

RTS

O R L A N D O



COURSE SYLLABUS

02OT602 Reading Hebrew Poetry

Mark D. Futato, Ph.D.

Spring 2022

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DATES

COURSE DATES: February 2 – May 10

SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

A summary of due dates can be found at Syllabus on the left-hand navigation bar in Canvas.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the theory of Hebrew poetry, by reading selected writings on the subject, and gives them experience in reading and interpreting poetry, by reading and analyzing texts selected portions from the book of Psalms. Students will read selected writings on Hebrew poetry and analyze selected texts in the book of Psalms. These texts will then be read carefully in class.

PURPOSE:

To increase the students' love for and ability to interpret Hebrew poetry.

GOALS:

Comprehension

- To increase your knowledge of poetic theory.

Competence

- To sharpen your skills in reading and analyzing Hebrew poetry.

Character

- To grow in your honesty in your relation with God, others, and self.

- To grow in your wisdom as you live before God, others, and self.
- To grow in your love for God, others, and self.

SUPPORT:

- Canvas offers several ways of interacting with Dr. Futato. One is Ask the Professor. Ask the Professor is the place for posting general questions. Two is Grammar. Grammar is the place for posting specific questions about the Hebrew text. Both of these have the benefit of allowing classmates to profit from the dialog. Three is Inbox. Inbox functions like email and can be used if you have a personal question, for example, a question about a grade.
- Canvas also allows for interaction with classmates. You can interact with classmates via the Student to Student forum or Inbox.
- See FAQ on the Home Page or at Modules > Course Resources for instructions on various Canvas features.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READING IN TEXTBOOKS:

- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2011. You will read 5 chapters of this book.
- Alter, Robert. *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 2018.
- Futato, Mark D. *Basics of Hebrew Accents*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020. You will read only chapter 5 in this book.
- Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2007. You will read only chapter 1 in this book.
- Futato, Mark D., and George M. Schwab. *Psalms, Proverbs*. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary 7. Downers Grove, IL: Tyndale House, 2009.
- Lucas, Ernest C. "Poetics, Terminology of." Pages 520-25 in *Dictionary of the Old Testament Wisdom, Poetry & Writings*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2008.

READING IN THE HEBREW BIBLE:

- Psalm 1
- Psalm 2
- Psalm 13

Psalm 30

Psalm 117

FINAL EXAM:

There is a final exam that will cover the Hebrew text of the Psalms analyzed in class.

Assessment information:

- 100 points, totaling 100% of your grade.

GRADING POLICY:

Late work will be penalized 1 letter grade per day, unless prior permission for late submission is granted. The published RTS grading scale is used in this course.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

February 3

- Secondary literature:
 - Alter, *Translation*, 1.xiii-xlii
 - Futato, *Accents*, chapter 5
 - Futato, *Interpret*, chapter 1
 - Lucas
 - Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*
 - Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*

- Psalm 117

February 10

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Art*, chapter 1, Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 13:1-3

February 17

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Art*, chapter 2, Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*, Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 13:4-6

February 24

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Art*, chapter 3, Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 30:1-4

March 3

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Art*, chapter 5, Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 30:5-7

March 10

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Art*, chapter 9, Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 30:8-10

March 17

- *Spring Break*

March 24

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 30:11-13

March 31

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 1:1-3

April 7

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 1:4-6

April 14

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 2:1-4

April 21

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 2:5-8

April 28

- Secondary literature: Alter, *Translation*, *ad loc*; Futato, *Psalms*, *ad loc*
- Psalm 2:9-12

May 3

- Review Day

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FURTHER READING

- Alonso Schökel, Luis. *A Manual of Hebrew Poetics*. Subsidia Biblica 11. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1988.
- Berlin, Adele. *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009.
- Fokkelman, J. P. *Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide*. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Kugel, James. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1981.
- Longman, Tremper. *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- Schökel, Luis Alonso. *A Manual of Hebrew Poetics*. Roma: Biblical Institute Press, 1987.
- Watson, Wilfred G. E. *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques*. Reprint. London; New York: T&T Clark, 2004.

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Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 02OT602

Professor: Mark Futato

Campus: Orlando

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes <i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i> <i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i>		Rubric ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	Mini-Justification
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Moderate	There will be some discussion of the chosen texts in their biblical, theological, historical, and global contexts.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	The focus of this class is studying the text in its original language and context.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	There will be some discussion of the chosen texts in the context of Reformed theology.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	While reading the chosen texts, which focus on God as Creator, students will grow in their love for their triune God.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	There will be some discussion of the texts as they apply to worldview.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	There will be discussion on how to hold one's view on creation in the context of the variety of opinions that exist in the church.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	There will be discussion of the structure of the texts and the application to preaching.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	There will be some discussion of the application of ancient worship forms to modern day worship.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Minimal	There will be some discussion of the application of the chosen texts to the pastoral ministry.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	There will be some discussion of implications for the broader church and public issues.