

## **BI 334 The Psalms in Israel's Worship**

Dr. Beth Elness-Hanson, 3 credits; letter grade or credit/no credit

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to the meaning and theology of the Psalms in their historical contexts, with detailed exegesis of selected texts.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Develop KNOWLEDGE of the plurivocal contents and theological frameworks of the Psalter; SKILL: Develop increased competence in critical thinking on biblical hermeneutics and exegetical interpretation: a) Understanding historical interpretive theories and methods; b) Understanding predominant contemporary theories, methods, and approaches; and c) Understanding the ethical issues of interpretation in light of traditional Western hegemonic perspectives and the predominance of Majority World Christianity. d) Develop pedagogical skills in best practices of facilitating holistic small group Bible studies. APPLICATION: Nurture competence in the application of biblical knowledge and theological reflection for varied ministry contexts

### **PROCEDURES**

A combination of instruction, class discussion, assigned reading, an exegetical analysis project that is applied into a lesson plan for teaching, and a short presentation, will guide our shared learning. Regular attendance and active participation are expected. The course may be taken synchronously or asynchronously; DL students must decide which option they will use at the beginning of the semester.

### **EVALUATION**

Student engagement with the course objectives will be evaluated on the basis of weekly quizzes (mostly vocabulary), mid-term and final exams.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY** *Required*

- Bible, preferred versions: NRSVue, NRSV, TNIV (note, not NIV), JPS, ESV
- deClaissé-Walford, Nancy. *Introduction to the Psalms: A Song from Ancient Israel*. Danvers, MA: Chalice Press, 2004.
- Jacobson, Rolf, red. *Soundings in the Theology of Psalms: Perspectives and Methods in Contemporary Scholarship* (Theology and the Sciences), 2010.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Abridged Edition. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2001.
- Other open source articles

Fall 2026

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