

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

OBST 660

PSALMS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An in-depth study of representative types of psalmic materials. Attention is given to questions of historical setting and literary form as they relate to major religious ideas and teachings.

RATIONALE

OBST 660 explores the message of the book of Psalms and why the Psalms are important to the Christian faith. The course demonstrates how Psalms builds our theology through its reflection on kingship and the promised Messiah and models godly worship through its historical record of Israelite song.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the major literary genres in the Psalms.
- B. Analyze the literary and poetic features of the Psalms.
- C. Explain the major theological themes in the Psalms.
- D. Evaluate how the Psalms contribute to Christian theology.

- E. Appraise evangelical and critical views on the authorship and formation of the Psalms.
- F. Apply sound hermeneutics in resolving interpretive issues in the Psalms.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

There will be 3 Discussion Board Forums throughout the course. The purpose of Discussion Board Forums is to generate interaction among students in regard to relevant current course topics. Students are required to post 1 thread of at least 700 words. Students must post 1 reply of at least 225 words. (A, B, C, D, & F)

- D. Belcher Book Review

Students will read the Belcher text in its entirety and then write a 1200-word (1500-word maximum) review/reflection on this text. This assignment will enable students to understand how the Psalms point to Christ and His person and work. (C, D, & F)

- E. Psalms Analysis Paper

Students will write a 7- to 8-page paper that provides a detailed analysis of a selected psalm based upon the psalms listed within the course. The paper should be written with footnotes and conform to current Turabian format. Students must use a minimum of 5 to 6 academic sources for this paper and include a bibliography (not part of the page count). This paper is a research paper and not a Bible study or sermon on the passage. This assignment will enable students to apply what they have learned regarding literary analysis, interpretation, and personal application of the Psalms. (B, C, D, & F)

- F. Quizzes (3)

Three open-book/open-notes quizzes will be completed in this course of study. These quizzes will take the form of multiple-choice, true/false, and essay questions. Each quiz contains approximately 35–50 multiple-choice and true/false questions with 1–2 essays and must be completed within the specified time limit. (A, B, C, D, E, & F)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)		300
Belcher Book Review		200
Psalms Analysis Paper		200
Quiz 1	(Module 1)	100
Quiz 2	(Modules 2–4)	100
Quiz 3	(Modules 5–8)	100
	Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

OBST 660

Textbooks: Belcher, *The Messiah and the Psalms: Preaching Christ from All of the Psalms* (2006).
 Broyles, *Psalms: New International Bible Commentary* (1999).
 Bullock, *Encountering the Book of Psalms: A Literary and Theological Introduction* (2001).
 Futato, *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook* (2007).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Belcher: chs. 1–2 Broyles: chs. 8, 49, 51 Bullock: chs. 1, 3 Futato: ch. 1 Psalms 8, 49, 51 3 presentations 1 lecture note	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Quiz 1	10 0 100
2	Belcher: ch. 3 Broyles: chs. 3, 6–7, 13, 26, 44, 79–80 Bullock: ch. 7 Psalms: 3, 6–7, 13, 26, 44, 79–80 2 presentations 1 website	DB Forum 1	100
3	Belcher: chs. 4–5 Broyles: chs. 12, 35, 47, 55, 58–59, 96–99, 109, 137 Bullock: chs. 11, 14 Psalms: 12, 35, 47, 55, 58–59, 96–99, 109, 137 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 2	100
4	Belcher: chs. 6–7 Broyles: chs. 18, 23, 31–32, 62, 91, 107, 121, 145 Bullock: chs. 6, 8–9 Psalms: 18, 23, 31–32, 62, 91, 107, 121, 145 3 presentation	Quiz 2	100

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
5	Belcher: chs. 8–9 Broyles: chs. 2, 20–21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144 Bullock: ch. 10 Psalms: 2, 20–21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144 1 presentation	Belcher Book Review	200
6	Broyles: chs. 1, 16, 19, 22, 34, 40, 69, 73, 90, 127–128 Bullock: chs. 12–13 Psalms: 1, 16, 19, 22, 34, 40, 69, 73, 90, 127–128 2 presentation	DB Forum 3	100
7	Broyles: chs. 15, 24, 29, 46, 48, 82, 84, 104 Futato: chs. 2 (pp. 57–80), 6 Psalms: 15, 24, 29, 46, 48, 82, 84, 104 2 presentations	Psalms Analysis Paper	200
8	Broyles: chs. 30, 78, 88, 105–106 Bullock: ch. 5 Futato: ch. 2 (pp. 80–114) Psalms: 30, 78, 88, 105–106 3 presentations 1 website	Quiz 3	100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.