



Bible 215 – Course Syllabus

Course Title: *Psalms (3 Credits)*

Course Description: This course involves an in-depth study of the book of Psalms. Topics include: the structure of the Psalter, collections of Psalms within the Psalter, the theology of the Psalter (including Messianic connections), the use of Psalms in worship from ancient times to today, the use of the Psalms in personal devotional practices from ancient times to today, the exegesis of select psalms, and the practical application of select psalms to our lives. These topics will be covered through lectures with exegetical, theological, and practical content including the use and teaching of the Psalms in Sunday school, children’s church, and homeschooling contexts. Students will read the entire Psalter over the course of the semester, as well as completing six projects related to the use of the Psalms and six essay assignments related to the theology and content of the Psalms. There will also be quizzes as well as a midterm and a final exam.

Prerequisites: Bible 101 (required for Anchor Bible College “for-degree” students)

Instructors:

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Course Materials:

- Bible (unless otherwise specified, you may use the translation of your choice)
 - Lecture notes and quiz blanks will use the ESV translation.
- Kidner, Derek. **Psalms 1-72 (Kidner Classic Commentaries)** IVP Academic, 2014. ISBN: 9780830829378.
- Kidner, Derek. **Psalms 73-150 (Kidner Classic Commentaries)** IVP Academic, 2014. ISBN: 9780830829385.
- Handouts given in class and/or posted in Canvas.

Class Time: Class will meet once weekly on Thursdays from 4pm-7pm. Class will take place in Room 105 at Hope Community Church, located at 2100 Ellsworth Rd. Ypsilanti, MI, 48197.

Class time will be broken down into the following general schedule:

- Weekly Quiz (4:00 - 4:15)
- Lecture 1 (4:15 - 5:20)
- Break (5:20 - 5:25)
- Lecture 2 (5:25 - 6:25)
- Break (6:25 - 6:30)
- Discussion (6:30 - 7:00)

Assignments:

- **Quizzes** - There will be 12 quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will generally take place at the beginning of class time each week and will cover the previous week's study materials. The quiz format will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer-style questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to provide the students with regular graded feedback on their understanding of the course material and to prepare them for the exams. The quizzes also ensure a student's regular and on-time attendance for the weekly class time. The lowest 2 quiz scores for each student will be dropped.
- **Reading Log** – Students will read through the Psalms three times in this class following a schedule for Morning and Evening Readings on a Thirty-day cycle. Students will keep a log of their reading to confirm their having read through the Psalms and the other class Materials. This reading log may take whatever form is most convenient for the student and will include what was read and during what week. This may be kept by hand if more convenient, then typed up to be uploaded at the end of the course. The Reading Log will be counted as a quiz grade.
- **Projects** – There will be six projects due throughout the semester. Instructions for each will be given in class on the day the project is assigned. Projects will be submitted through Canvas. Typed documents may be uploaded directly. Handwritten homework can be scanned and submitted as a.pdf document. Homework is graded for completeness with points deducted only for incomplete submissions or a clear lack of effort.
- **Exegetical Study Paper** - This assignment is designed to enable each student to study a passage of his/her selection and write a paper with the same content and structure that could be used to lead a Bible study. Students will be given instruction on how to approach this assignment throughout the course of the semester and will be taught how to develop exegetical study skills necessary for studying an individual passage and preparing to lead a Bible study. This assignment will have a paper outline due Week 9 (3/9/23) and the final paper is due Week 14 (12/7/23).
- **Midterm Exam** - The midterm exam will be given during class Week 8 (10/26/23). The exam will cover all lecture and study material content up to that point. The purpose of the exam is to encourage each student to review the material studied so far and to ensure that each student retains the information learned throughout the course of the semester. The exam will be structured in the same format as the quizzes.

- **Final Exam** - The final exam will be during class Week 16 (12/21/23). The exam will be cumulative but with a much heavier emphasis on material covered after the midterm. The purpose of the exam is to encourage each student to review the entire course material and to ensure that each student retains the information learned throughout the course of the semester. The exam will be structured in the same format as the midterm and the quizzes.

Canvas: Canvas is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of assignments and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents. Further details on how to set up a Canvas account and access this course can be found in the appendix to this document.

Assessment: Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Quizzes and Reading Log	15%	According to the course schedule Lowest two quizzes dropped Reading Log counts as a quiz grade but it cannot be dropped
Projects	25%	According to the course schedule
Exegetical Paper	20%	Outline 5%, due: 3/9/23 Final Paper 20%, due: 4/6/23
Midterm Exam	20%	3/2/23
Final Exam	20%	4/27/23

We will use the following thresholds to convert raw scores in the course into letter grades:

- A+: $\geq 98\%$
- A: $\geq 92\%$
- A-: $\geq 90\%$
- B+: $\geq 88\%$
- B: $\geq 82\%$
- B-: $\geq 80\%$
- C+: $\geq 78\%$
- C: $\geq 72\%$
- C-: $\geq 70\%$
- D+: $\geq 68\%$
- D: $\geq 62\%$
- D-: $\geq 60\%$
- F: $< 60\%$

Depending on the distribution of raw scores at the end of the semester, these thresholds may change; however, the final thresholds will be no stricter than the current thresholds. For example, if you receive a raw score of 85% in the course, you will be guaranteed a letter grade of at least B; however, it may happen that you receive a higher letter grade depending on the overall distribution of raw scores.

Class Schedule:

Date	Area of Study	Reading/Study	Assignments Due
Week 1 8/31/23	Introduction to the Psalter	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Kidner, Introduction, Sections 1-4 Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 1	<i>Nothing Due</i>
Week 2 9/7/23	Introduction to the Psalter (continued)	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Kidner, Introduction, Sections 5-7 Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 1	<i>Quiz</i>
Week 3 9/14/23	The Theology of the Psalter Psalms 1-12	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 1	<i>Quiz</i> Parallelism in the Psalms Project Due
Week 4 9/21/23	The Theology of the Psalter (continued) Psalms 13-30	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 1	<i>Quiz</i>
Week 5 9/28/23	God in the Psalter Psalms 31-45	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 1 Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 2	<i>Quiz</i> Wisdom in the Psalms Project Due
Week 6 10/5/23	God in the Psalter Psalms 46-60	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 2	<i>Quiz</i>
10/12/23	The Messianic Psalms Psalms 61-76	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 2	<i>Quiz</i>
Week 7 10/19/23	The Imprecatory Psalms Psalms 77-89	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 2	Davidic Episodes in the Psalms Project Due
Week 8 10/26/23	The Psalms as Prophecy Psalms 90-118	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 2	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
Week 9 11/2/23	The Psalms as Wisdom Psalm 119	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 3	<i>Quiz</i> Exegetical Paper Outline Due
Week 10 11/9/23	The Psalms as a Mirror of the Human Soul Psalms 120-134	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 3	<i>Quiz</i>
Week 11 11/16/23	The Psalms as Lament Psalms 135-150	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 3	<i>Quiz</i> Psalm 119 "Word of God" Synonyms Project Due
Week 12 11/23/23	No Class. Thanksgiving.	Catch up on reading/projects. Monthly M/E Psalm Readings 3	<i>Nothing due.</i>

Week 13 11/30/23	The Psalms as Prayer Book	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week.	Quiz Emotions in the Psalms Project Due
Week 14 12/7/23	The Psalms as Hymnal	- Any handouts given in class or posted in Canvas for this week.	Quiz Exegetical Paper Due
Week 15 12/14/23	Preaching and Teaching the Psalms	- Study for Final Exam	Quiz Spiritual Formation through the Psalms Project Due
Week 16 12/21/23	Final Exam.		<i>Final Exam</i>

Late Policy:

Assignments are expected to be submitted prior to the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances outside of the student's control, they may request an extension from the teaching staff.

Additionally, it is often the case that due to any number of other circumstances, a student finds that they are unable to adequately complete a given assignment. In such cases, the student is welcome to submit the assignment after the due date, up to the end of the semester; however, a late penalty will be given for such a late assignment. The standard late penalty is a 20% flat reduction in grade for the given assignment. This late penalty is meant to penalize late submissions and encourage timeliness, while still allowing the student to still finish the given assignment to the best of their ability even if they are unable to complete the assignment for some time due to any extended circumstances.

This late policy is subject to instructor discretion. The 20% late penalty policy is intended to allow for unique or difficult but not extraordinary circumstances. Any student who abuses this policy, per the instructor's discretion, is liable to have this policy revoked and the grade revert to either a zero or that based on any submission prior to the due date.

Appendix: How to set up your Canvas Account

This course will use the free version of Canvas. This means that you will be able to set up a Canvas account with your regular email and will be able to access the course on Canvas with a simple course invitation sent to your email. Please perform the following steps to set up your Canvas account:

- Check your email for a course invitation to Canvas.
- Click the “Get Started” button, which should redirect you to a Canvas page.
- Accept the course invitation. Upon accepting, it should redirect you to a page that will allow you to either set up a new Canvas account or link a current Canvas account.
- If you do not already have a free Canvas account, proceed to create a new account. To create a new account, it will set your login to be your email, you simply need to set your password and accurate time zone.

Your new account should be all set. To log in to Canvas in the future, go to the following URL: <https://canvas.instructure.com/login/canvas>

Use your email and password to log in. Then click on your MINISTRY 101 course.

To use the mobile Canvas app, you’ll want to download the Canvas app. Upon downloading and opening the app for the first time, it will prompt you to “Find my School.” Select this option and put in “Free Canvas Accounts.” Select this option and proceed to log in with your email and password associated with your free Canvas account.

Appendix: How to submit assignments on Canvas

From the course’s Canvas home page, navigate to the assignments tab. Select the specific assignment from the list of assignments. Follow the instructions for the different cases of typed and handwritten submissions.

For typed documents:

- Click “Start Assignment” (“Submit Assignment” in the mobile app)
- Click “Upload File” (“Files” in the mobile app)
- Click “Choose File” (simply select the file in the mobile app)
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by selecting “Add Another File”

For handwritten documents:

You may use a scanner, scanner app, or simply take photos of your work and submit the files by following the same steps outlined for typed documents. The best option may be to use the Canvas mobile app to submit the assignment and use the scanner feature as an option after selecting “Submit Assignment.”

Please note, you may submit as many times as you would like prior to the assignment deadline. The most recent submission will count as your graded submission.

Appendix: Academic Integrity

Students are expected to hold themselves to a Christian standard of ethics in all matters. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from any forms of plagiarism, cheating, sharing or acquiring any materials that would give a student an unfair advantage, or any dishonest representation of one's work. Below are outlined the consequences for an infringement of academic integrity for a given assignment:

- First offense – A grade of zero is given for the assignment; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file.
- Second offense – A grade of F is assigned for the course; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file. The Dean of Students and/or Registrar will notify faculty of students who incur a second offense in this area.
- Third offense – The professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file and the student may be suspended or dismissed from this institution.

Appendix: Policy on Use of Generative Language Models For Written Assignments

The use of generative language models, such as ChatGPT, is not strictly prohibited and in some cases is very much encouraged as a research and brainstorming tool. However, all written assignments submitted as your own work should reflect your own personal writing. This prohibits copy and paste use of such tools, however, you may feel free to quote such tools provided that you make clear it is a quotation.

In general, you should treat generative language models as equivalent to speaking to another person. You may gain insight from them and be able to improve your value and productivity, but you should not misrepresent someone else's work as your own. These tools may also be treated somewhat like calculators in a math class. You may use them when appropriate and assignments may even assume their use in some ways, but all submitted work must be your own unless specified otherwise.