



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 : WYB2263HS
Course Name: Preaching from the Psalms
Campus: St. George

Instructor Information

Instructor: Glen Taylor Teaching Assistant:
E-mail: glen.taylor@utoronto.ca E-mail:
Office Hours:

Course Prerequisites or Requisites

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

Course Description

Interactive investigation of the Book of Psalms which includes seminars, drama and exegetical workshops in addition to lectures. Emphasis will be placed on the editorial shaping of the psalter and on preaching the psalms within the church.

Course Methodology

The methodology used in the course (lectures, tutorials, seminars, readings, etc)

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 increased their familiarity with the content of the four Gospels;	lectures 6, 10, 11, 12; analytical questions; tutorials; exam (Part II)	MTS: 1.1 MDiv: [under revision]
• will have developed a greater	lectures 2, 4, 5, 8; assignment 3;	MTS: 1.1

awareness of the historical and cultural context in which the Christian movement emerged and in which the writings of the New Testament were produced;	tutorials	MDiv: [under revision]
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Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- W.H. Bellinger, *Psalms: A Guide to Studying the Psalter*. Second Edition. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012). Available at Crux bookstore.
- A photocopied compilation of readings entitled, *Readings on the Psalms*.

Additional books on the Psalms are too numerous to mention and depend on one's purpose for studying the psalms. Fairly recent, reasonably priced commentaries of merit include James Luther Mays, *Psalms* (Interpretation; Louisville: W/JKP, 1994); and Walter Breuggemann and W. H. Bellinger, *Psalms* (Cambridge Bible Commentaries, 2014).

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 (January 14) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 2 (January 21) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 3 (January 28) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 4 (February 4) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 5 (February 11) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 6 (February 18) Reading Week.

Week 7 (February 25) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 8 (March 3) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 9 (March 10) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 10 (March 17) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 11 (March 24) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 12 (March 31) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Week 13 (April 7) Include here a title/description for the week, as well as any required readings and/or assignments due for that class.

Evaluation

Requirements

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|---|-----|
| 1. Two sermons (including exegesis [8% each]) | 40% |
| 2. Class assignments, readings, participation | 40% |
| 3. Devotional Reflection on five Psalms | 10% |
| 4. Trial exercises on preaching | 10% |

Optional extra credit of 5% for evaluation of 2 taped sermons (tape component due by Friday 9 April)

The penalty for written work submitted late will be 2% per calendar day. However, under no circumstances will either the exegesis or manuscript component of the in-class sermon be accepted after the due date.

Sermons:

Each student is expected to preach one in-class sermon on the psalms. Times will be arranged soon after the class begins. The student is required to submit his/her exegesis one week prior to the sermon date and a full manuscript of the sermon the Monday before the sermon date. The sermon will be evaluated by peers and by the instructor.

A guideline for exegesis will be made available in class; an acceptable guideline is available already on the College website or from the Graham Library. (N.B. The exegesis for the in-class sermon must include a one-page word study based on skills learned in class.)

The second sermon may be preached out of class. For those sermons to be preached in settings outside the college, it will be necessary to record the message on a VHS tape.

Note 1: If the recording of the second sermon fails, the sermon must be preached again; a manuscript alone will not suffice.

Note 2: Sermons must be fresh; a psalm on which you have preached before disqualifies the psalm from use!

Devotional Study of the Psalms

Students are required to complete a devotional reflection on five psalms. Though devotional the reflection should be based on good theological exegesis (in other words, the psalm's core meaning must anchor and direct the content of the reflection). Length: one page per psalm.

Weekly Readings and Assignment

Each week the student will be expected to do work in the form of completing readings or assignments. This work done outside of class constitutes a major component of the course. Students wishing to work ahead can assume that the bulk of readings in the photocopied binder will be assigned, with the possible exception of Unit 5, the supplemental unit, and part of Unit 3.2.

Optional Tape Assignments for Extra Credit

For bonus credit, students may evaluate two sermons from the Psalms. In completing this assignment, please use the sheets at the back of this syllabus. Consult the professor for a selection of cassette tapes. Due date: final day of class.

Questions on Sermons Heard

Prior to hearing the tape, read the psalm carefully. Do a quick exegetical probe and also think hard about how you might preach this psalm. This will give you an important frame of reference for hearing the sermon.

Please write your answers to the following questions on no more than two sheets of paper.

1. Who preached the sermon and on what Psalm was it based?
2. What was the central theme of the sermon? Was this theme easy or hard to determine? What made it so?
3. Was there a structure or flow to the sermon that was easy to follow? If you had been an “average congregant” would you have been able to discern the structure or flow? If possible, please write out the basic outline.
4. What were the shortcomings of the sermon (if any) and what could have been done to avoid them?
5. What are the most important things you learned from reading/hearing the sermon that you can apply to your own prospective preaching ministry? (Comment both on homiletic method and on the spiritual significance of the sermon.)
6. In addition to the previous question or as a variation on it, list three practical things you could do to incorporate into your own preaching those things which you appreciated the most about the sermon you heard.
7. Are there any other comments you wish to make about the sermon?

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

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*, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

Bibliography

(SEE ALSO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY IN THE BINDER OF READINGS)

Bernard Anderson, *Out of the Depths* (2d ed.; Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983).

Broyles, Craig. *The Psalms*. New International Commentary. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

Christoph Barth, *Introduction to the Psalms* (New York: Scribners, 1966).

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1984).

———, *Praying the Psalms* (Winona: St. Mary's, 1982).

Calvin's Commentaries. Psalms. 5 vols. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949).

*J. Day, *Psalms* (Old Testament Guides. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1992).

John Eaton, *The Psalms Come Alive* (Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 1980).

———. *Kingship and the Psalms* (2d. ed.; Sheffield: JSOT, 1986).

*Gillingham, S. E. *The Poems and Psalms of the Hebrew Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994).

Donald L. Griggs, *Praying and Teaching the Psalms* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1984).

Harvery H. Guthrie, *Theology as Thanksgiving* (New York: Seabury, 1981).

J. Hayes, *Understanding the Psalms* (Valley Forge, PA: Judson, 1976.)

John Ker, *The Psalms in History and Biography* (New York: Robert Carter, 1886).

H. -J. Kraus, *The Theology of the Psalms* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1986).

C. S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1958).

Luther's Works. Vols. 10 and 11, *First Lectures on the Psalms*. Vols. 12–14, *Selected Psalms* (St. Louis: Concordia, 1955-74). (cf. James Preus, *From Shadow to Promise* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1969).

James Luther Mays, *The Lord Reigns: A Theological Handbook of the Psalms* (Louisville: W/JKP, 1994).

Patrick Miller, Jr., *Interpreting the Psalms* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986).

Sigmund Mowinckel, *The Psalms in Israel's Worship* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1962).

R. E. Prothero, *The Psalms in Human Life*. (London: John Murray, 1904).

M. H. Shepherd, *The Psalms in Christian Worship: A Practical Guide* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1886).

Claus Westermann, *The Psalms: Structure, Content and Message* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1980).

———. *Praise and Lament in the Psalms* (Atlanta: John Knox, 1973).

———. *The Living Psalms* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989)

Note also commentaries on the Psalms, including those by Goldingay, Kidner, Delitzsch, Dahood, Kraus, Mays, Perowne, Leupold, Kirkpatrick, Anderson, Weiser, Craigie, Allen, Tate.