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# PSALMS-CHRONICLES

## RTS-J

### 1OT512

### FALL 2018

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#### **INSTRUCTOR**

Michael G. McKelvey, Ph.D.  
mmckelvey@rts.edu

Each Wednesday, 8-11am

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an expositional course that covers Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles—also called the Writings. Minimal attention is given to introductory matters. Primary attention is given to the exegetical, biblical-theology study of the text. Master of Divinity students must take Hebrew before enrolling in this course.

#### **COURSE PROTOCOLS**

1. *Grading Schedule.* The letter grading scale for this course is stipulated by the institutional catalogue and is summarized below.

97-100%	A	80-82%	C
94-96%	A-	78-79%	C-
91-93%	B+	75-77%	D+
88-90%	B	72-74%	D
86-87%	B-	70-71%	D-
83-85%	C+	0-69%	F

2. *Attendance and Late Assignments.* Attendance is required. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments are docked one letter grade per day.
3. *Special Needs.* In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment) is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.
4. *Disclaimer.* This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. However, the instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as may become necessary.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### **Textbooks** (in addition to a standard English Bible and Hebrew Bible)

- Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetic Books*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1988.
- Johnston, Philip S., and David Firth, eds. *Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2005.
- O. Palmer Robertson. *The Christ of Wisdom: A Redemptive-Historical Exploration of the Wisdom Books of the Old Testament*. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2017.
- Miles V. Van Pelt, ed. *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016.

### **Recommended Reading:**

- Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.
- Wenham, Gordon J. *Psalms as Torah: Reading Biblical Song Ethically*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.
- Brown, William P. *Seeing the Psalms: A Theology of Metaphor*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002.
- McKelvey, Michael G. *Moses, David and the High Kingship of Yahweh: A Canonical Study of Book IV of the Psalter*. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2010/2014.
- Roberston, O. Palmer. *The Flow of the Psalms: Discovering Their Structure and Theology*. Philipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2015.
- Longman, Tremper. *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

### **Assignments**

1. Read all Biblical books in English. This reading constitutes **10%** of the term grade. There will be a reading report section on the exam where the student will indicate the percentage completed. (The student is encouraged to begin this reading as soon as possible, even before the course begins. **NO AUDIO BOOKS ALLOWED.**)
2. Read Bullock, Johnston and Firth, Robertson, and the chapters in Van Pelt covering all the books in the Writings. These readings constitute **15%** of the term grade. There will be a reading report section on the exam where the student will indicate the percentage completed. (The student is encouraged to begin these readings as soon as possible, even before the course begins.)
3. Hebrew students will be responsible for weekly translations and parsing (see translation schedule below). Non-Hebrew students will write four separate three-page reviews of Johnston and Firth, Bullock,

and Robertson. This will constitute **15%** of the term grade. This assignment is **due Wednesday, November 7**.

Sept. 5	Translation 1
12	Translation 2
19	Translation 3
26	Translation 4
Oct. 10	Translation 5
17	Translation 6
24	Translation 7
31	Translation 8
Nov. 7	Translation 9
14	Translation 10
28	Translation 11
Dec. 5	Translation 12

4. Write a paper (8-10 pages) on the matter of interpretation (i.e. Canonical Approach to the Psalms, Wisdom Literature, Interpreting Song of Songs, etc.) or an exegesis paper on a specific passage from the Writings. This paper will constitute **20%** of the term grade. Students may ask the instructor for suggestions. The paper is **due Wednesday, October 31**.

#### **Examination**

1. Mid-Term Exam, **Wednesday, October 10**–Lectures (**20%** of the term grade)
2. Final Exam – Lectures and Reading (**20%** of the term grade)

**\*No Class on November 21- Happy Thanksgiving!!!**

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes  
With Mini-Justification**

Course: Psalms-Chronicles (OT512)  
 Professor: Michael G. McKelvey, Ph.D.  
 Campus: RTS-Jackson  
 Date: Fall 2018

<b><u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Significant academic paper stresses clear writing, cogent thought, and concision.
<b>Scripture</b>	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	1. Significant exegetical work 2. Original languages used in assignments and paper, and 3. Emphasis in seeing and understanding the books in the light of the whole Bible.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Classically reformed approaches are brought to bare in the consideration of the texts
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	1. Study of the text is part of sanctification 2. Exegetical work ends in application
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Applications to the different areas of life made from the biblical texts
<b>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</b>	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	Courteous, careful interaction with other scholarship is a part of the lectures, assigned reading, and writing
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	The course focuses on bringing understanding of the text to the point where homiletical work can continue
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Interpretation and understanding of God's revelation leads to worship
<b>Shepherd</b>	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.	Moderate	Biblical knowledge and hermeneutical skill is vital in the area of church life
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Understanding the whole Bible through biblical theology is necessary to communicating its message

