

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
OT790PSW – Psalms Workshop
Fall 2008; 1 Unit

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Meeting Dates: Weekend retreat Sept. 19-20; Fri 5:00-9:00 pm; Sat 8:30 am-5:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A spiritual retreat based on a study of the book of Psalms with a guide to personal and corporate prayer.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develops skills in using the Psalms as a prayer book.
2. Write journal entries on prayer based on the Psalms.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1.1 Practice spiritual disciplines that promote maturing authentic discipleship

TEXT MATERIALS

Required text:

Peterson, Eugene. *Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer*. Harper & Row, 1989.

Recommended Commentaries:

Mays, James L. *Psalms*. Interpretation. John Knox, 1994.

Waltner, James. *Psalms*. Believers Church. Herald, 2006.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is a seminary course for believers in need of a growing relationship with God. The course invites participants to use the psalms for personal and corporate prayer, especially through participation in the retreat.

ASSIGNMENTS/LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Class Participation

Participation/interaction in the retreat is required. There is a grade reduction of 5% for each hour of missed class that is not made up.

2. Reading (30%)

Reading is to aid informed class participation. Students are expected to read the required textbook and to submit a reading report that states how much reading was done from each text. Students are to read prayerfully at least 50 of the psalms and to report this reading as well. Due: November 24

3. Journal (70%)

Students should practice reading the psalms prayerfully. A journal of at least 20 entries with extended reflective meditations on individual psalms is to be developed. The use of poetry and

other creative, reflective media is expected. The work does not need to be polished but should be easily accessible to the intended audience (the professor). The journal should also include a 250-500 word entry describing the student's own spiritual experience of the retreat. Due: November 24.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

1. MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies/>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, accommodations for disability, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, grading templates, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to your professor or consult the Registrar.
2. Course evaluations are to be completed online and are due one week after the completion of the course. Official grades will not be posted until the student's evaluation of the course is completed.
3. Student work will be evaluated by two standards: a) by what is considered the appropriate level of graduate performance, and b) by comparison with work submitted in a given class (see the Academic Handbook, p. 10). The letter grade conversions follow the MBBS Grading Template: A (100-94%), A- (93-90%), B+ (89-87%), B (86-83%), B (82-80%), C+ (79-77%), C (76-73%), C- (72-70%), and F (69-0%). The performance expectations are as follows: "B" is the baseline that means the student is doing satisfactory work. "B+" or higher grades indicate the student has exceeded the baseline performance standard. "C" grade indicates that the student has not achieved the baseline level.
4. Formatting Specifications. On questions of style and citation form, consult Carole Slade, Form and Style: Research papers, Reports, Theses, 11th Edition. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000. The preferred documentation format is parenthetical citation style, either the MLA or APA.