

Unit Code
B7326
Unit Name
Psalms
Unit Weighting
9 Credit Points
Type of Unit
Specialised Unit
Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions
18 B credit points
Academic Staff
Theron Young, BA (Miami, 1976), MA (T.E.D.S., 1979), MA (Wisconsin, 1986), PhD (Wisconsin, 1991) The faculty register lists all faculty accredited to teach this course unit.
Curriculum Objectives
This course unit studies Israel's poetic literature and practice of prayer and worship as represented in the Psalter. It provides an opportunity to develop exegetical skills in the analysis of Hebrew poetry
Learning Outcomes
At the end of this unit students will be able to: 1. demonstrate an understanding of the techniques of biblical poetry and the different types of Psalms found in the Psalter 2. discuss the relevant historical, sociological and religious contexts of the Psalms 3. exegete selected Psalms from the Psalter 4. access and use the relevant secondary literature in a critical manner 5. make effective use of the Psalms in theology and worship
Content
1. The characteristic features of Hebrew Poetry 2. The historical, sociological and religious background to the Psalter 3. Examination of representative psalms 4. Aspects of the theology of the Psalms
Teaching Methods
Teaching methods include Group Projects, Seminars, Tutorials, Lectures, Simulations, Student Presentations, Online Tutorials, Distance Education
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment
Nil
Assessment Profile
Assessment 1: A reflective essay on a key theme that is addressed in several different Psalms (e.g. the characteristics of a "happy" person as described in the <i>'ashre</i> psalms of the Psalter). [Outcomes 2, 4 and 5] Assessment 2: A written essay that analyses a (short) Psalm with attention to its poetic techniques and rhetorical structure. [Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4] Assessment 3: A comprehensive exegesis of a selected Psalm and application of its message for a collective worship setting or for the life of an individual believer. [Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5]
Representative References

- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. Rev. ed. New York: Basic Books, 2011.
- Anderson, B. W. *Out of the Depths: the Psalms Speak for us Today*. 3rd rev. Ed. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2000.
- Brueggeman, W. *The Psalms and the Life of Faith*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1995.
- Bullock, C. H. *Encountering the Book of Psalms: A Literary and Theological Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Press, 2004
- Day, J. *Psalms*. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1990.
- Estes, Daniel. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Press, 2005.
- Fokkelman, J. P. *Reading Biblical Poetry*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2001.
- Goldingay, John. *Psalms* (three volumes;) . Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Press, 2006-2008.
- Holladay, W. L. *The Psalms Through Three Thousand Years: Prayerbook of a Cloud of Witnesses*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996.
- Hunter, Alastair G. *An Introduction to the Psalms*. London: T&T Clark, 2007.
- Kohlenberger, John R. *The comparative Psalter: Hebrew-Greek-English*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- McCann, J. C. *The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.
- Terrien, S. *The Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Wilson, Gerald H. *Psalms, Volume 1, The NIV Application Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- Westermann, C. *Psalms: Structure, Content and Message*. Minneapolis: Augsburg/Fortress Press, 1980.