerdmans Bible Dictionary by Allen C. Meyers!

In the Library REFERENCE section.

Articles Online: Some of the required reading comes from these articles that will be posted online on *Canvas*.

Course Requirements in Brief

- 1) Class attendance/participation (10%)
- 2) Completion of weekly writing assignments (30%)
- 3) Hebrew aleph-bet quiz (10%)
- 4) Completion of an annotated reading journal (20%)
- 5) Student Report on a Psalm (30%)

Upload all your written assignments to *Canvas*. Late writing assignments will be marked down by 2% per day.

Course Requirements in Detail

The general guideline is six (6) hours of work outside of class per week for a three (3) credit hour class. See the Class Schedule in this syllabus for the sequence.

1) Participation: Assigned weekly biblical texts, textbooks, and attendance (10% of grade).

Read the Bible and the secondary literature assigned as preparation for the next week's lectures.

2) Weekly Writing Assignment Instructions (30% of grade).

See Class Schedule in this syllabus for topics and due dates. Here is the basic information.

Format

Single spaced. Word.doc. See individual assignments for length. Cite all sources. If you use Turabian's "in text" format instead of full footnotes or endnotes, you must add a bibliography.

Content

Unless otherwise instructed, your short essays should be informed reflections on the
1) reading, 2) biblical texts, and 3) questions assigned in the "Class Schedule."

*Some of your writing assignments will instruct you to "Write a **précis**."* >>

Instructions for Writing a Précis (See "Class Schedule" for weeks when precise format is required.)

Précis means "a brief summary of essential points" or "a precise abstract." The form is as important as the content for the grade.

Format: The précis should be on one page, single spaced, block-style paragraphs, about 500 words. Do not quote more than a phrase or two.

In 3/4ths of the page (3-4 paragraphs) answer these questions:

- a. What is the author's interest? What question or problem is she addressing?
- b. What is the main point of the author's "answer" to that question?
- c. How does the author build her argument? What warrants (proof or logic) does she offer?
- d. Briefly summarize the main argument, step by step.

In 1/4th of the page offer your "critique" of the arguments which may include:

- a. What's missing?
- b. What assumptions do you question?
- c. Is the author's "interest" a helpful approach?
- d. What did you learn? What questions remain?

Always be sure to add the bibliographic reference of your article (Author, Title, Publishing information, page numbers).

Optional writing assignment: You may memorize and recite six to eight verses of any Psalm (except 23 and 150) in place of any one writing assignment. Please notify me by email when you are ready to recite. This must be done before the last week of regular class.

3) One Objective Hebrew alphabet quiz (10% of grade).

In the middle of the semester we will introduce the Hebrew alphabet (aleph-bet) and learn it. This can help in reading commentaries and theological work that uses the Hebrew language. This course does not have a midterm or final exam.

4) Annotated Reading Journal (20% of grade).

In the second half of the semester you will be required to keep an annotated reading journal (i.e., a Word.doc) compiled weekly in a single document and handed in to the Professor in Week 14.

Here is how you will create it:

1. Read the assigned texts, keeping track (simple notes) of the main points.
2. In a couple of sentences summarize, i.e. *annotate* the reading.
 - State the focus of the reading.
 - State the author's primary interest and thesis.
 - State what you found most engaging, troubling, or helpful.
 - Write about 200 words for each reading.
3. Please include a bibliographic reference with your annotation for each assigned reading. Be sure to back up your work. See grading rubrics in this syllabus.

5) Student Report on a Psalm (30% of grade)

The student will choose a psalm from a prepared list and will write a report following a rubric and outline that will be provided. Scholarly resources for the report will also be indicated for the research. Later in the semester, students will make an oral presentation to the class on their research.

Disabilities Accommodations

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office (773-244-5619). Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. Please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>

Academic Honesty

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University’s online catalog.

Title IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services.

As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University’s Title IX coordinator in certain situations help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking.

Please refer to North Park’s Safe Community site for contact information and further details.

<http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Safe-Community>