

LIDLAW COLLEGE

Te Wananga Amorangi

125.615 Old Testament: Psalms Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Credit Value: 15

Campus: Christchurch
Lecturer: Richard Neville

Semester 1, 2015
NQF level: 6, 15 credits

CONTENT OUTLINE

Week	Lecture
1	Introduction to the Course
	Hebrew Poetry: Parallelism
	Psalm 11
2	Hebrew Poetry: Figures of speech
	Psalm 51
	Psalm 51
3	The Psalter and Temple Worship
	Psalm 51
	Hebrew Poetry: Imagery
4	PowerPoint: Images from the Psalms
	Psalm 15
	Psalm 15
5	The Kingship of the LORD in the Psalter
	Psalm 121
	Psalm 121
5	The Poor and Needy in the Psalter
	Psalm 90
	Psalm 90
7	Juridical Language in the Psalter
	Psalm 118
	Psalm 118
8	Psalm 29
	Psalms 29 and 8
	Psalm 8
9	The Messianic use of the Psalms in the NT
	Psalm 73
	Psalm 73
10	Introduction to the form criticism of the psalms
	Brueggemann and a Typology of Function
	Psalm 2
11	The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter
	Death and the Afterlife in the Psalter
	Psalm 1
12	Psalm 46
	Imprecation in the Psalter (I)
	Imprecation in the Psalter (II)

ASSESSMENTS

1. Compose an essay on a prominent theme in the Psalter – 2500 words (40%)

This essay will require that you carefully explain an important theological theme found in the Psalter. You will need to place the theme in its larger canonical context, and explain the significance of the theme in its ancient cultural context. You will also give careful thought to the contemporary relevance of the theme. A more detailed outline of the requirements for this assignment will be distributed with the course material.

This essay will assess learning outcomes iii, iv and vi, and is due at 11.55pm on Saturday of week 3.

When grading the thematic essay I will apply the following criteria.

- Do you use sound exegetical method in investigating the theme and its meaning?
- Do you deal with the theme comprehensively? Do you identify the theme wherever it occurs in the Psalter, and note the varied language with which the theme is expressed? Do you show an awareness of how the theme develops in the canon?
- Do you locate the theme within the web of theological themes found in Scripture? This will require that you introduce related theological ideas (that support or complement your theme, or exist in tension with it), and which provide a context in which to understand it better.
- Do you use a range of good quality resources for exploring the theology of the Psalter?
- How well do you make the move from the world of the biblical text to the world of today? This movement must be credible, and substantial. In other words you will need to look carefully at the ways in which the theme functions in the biblical text, and in the social world of the psalmist, before commenting on its contemporary relevance.
- Does the presentation of your paper reflect careful editing (writing and re-writing)? The English should be clear, grammatical and relatively free of errors, and the paper should be well organised.

2. A study of Psalm 73 – 2500 words (40%)

This is essentially an exegetical study of Psalm 73, but it will also require that you engage in theological reflection. You will also be expected to show the contemporary relevance of the Psalm's message. A more detailed outline of the requirements for this assignment will be distributed with the course material.

This assignment will assess learning outcomes ii, iii, v and vi. It is due at 11.55pm on Saturday of week 7.

When grading the exegetical paper on Psalm 73 I will apply the following criteria.

- Do you correctly identify the genre of the psalm?
- Do you use sound exegetical method, and do you exercise good judgment when making interpretive decisions?
- Have you identified the key interpretive issues in the Psalm?
- How well do you analyse the structure of a psalm and follow the flow of thought from one line to the next?

- Are you sensitive in your reading of Hebrew poetry? Do you identify and explain the features of Hebrew poetry in the Psalm?
- Do you use a range of good quality resources for interpreting the text of the Psalm? Do you use these resources well?
- Have you engaged in substantive theological reflection? This will include reflection on themes found in the psalm, on their development elsewhere in the Psalter and in the canon of Scripture. It will also include reflection on how these themes must be brought into contact with themes found elsewhere in Scripture in order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how the Scriptures address the psalmist's concern.
- How well do you make the move from the world of the biblical text to the world of today? This movement must be credible (rooted in the text), and substantial (meaningful for life today).
- Does the presentation of your paper reflect careful editing (writing and re-writing)? The English should be clear, grammatical and relatively free of errors, and the paper should be well organised.

3. Critical Book Review – 1000 words (20%)

You will write a critical book review of John N. Day, *Crying for Justice. What the Psalms teach us about mercy and vengeance in an age of terrorism*, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2005.

The book review will assess learning outcomes i, iii, and vi. It is due at 11.55pm on Saturday of week 11.

When grading the book review I will apply the following criteria.

- Have you read the book with understanding?
- Is your analysis informed by wider reading and awareness?
- Do you interact critically with the argument of the book?
- Clarity of Expression

TIME ALLOCATION

M125.615 is a 15 credit course and carries an expectation of 150 learning hours. Your allocation of time for this course might look something like this,

Study of the course materials	50 hours
Theological essay	40 hours
Study of Psalm 73	45 hours
Critical book review	15 hours
Total	150 hours

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Required text:

John N. Day, *Crying for Justice. What the Psalms teach us about mercy and vengeance in an age of terrorism*, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2005.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Commentaries

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