



Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

Course Identification

Course Number : WYB5436HF
Course Name: Scripture and Theology Seminar: The Psalms in the Christian Tradition
Campus: St. George

Instructor Information

Instructor: Christopher Seitz
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Office Hours:
Teaching Assistant:
E-mail:

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

Give the course code and title of any pre-requisite or requisite courses.

Course Description

This course introduces the student to the Psalms in the history of interpretation. It begins with a description of modern critical reading of the Psalms, including 'canonical reading', and then examines in weekly seminars the older history of interpretation, including the School of Antioch, Augustine, Aquinas, Rashi, Luther, Calvin and others.

Course Methodology

Lectures, seminars

Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)
• will have the ability to consult the history of interpretation and its wide bibliography;	Readings	PhD: 2.3, 2.4 MA: 2.3, 2.4

		ThM: 2.3, 2.4 DMin: 2.1, 2.2
• will have an increased knowledge of key biblical interpreters before the modern period;	Readings, lectures, seminars	PhD: 1.1, 1.2 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1, 1.2
• will develop an understanding of the exegetical concerns and practices of pre-modern interpretation;	Readings, lectures, seminars	PhD: 1.1, 1.2 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1, 1.2
• will be able to use biblical languages for translation;	Translation assignment	PhD: 2.1, 2.2 MA: 2.1 ThM: 2.1
• will develop an appreciation for theological exegesis.	Readings, lectures, seminars	PhD: 1.1, 1.2 MA: 1.1 ThM: 1.1 DMin: 1.1, 1.2

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- Readings are outlined below in the weekly class descriptions.

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (15 September)

Introduction: Syllabus; Introductory Issues: Psalms in the History of Interpretation, in Modernity, and in the Late Modern Reception.

Week 1 (18 September)

Psalm 1: Pre-modern Interpreters (Antioch; Augustine; Calvin, Luther)

Reading: Childs, IOTS entry on the Psalms

Week 2 (22 September)

Psalm 2: Calvin, Erasmus, Augustine, Antioch

Reading: Rendorff

Week 2 (25 September)

Psalm 3: Augustine, Antioch, Luther, Calvin

Reading: Childs on Psalm Titles in

Week 3 (29 September)

Psalm 8: The Epistle to the Hebrews; Calvin; Erasmus

Reading: Childs in *Biblical Theology in Crisis*

Week 3 (2 October)

Psalm 22: Aquinas, Calvin, Theodore of Mopsuestia, Rashi

Reading: Martens, JECS

Week 4 (6 October)

Psalm 34: Augustine, Calvin, Rashi, Luther

Reading: Seitz, in Childs volume (2013)

Week 4 (9 October)

Psalm 40

Reading: A. Lincoln, Silva/Jobes, Seitz (2011)

Week 7 (6 November)

Psalm 89/90: Luther, Calvin, Augustine, Rashi

Reading: G. Wilson's Work on the Psalms

Week 8 (13 November)

Psalm 110: Luther, Rashi, Calvin, Jerome

Reading: Helmer, Luther's Trinitarian Hermeneutic

Week 11 (4 December)

Psalm 137: Calvin, Victorians,

Reading: F. Watson on Perlocution

Week 12 (11 December)

Final Psalm TBA

Reading: Brian German's Thesis on Psalter

Evaluation

Requirements

The student will (1) prepare a translation of the psalm through attention to Hebrew, Greek, or Latin (or attend to older English translations, e.g. Tyndale, Wycliffe, Coverdale, Jerusalem Bible), (2) select and compare three older interpreters, (3) read selections from the recent essays on 'the theological interpretation of scripture.' The aim is to broaden the horizon of interpretation beyond the historical commentaries of the modern period, and understand what the older tradition meant by 'the literal sense.'

Final Grade: For a secondary-literature aware paper on a topic in the psalms, around 6000 words, due the first day of the Winter Term.

Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory

FZ	0–69%	0	Failure
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Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course.

Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Turnitin.com. Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Writing Style. The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013), which is available at Crux Books.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Origen, Hilary, Diodore of Tarsus, Basil of Caesarea, Jerome, Theodore of Mopsuestia, John Chrysostom, Augustine, Theodoret of Cyrrhus, Cassiodorus, Aquinas, Rashi, Erasmus, Luther, Calvin, Bellarmine

Basic Sources

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Alan J. Hauser and Duane E. Watson, *A History of Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009)

Johannes Quasten, *Patrology* (Westminster, MD: Newman, 1951)

Hughes Oliphant Old, *The Reading and Preaching of the Scriptures in the Worship of the Christian Church* (Vol 2; The Patristic Age; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)

Modern Studies

Sue Gillingham, *Psalms Through the Centuries* (Blackwell Bible Commentaries, 2008)

W. Holladay, *The Psalms Through Three Thousand Years* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1996)

Jason Byassee, *Praise Seeking Understanding: Reading the Psalms with Augustine* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007)

G. Wilson, “The Use of Royal Psalms at the ‘Seams’ of the Hebrew Psalter,” *JSOT* 35 (1986) 85-96; *The Editing of the Hebrew Psalter* (SBLDS, 1985)

C. Seitz, *The Character of Christian Scripture* (2011).

Theological Exegesis and History of Interpretation

John Behr, *The Way to Nicaea* (St Vladimir's Press, 2001)

Paul Blowers, “The Rule of Faith,” *Pro Ecclesia*

Brevard S. Childs, “Psalm Titles and Midrashic Exegesis,” *JSS* 16 (1971) 137-50.

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- Morweena Ludlow, Origen and Gregory of Nyssa, *IJST*
- Rolf Renterff, “The Psalms of David: David in the Psalms”
- Kavin Rowe, “Biblical Pressure and Trinitarian Hermeneutics,” *Pro Ecclesia* 11 (2002) 295–312
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- Kendall Soulen, “YHWH – The Triune God,” *Modern Theology* 15 (1999) 25–54
- Francis Watson, Essay on Psalm 137 and Perlocutionary Acts, in *Text and Truth* (1997)
- David Yeago, “The New Testament and Nicene Dogma: A Contribution to the Recovery of Theological Exegesis,” *Pro Ecclesia* 3 (1994) 152–64
- Frances Young, “Proverbs 8 in Interpretation: Wisdom Personified,” in David Ford and Graham Stanton, eds., *Reading Texts, Seeking Wisdom: Scripture and Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003) 102–15
- , *Biblical Exegesis and the Emergence of Christian Culture* (Cambridge: University, 2001).