HB 760 Psalms  
HYBRID Spring 2016  
Tuesdays @ 4:00–5:30 pm

Instructor: Paul Kim (pkim@mtso.edu)  
Werner Hall 218 (office hours: by appointment preferred)

Course Description
This is an upper-level exegesis course which involves careful encounter with Israel’s ancient collection of complaints and praise songs in Psalms. We will attempt to analyze this rich and inspiring book from the literary, sociological, and theological perspectives and to interweave its messages with the church and the global world.

We will take experimental multidimensional approaches, with a HYBRID format, which implies flexibility and interaction, more like a seminar than a lecture. We cannot cover all 150 psalms in rigid scrutiny within one semester. Rather, we will select one psalm a week and try to investigate it like a tree while also trying to appreciate its intertextual connections to the surrounding psalms like a forest. In order to meet these double/multi-goals, we will use two main pedagogical approaches—online and F2F:

(1) ON-LINE: here we will primarily work on “exegesis” through tackling the text with various methods and commentaries/articles in a reasonably rigorous yet flexible pace and pattern. To balance the schedule, we will take turns in leadership (see next page for detailed guidelines). The primary tasks will be on the panelists’ observations, questions, and answers on the selected psalm, in theologically challenging, constructive, and creative discussions, followed by very brief responses and suggestions by the peers. On exegesis, we will work on analyzing the text, applying various methods, reading commentaries/articles, constructing interpretive insights, and brainstorming the “so what” applicative issues and/or options.

(2) F2F IN-CLASS: now the creative, explorative “so what” applications during the class session. Tuesday late afternoon, yes, we will try our best to make interpreting and hermeneutically applying the select psalm toward various contexts, such as preaching, counseling, worship, music, art, poetry, novel, movie, current affairs, meditation (lectio divina), role play, dramatization, and so on. The emphasis should be on studying and interpreting psalms with regard to today’s church and contemporary world.

Textbooks
- Walter Brueggemann, *From Whom No Secrets Are Hid: Introducing the Psalms*  
  (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014)
- Irene Nowell, *Pleading, Cursing, Praising: Conversing with God through the Psalms*  
  (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 2013)
- Walter Brueggemann and W. H. Bellinger, *Psalms*  
  (NCBC; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014)
- Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, *Journey through the Psalms*  
  (rev. and expanded ed.; St. Louis: Chalice, 2002)
- Nancy deClaisse-Walford, Rolf A. Jacobsen, and Beth LaNeel Tanner, *The Book of Psalms*  
  (NICOT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014)
Requirements

1. Faithful Weekly Attendance and Contribution: quality rather than quantity, yes quality work and contribution do matter; however, also quantity matters as well, i.e., your faithful attendance, participation, and online contributions are essential ingredients for the most effective learning of the entire class members, please.

2. ONLINE Exegetical-Creative PANEL (two): the pair (A) of students will sign up for exegetical panel discussion and creative class presentation, one week during the first-half and another week during the second-half of the semester. Put simply, this team is responsible for the exegesis, discussion, and presentation of those two selected weeks: yes, for those weeks, you are in charge:
   
   (a) exegesis (online): the panel team should carefully examine the psalm exegetically and come up with key observations and questions;
   (b) discussion (online = due Friday night @ 11:59 pm): during the selected weeks, based on your exegetical study plus secondary resources, the panel team should lead and post the answers to the threaded discussions;
   (c) creative class presentation (F2F in-class): in light of exegesis and online discussions (plus peer responses), the panel team should do a creative applicative presentation during the F2F class session, addressing not only the insightful matters of the psalm but also the contemporary “so what” issues for today’s church and world: e.g., preaching, counseling, worship, music, art, poetry, novel, movie clips, current affairs, meditation (lectio divina), role play, dramatization, reception history (=history of interpretation), etc.; e.g., write your own psalm, compose your own song/hymn, or analyze/appreciate how selected music or movie can help “interpret” the psalm (classical symphony, musical, jazz, blues, gospel, international, hip hop, etc.).

3. ONLINE Responses (two): the next pair (B) of students would sign up to do the online “responses” (due Sunday night @ 11:59 pm) to the exegetical “discussion” the pair above will post online. Then, the following week, they will switch the role so that the team that posted “discussion” will do “responses,” and vice versa. For the responses, quality than quantity—there will be word count limit (e.g., no more than ½ page). Your primary responsibility would be to provide candid/insightful critiques to the posted discussions and any suggestions for the panel’s creative class presentation.

4. ONLINE Article Reports (two): the third pair (C) of students should then each read one of the two articles posted in the syllabus, class schedule chart. Pick an article and post an online article report (due Sunday night @ 11:59 pm) so that the primary panel team can further benefit from key insights on those articles (reading the introductory textbooks and commentaries are responsibilities of all students :).

5. Chapel Leadership: yes, after all, this is a psalms class. How can we not connect psalms and worship? Hence, on the signed-up day (May 3), all of us as a class will take leadership for the chapel. Teamwork is important, and everyone’s participation will earn credit. We will brainstorm and distribute responsibilities, including
preparation, prayer(s) based on psalms, choose and/or sing song(s), read the texts in various language (Hebrew too please), creative presentation, sermon/meditation, etc.

6. **Final Exegesis Paper (one):** each student should select one of the two psalms selected for the exegetical-creative panel and write an exegesis paper, which will be due the finals week (10 pages, double-spaced, typed; see the exegesis paper guidelines).

7. **Extra Credit:** Memorize a powerful/significant passage from Psalms in any language of your choice; the passage should be a minimum of 7 verses or more, please.

**Chart for Panel Leadership Sign-up**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>first-half (before the midterm)</th>
<th>second-half (after the midterm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panel (Team A)</td>
<td>Panel (Team A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ response (Team B)</td>
<td>+ response (Team B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ article (Team C)</td>
<td>+ article (Team C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ bring cheap refreshments (Team D)</td>
<td>+ article (Team C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel (Team B)</td>
<td>Panel (Team B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ response (Team C)</td>
<td>+ response (Team C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ article (Team D)</td>
<td>+ article (Team C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel (Team C)</td>
<td>Panel (Team C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ response (Team D)</td>
<td>+ response (Team D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ article (Team A)</td>
<td>+ article (Team A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel (Team D)</td>
<td>Panel (Team D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ response (Team A)</td>
<td>+ response (Team A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ article (Team B)</td>
<td>+ article (Team B)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading**

- Online and F2F Class Contributions, inc. Chapel: 10%
- ONLINE Exegetical-Creative Panels (two): 40% (20 + 20)
- ONLINE Responses (two): 15%
- ONLINE Article Reports (two): 15%
- Final Exegesis Paper (one): 20%

**ACADEMIC POLICY**

Please see Student Handbook for sections providing policy details on the following:

**ADA—**MTSO seeks to remove barriers to inclusion in its learning communities. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs at the beginning of the semester. Please contact the Director of Student Services to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any accommodation must be agreed upon prior to the due date of the affected course requirement.
**Class attendance**—Regular attendance is expected in all classes. During unavoidable absences, students are responsible for missed work. An excessive number of absences may result in grade reduction or course failure, despite successful completion of all assigned work. In most cases, a student will not be allowed credit for a course if he or she is absent for 25% of the class sessions.

**Electronic Devices**—Turn mobile devices off or “vibrate only” during class. Browsing the Internet or engaging in email or social network conversations during class is discouraged. Instructors have the right to impose grading penalties for disruptions due to electronic devices.

**Human Subjects Research**—Research by MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel that collects non-public information from and/or about living individuals or contemporary organizations/groups for purposes of publication or public presentation (including class assignments) must be approved by the Human Subjects Research Committee. MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel should err on the side of caution and apply for committee approval of any activity that may fit this description.

**Inclusive Language**—In accordance with MTSO’s policy on inclusive language, all students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender neutral language in their writing and in the classroom discussions when referring to human beings.

**Incompletes**—To receive a course grade of Incomplete, students must submit the petition form from the Registrar with all signatures to the Dean’s Office before the last day of regularly scheduled classes. See Student Handbook for intensive term deadlines. Any petition submitted without a due date for outstanding work will be denied. If work is not complete by the due date the Registrar will record the grade of F for the course.

**Pass/Fail**—The decision to exercise this option must be made before the end of the second week of the course by completing the appropriate form available through the Registrar. To receive a grade of "pass" the student must do at least the equivalent of C minus work in the course.

**Plagiarism**—Plagiarism is a serious matter of academic, professional, and personal integrity. All students at the masters level are expected to understand the requirement to provide attribution when the work of others is used. Students are also expected to be familiar with and understand the school’s policy on Academic Misconduct found in the Student Handbook. If a student has questions about attribution, citation, and how to avoid plagiarism they should consult the course instructor, the school’s writing instructor, or library staff. When in doubt it is better to provide attribution even if one is uncertain about the proper citation form. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that results in disciplinary actions per the Student Handbook that may range from failing an assignment or course to expulsion.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics/Themes/Texts</th>
<th>Articles/Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Feb 2 | Introduction: Collection of Psalms & Key Themes/Theologies | • Brueggemann (textbook), xiii-xxiv and 1-7  
| Feb 9 | Wisdom (Happiness)  
Psalms 1 | • Brueggemann (textbook), 120-126  
• Hopkins (textbook), 66-69  
| Feb 16 | Hymn (Creation)  
Psalms 104 | • Brueggemann (textbook), 56-79  
• Hopkins (textbook), 46-52  
| Feb 23 | Lament to Confidence  
Psalms 22–23 | • Brueggemann (textbook), 100-105  
• Hopkins (textbook), 77-84, 105-114, and 154-161  
| Mar 1 | Penitence (repenting)  
Psalms 51 | • Brueggemann (textbook), 106-112  
• Nowell (textbook), 20-29  
| Mar 8 | Lament (imprecatory/cursing)  
Psalms 109 | • Nowell (textbook), 30-38  
• Hopkins (textbook), 85-99  
| Mar 15 | UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY  
(Thanksgiving Psalm 116) | • Brueggemann (textbook), 140-147  
• Nowell (textbook), 39-50  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Textual References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 22, 29</td>
<td>Midterm Recess &amp; Holy Week Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>Individual Lament</td>
<td>Brueggemann (textbook), 8-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Psalm 27</strong></td>
<td>Nowell (textbook), 59-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Nowell (textbook), 51-58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Psalm 34</strong></td>
<td>Phil J. Botha, “Psalm 34 and the Ethics of the Editors of the Psalter,” in Psalmody and Poetry in Old Testament Ethics (New York: T&amp;T Clark, 2012), 56-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 19</td>
<td>Hymn (Praising God)</td>
<td>Brueggemann (textbook), 42-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Psalm 103</strong></td>
<td>Nowell (textbook), 77-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>Wisdom (Communion)</td>
<td>Brueggemann (textbook), 127-132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Psalm 73</strong></td>
<td>Hopkins (textbook), 72-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>CHAPEL led by the whole class</td>
<td>Brueggemann (textbook), 49-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hymn</td>
<td>Nowell (textbook), 69-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Wrap-Up</td>
<td>Intertextuality: Biography, History, Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Wrap-Up</td>
<td>Psalms and Us</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Book List on Psalms

COMMENTARIES:
Bergant, Dianne. Psalms 1–72 (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 2013)
________. Psalms 73–150 (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 2013)
________. Psalms 73–150 (AOTC; Nashville: Abingdon, 2003)
Countryman, L. William. The Psalms (Conversations with Scripture; New York: Morehouse, 2013)
Davidson, Robert. The Vitality of Worship: A Commentary on the Book of Psalms (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)
Gerstenberger, Erhard S. Psalms, Part 1 (FOTL 14; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988)
________. Psalms, Part 2 and Lamentations (FOTL 15; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001)
________. Psalms, Vol. 3: Psalms 90–150 (Baker Academic, 2008)
Hossfeld, Frank-Lothar and Erich Zenger, Psalms 2: A Commentary on Psalm 51–100 (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005 [German edition, 2000])
________. Psalms 3: A Commentary on Psalms 101–150 (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011)
Kraus, Hans-Joachim. Psalms 1–59 (Continental; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993)
________. Psalms 60–150 (Continental; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000)
Mays, James L. Psalms (Interpretation; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1994)
Rogerson, John W. and John W. McKay. Psalms 1–50 (Cambridge Bible Commentary; Cambridge University Press, 1977)
________. Psalms 51–100 (Cambridge University Press, 1977)
________. Psalms 101–150 (Cambridge University Press, 1977)
Ross, Allen P. Commentary on the Psalms: Volume 1: 1–41 (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2011)
Schaefer, Konrad. Psalms (Berit Olam; Liturgical, 2001)
Tate, Marvin E. Psalms 51–100 (WBC 20; rev. ed.; Thomas Nelson, 2002)
Wallace, Howard N. Psalms (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009)
Weiser, Artur. Psalms (OTL; Westminster, 1962)
METHODS, THEMES, & HISTORY OF INTERPRETATION:
Aquilar Chiu, Jose Enrique. *An Introduction to the Psalms* (Paulist, 2014)
Berry, Donald K. *Psalms and Their Readers: Interpretive Strategies for Psalm 18* (T&T Clark, 2009)
Blaising, Craig A., ed. *Psalms 1–50* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture; InterVarsity, 2008)
________. *Seeing the Psalms* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2002)
________. *From Whom No Secrets Are Hid* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014)
________. *Israel’s Praise: Doxology against Idolatry and Ideology* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1988)
________. *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984)
________. *The Psalms and the Life of Faith* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995)
Calvin, John. *Heart Aflame: Daily Readings from Calvin on the Psalms* (Phillipsburg,
N.J.: P&R, 1999) [→ 366 days]

Cathcart, Kevin et al., eds. The Targum of Psalms (Michael Glazier, 2004)


Cole, Robert L. Psalms 1–2: Gateway to the Psalter (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2012)

_______. Shape and Message of Book III (Psalms 73-89) (T&T Clark, 2000)


Creach, Jerome F. D. The Destiny of the Righteous in the Psalms (St. Louis: Chalice, 2008)


_______. Yahweh as Refuge and the Editing of the Hebrew Psalter (T&T Clark, 1996)

Crenshaw, James L. Psalms: An Introduction (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001)


_______. Psalms (T&T Clark, 2004)

deClaissé-Walford, Nancy L. Introduction to the Psalms: A Song from Ancient Israel (St. Louis: Chalice, 2004)

_______. ed. The Shape and Shaping of the Book of Psalms: The Current State of Scholarship (Atlanta: SBL, 2014)


Eaton, John H. Psalms of the Way of the Kingdom: A Conference with the Commentators (T&T Clark, 2009)


Firth, David G. Surrendering Retribution in the Psalms: Response to Violence in the Individual Complaints (Waynesboro, Ga.: Paternoster, 2005)

Firth, David G. and Philip S. Johnston, eds. Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches (InterVarsity Press, 2006)

Flint, Peter W. and Patrick D. Miller, eds. The Book of Psalms: Composition and Reception (Leiden: Brill, 2005)

Foster, Robert L. and David M. Howard, eds. My Words Are Lovely: Studies in the Rhetoric of the Psalms (T&T Clark, 2008)

Futato, Mark D. Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook (Kregel, 2007)

Gillingham, Susan. Psalms through the Centuries (vol. 1; Blackwell Bible Commentaries; Wiley-Blackwell, 2008)

Grant, Jamie A. The King as Exemplar: The Function of Deuteronomy’s Kingship Law in the Shaping of the Book of Psalms (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2004)

Gray, Alison Ruth. Psalm 18 in Words and Pictures: A Reading through Metaphor (Leiden: Brill, 2014)

Grogan, Geoffrey W. Psalms (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008)

Grohmann, Marianne and Yair Zakovitch, eds. Jewish and Christian Approaches to Psalms (Freiburg im Breisgau: Herder, 2009)
Gruber, Mayer I. Rashi’s Commentary on Psalms (Jewish Publication Society, 2008)
Handy, Lowell K., ed. Psalm 29 through Time and Tradition (Eugene: Pickwick, 2009)
Hecke, P. Van and A. Labahn, eds. Metaphors in the Psalms (BETL 231; Peeters, 2010)
Holladay, William L. The Psalms through Three Thousand Years (Fortress, 1996)
Howard, David M. The Structure of Psalms 93–100 (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1997)
Howell, James C. and J. Clinton McCann. Preaching the Psalms (Abingdon, 2001)
Human, Dirk J. and C. J. A. Vos, eds. Psalms and Liturgy (T&T Clark, 2005)
Hunter, Alastair. Introduction to the Psalms (T&T Clark, 2008)
Jacobson, Rolf A. Many are Saying: The Function of Direct Discourse in the Hebrew Psalter (T&T Clark, 2004)
Jaki, Stanley L. Praying the Psalms: A Commentary (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001)
Janse, Sam. You Are My Son: The Reception History of Psalm 2 in Early Judaism and the Early Church (Peeters, 2009)
Johnson, Vivian L. David in Distress: His Portrait through the Historical Psalms (T&T Clark, 2009)
Kraus, Hans-Joachim. Theology of the Psalms (Continental; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992)
Luther, Martin. Reading the Psalms with Luther (Concordia, 2007 [original, 1531])
Mays, James L. *Preaching and Teaching the Psalms* (Westminster John Knox, 2006)
Magonet, Jonathan *A Rabbi Reads the Psalms* (London: SCM, 1994)
Magonet, Jonathan *A Rabbi Reads the Psalms* (London: SCM, 1994)
Magonet, Jonathan *A Rabbi Reads the Psalms* (London: SCM, 1994)
Meer, Willem Van Der and J. C. De Moor. *Structuralist Analysis of Biblical and Canaanite Poetry* (T&T Clark, 2009)
Murphy, Roland E. *The Gift of Psalms* (Hendrickson, 2000)
Raabe, Paul R. *Psalms Structures: A Study of the Psalms with Refrain* (T&T Clark, 2009)
Sarna, Nahum. *Songs of the Heart: An Introduction to the Book of Psalms* (Schocken, 1993)
Tomes, Roger. *I Have Written to the King, My Lord: Secular Analogies for the Psalms* (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2005)
Ulrich, Eugene et al., eds. *Qumran Cave 4: Psalms to Chronicles* (Clarendon, 2001)
Wallace, Howard N. *Psalms* (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009)
Watts, James W. *Psalm and Story: Inset Hymns in Hebrew Narrative* (T&T Clark, 2009)
Wenham, Gordon J. *Psalms as Torah: Reading Biblical Song Ethically* (Baker Academic, 2012)
Wesselschmidt, Quentin F., ed. *Psalms 51–150* (ACCS; InterVarsity, 2007)
Wright, N. T. *The Case for the Psalms: Why They Are Essential* (HarperOne, 2013)

**LITURGICAL & CONTEMPORARY READINGS:**
Bland, Dave and David Fleer, eds. *Performing The Psalms* (St. Louis, Mo.: Chalice, 2005)
Dunson, Miriam. *A Very Present Help: Psalm Studies for Older Adults* (Geneva, 1999)
________. *Psalms for Life: Hearing and Praying the Book of Psalms* (WJK, 2007)
Lewis, C. S. *Reflections on the Psalms* (Mariner Books, 1964)
McCutchan, Stephen P. *Experiencing the Psalms: Weaving the Psalms into Your Ministry and Faith* (Macon, Ga.: Smyth & Helwys, 2000)
Nasuti, Harry Peter. *Defining the Sacred Songs: Genre, Tradition and the Post-Critical Interpretation of the Psalms* (T&T Clark, 2009)

Parrish, V. Steven. *A Story of the Psalms: Conversation, Canon, and Congregation* (Liturgical, 2003)

Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1980)


______.* Psalms and Practice: Worship, Virtue, Authority* (Liturgical, 2001)


Steussy, Marti J.* Psalms* (Chalice Commentary for Today; Chalice, 2004)

Stuhlmueller, Carroll, Carol J. Dempsey, and Timothy A. Lenchak.* The Spirituality of the Psalms* (Liturgical, 2002)


Van Harn, Roger E. and Brent A. Strawn, eds.* Psalms for Preaching and Worship: A Lectionary Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009)


Waltke, Bruce K. and James M. Houston.* The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010)


hymnary.org
www.npm.org