

BT708 Advanced OT Synthesis III: Writings

Course: BT708 Advanced OT Synthesis III: Writings
Credits: Three Credits
Semester: Spring 2026 Session 2
Dates: March 16 – May 8, 2026
Time: Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Place: Microsoft Teams
Professor: Dr. Gary Gromacki, Th.M., D.Min., Ph.D.
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COURSE 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 is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student who successfully completes this course should . . .

- 1.Explain the canonical order of the books in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible (PLO 2; A 5)
- 2.Explain the literary structure, major themes and biblical theology of books in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible (PLO 2, 4; A 1, 2, 5)
- 3.Grow in proficiency of reading, translating and explaining the Hebrew text in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible (PLO 1; A 3, 5)

4. Explain and critique the form criticism of the Psalms by Gunkel (PLO 4, A 5)
5. Explain the meaning and significance of the 70 Weeks Prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27 (PLO 1, 4; A 4, 5)
4. Explain the meaning and significance of the post-exilic books: Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther, and Chronicles. (PLO 1, 2; A 5)
6. Give a chronological outline of post-exilic history of Israel (PLO 2; A 5)
5. Apply the teachings of the Writings to his or her life and ministry (PLO 3; A 5)

TEXTBOOKS

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 (NKJV), or King James (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.

Dorsey, David. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999. ISBN: 0-8010-2187-1 Amazon: \$37.96

Kostenberger, Andreas and Gregory Goswell. *Biblical Theology: A Canonical, Thematic and Ethical Approach*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-4335-6969-2. Amazon: \$56.13

Rydelnik, 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: \$29.71

REQUIRED: ORIGINAL LANGUAGE BIBLE STUDY SOFTWARE (Accordance or Logos)

Students are required to have digital resources to engage Biblical study in the original languages, including but not limited to *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)*, *Nestle Aland 28 (NA28)* – both including critical apparatus; *Septuaginta (LXX)*, a *Greek Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BDAG)* by Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT)* by Koehler and Baumgartner.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Read Dorsey's book *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament* on the books of the Writings Section of the Hebrew Bible and write a critical book review (6-8 double spaced pages) following Turabian format (200 points)

Assignment 2: Read Kostenberger and Goswell's book *Biblical Theology: A Canonical, Thematic and Ethical Approach* on the books of the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible and write a critical book review (6-8 double spaced pages) following Turabian format (200 points)

Assignment 3: Present a 30 minute lecture on a Hebrew text from the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible. Each student will present on a different text and should use PowerPoint (100 points)

Assignment 4: Read Rydelnik and Blum's book *The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy* on the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible and write a critical book review (6-8 double spaced pages) following Turabian format (200 points)

Assignment 5: Take the Hebrew Old Testament Comprehensive Exam. The first part of the Exam will be translating and parsing from two different texts in the Hebrew Bible (100 points) The second part of the Exam will be a one hour oral exam in Microsoft Teams. (200 points). See the questions below to study and prepare for this exam (Total: 300 points)

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

SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction to the *Kethuvim* (the Writings)

Week 2 Psalms (Hebrew text: Psalm 23)

Week 3 Proverbs (Hebrew text: Proverbs 3:1-18)

Week 4 Job (Hebrew text: Job 1:1-12)

Week 5 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther
(Hebrew text: Ecclesiastes 12:6-14)

Week 6 Daniel (Hebrew text: Daniel 9:24-27)

Week 7 Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles (Hebrew text: Nehemiah 8:1-12)

Week 8 Hebrew Old Testament Comprehensive Exam (see below for questions)

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. Please let the professor know if you cannot attend class for any reason.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade.

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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ansberry, Christopher. *Proverbs*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2024.

Bock, Daniel. *Ruth*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.

Bullock, C. Hassell. *Encountering the Book of Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Campbell, Edward. *Ruth*. The Anchor Bible. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, 1975.

Estes, Daniel. *Hear, My Son: Teaching and Learning in Proverbs 1-9*. Apollos, 1997.

Estes, Daniel. *Psalms 73-150. The New American Commentary*. Nashville, TN: 2019.

Firth, David and Philip Johnston. *Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches*. Downers Grove, IVP Academic, 2005.

Fruchtenbaum, Arnold. *The Book of Daniel*. Ariel's Bible Commentary. Ariel Ministries, 2022.

Futato, Mark. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2007.

Heim, Knut. *Ecclesiastes*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2025.

Johnson, L.D. *Israel's Wisdom: Learn and Live*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1975.

Kidner, Derek. *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes: An Introduction to Wisdom Literature*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1985.

Longman III, Tremper. *Proverbs*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

McGinniss, Mark. *Contributions of Selected Rhetorical Devices to a Biblical Theology of the Song of Songs*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2011.

Merrill, Eugene. *A Commentary on 1 and 2 Chronicles*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2015.

Ross, Allan. *A Commentary on the Psalms. Volume 1: Psalms 1-41*. Kregel Exegetical Library. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2011.

Ross, Allan. *A Commentary on the Psalms. Volume 2: Psalms 42-89*. Kregel Exegetical Library. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2013.

Ross, Allan. *A Commentary on the Psalms. Volume 3: Psalms 90-150*. Kregel Exegetical Library. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2016.

Smith, Gary V. *Ezra and Nehemiah*. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2022.

Taylor, Richard. *Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2016.

Calvary University
2026 Hebrew Old Testament Comprehensive Exam

QUESTIONS ON THE TORAH SECTION OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

What does the TaNaK stand for?

Read Goswell's article on The Order of the Books in the Hebrew Bible. Explain why the OT books are placed in this canonical order.

What is paratext and why is it important?

Explain the literary structure of the Torah.

Explain the *Toledot* outline of Genesis.

What is the Abrahamic covenant? Why is this covenant important? When is this covenant fulfilled?

What is the purpose of the Mosaic Law in the Torah?

What are the Feasts of Israel? Explain the significance of each feast.

What happened on Yom Kippur? Why is this day so important for Israel?

How does Deuteronomy 28-30 relate to the history and future of Israel?

QUESTIONS ON THE PROPHETS SECTION OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

What OT books are in the Prophets section of the Hebrew Bible?

How are the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings) prophetic literature? Make sure to include major teachings within each book and some of the intertextual links between these books and others in the Hebrew canon.

What was the role of the prophet in Israel?

YHWH vs. Baal. How does the Prophets section of the Hebrew Bible show the superiority of YHWH over Baal?

What is the Davidic covenant? What does 2 Samuel 7 say about the Davidic covenant?

Discuss the literary structure and the meaning of the book of Isaiah.

Explain Isaiah 7:14. Is Isaiah 7:14 a Direct Messianic Prophecy or Typological Prophecy? What is the meaning of the Hebrew word *almah*? How do you know?

Explain the Isaiah 53 prophecy. How do you know that this prophecy refers to Messiah and not to Israel?

What is the New covenant? What does Jeremiah 31 teach about the New covenant?

QUESTIONS ON THE WRITINGS SECTION OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

What OT books are in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible?

Discuss the literary structure and the meaning of Psalms.

Is the book of Psalms a collection of hymns or a unified book of theology? How do you know?

How is the Messiah revealed in the Psalms?

Give your assessment of Gunkel's form criticism of the Psalms.

What is the difference between a lament psalm, a descriptive praise psalm and a declarative praise psalm?

Why is Daniel placed in the writings section of the Hebrew Bible?

What are the Times of the Gentiles? What Gentile nations dominate Israel according to Daniel 2 and 7? What is the last Gentile ruler in the Times of the Gentiles?

Explain the 70 Weeks Prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27. What will happen in the 70th week? What is the abomination of desolation?

What is the last book of the Hebrew Bible? Why is this book last? How does the last book in the Hebrew Bible end?

QUESTIONS ON OLD TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGY

Give an overview of the key events and people in OT chronology.

Explain the progressive revelation of the OT explaining when the different OT books were written.

Why is 1 Kings 6:1 important to OT chronology?

When did the Exodus take place? How do you know?

Who was the Pharaoh of the Exodus? How do you know?

When did Joshua and the Israelites conquer Jericho? How do you know?

What OT books were written after the Babylonian exile?

