

BT708 Advanced OT Synthesis III: Writings

Course: BT708 Advanced OT Synthesis III: Writings
Credits: Three Credits
Semester: Spring 2023 Cycle 5
Dates: March – May, 2023
Time: Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Place: Microsoft Teams
Professor: Dr. Jeremy D. Lyon, Ph.D.

DESCRIPTION

This course examines the historical backgrounds, arguments, biblical theology, and interpretive issues in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible. Students will study how these books relate to the post-exilic period of Israel's history and how these books were used in the worship of God by Israel. Students will study the Messianic prophecies in these books and do exegetical studies in the Hebrew text of these Old Testament books.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

OBJECTIVES

The student who successfully completes this course should . . .

- a) *strengthen* proficiency in biblical Hebrew and *develop* exegetical skills in the Hebrew text
- b) *understand* the literary structure, major themes, and theology of the Writings, including the inter-textual relationship of each book with other books in the canon.
- c) *develop* an understanding of the nature and development of the Abrahamic Covenant and Mosaic Covenant in the Hebrew canon, and the prophetic history of the nation of Israel
- d) *develop* a working understanding of Hebrew poetry
- e) *articulate* the basic literary structure and message of the books of the Writings section of the canon
- f) *learn* from and interact with past and contemporary scholarship in the field
- g) *apply* teachings from the Writings to their life and ministry

TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James Version (NKJV), or King James Version (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Arnold, Bill T. and H. G. M. Williamson, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005. (ISBN: 978-0-8308-1782-5; IVP \$60)

Berlin, Adele. *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*. Revised and expanded edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans; Dearborn, MI: Dove, 2008. (ISBN: 978-0-8028-0397-9; Amazon \$22 or less)

Cole, Robert L. *Psalms 1–2: Gateway to the Psalter*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013. (ISBN: 979-1-9075-3430-0; Amazon \$80 or less)

Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis–Malachi*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1999. (ISBN: 0-8010-2793-4; Amazon \$32 or less)

De Waard, Jan, Piet B. Dirksen, Yohanan A. P. Goldman, Rolf Schäfer, and Magne Sæbø. *Biblia Hebraica Quinta: General Introduction and Megilloth*, Vol. 18. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2004. (ISBN: 3-438-05278-4; Amazon \$48 or less)

Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. (ISBN: 978-1-6830-7352-9; Amazon \$60 or less)

Longman III, Tremper and Peter Enns, eds. *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Wisdom, Poetry, and Writings*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005. (ISBN: 978-0-8308-1783-2; IVP \$60)

Rydellnik, Michael and Edwin Blum, eds. *The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy: Studies and Expositions of the Messiah in the Old Testament*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2019. (ISBN: 978-0-8024-0963-8; Amazon \$33 or less)

Schnittjer, Gary Edward. *Old Testament Use of Old Testament: A Book-by-Book Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2021. (ISBN: 978-0-3105-7110-0; Amazon \$55 or less)

ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Quizzes (100 pts): The student will read the assigned weekly material carefully and critically. The student will report the percentage of reading completed for each week as part of the weekly quizzes. On the other part of each quiz the student will be responsible for the material covered in both the reading assignments due each current session and class lectures from the previous sessions. Quizzes may consist of reading % only or also discussion board format.

Book Summary and Response Paper (150 pts): The student will read Cole (*Psalms 1–2: Gateway to the Psalter*) and will write a brief chapter-by-chapter summary (covering the major issues) with a brief critical evaluation of each chapter. The response should demonstrate comprehension of the material and should include some type of critique and/or agreement with aspects in that chapter. For each chapter, write (a) substantial paragraph(s) summary and (a) paragraph(s) response (please cite all sources in footnotes). Include headings for each chapter. Turabian format is required.

Translation and Exegetical Commentary Project (150 pts): Students will have weekly translation and exegesis assignments (details provided in class). The student will do translation of the select passages from the Writings along with critical commentary on each verse involving grammar, syntax, exegetical/theological issues.

Hebrew Exegesis Paper (350 pts): The student will develop an 8,000-to-10,000-word exegesis paper of a selected text from the Writings. The research will include detailed exegetical discussion of the verses from the Hebrew text, including grammar/syntax issues and theological/interpretive issues. More details provided in class. The paper must follow Turabian format.

Hebrew Bible Comprehensive Exam (250 pts): The comprehensive exam is two parts. In the *first part*, the student will translate a select Hebrew text and parse all verbs. The *second part* is an oral exam in which the student will be required to demonstrate a proficient knowledge of major issues (textual, theological, interpretive, etc.) in the Hebrew Bible. The questions will be provided prior to the exam for the student to review.

POINTS AND FINAL GRADE

960-1000 points	A
940-959 points	A-
920-939 points	B+
880-919 points	B
860-879 points	B-
0-859 points	F

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

EXPECTATIONS

Attend class in Microsoft Teams. Each PhD student is expected to be at every class on time. Make class attendance a priority.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any part of a book or paper without identifying the author. This also includes taking another person's ideas and presenting them as your own.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 edition.