Course Description
A study of the characteristics of Hebrew poetry will be followed by an examination of the books of Psalms. Students will consider the historical setting, literary form, theological themes, Israelite worship practices and New Testament use of the Psalms in order to interpret and apply the Psalms to the Christian faith and the life of the Church. Students will learn through readings, presentations, projects, discussion forums and reflective journaling. (3 credit hours)

Course Resources


Supplemental reading (provided in course content):


College Mission
The ultimate mission of Ozark Christian College is to glorify God by evangelizing the lost and edifying Christians worldwide. The immediate mission of Ozark Christian College is to train men and women for Christian service as a degree-granting institution of biblical higher education.

College Learning Goal
The learning goal of Ozark Christian College is to educate and equip students to become like Christ and serve Christ in leadership ministry. Graduates will be biblically grounded, spiritually matured, culturally engaged, and vocationally prepared.

College Learning Outcomes
Students graduating from Ozark Christian College will...

1. **Know and value the historical and theological content of the Bible.**
2. **Interpret scripture to discover the author’s intended meaning.**
3. Communicate effectively in written and oral forms.
4. Think critically from a Christian worldview.
5. **Evaluate their spiritual formation and develop plans for continued growth.**
6. Articulate how the global mission of the Church relates to their intended ministry settings.
7. Meet specific ministry competencies (as determined by each department)

**Course Goals**

This course will help students...

1. Gain an overview of the Psalms
2. Wrestle with unique challenges of interpreting this ancient poetry and applying it to the contemporary context.
3. Encounter God in these timeless prayers.
4. Desire and maintain a lifelong habit of Psalm reading and praying, leading to deeper devotion and worship.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course learners should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of the book of Psalms including major divisions, genres, and characteristics of Hebrew poetry. (CLO 1)
2. Define key terms associated with the Psalms. (CLO 1)
3. Evaluate the various methodologies used to interpret the Psalms and utilize sound principles of interpretation. (CLO 2)
4. Research and exegete a passage from the Psalms for the purpose of teaching or preaching. (CLO 1, 2)
5. Articulate a biblical worldview rooted in the nature of God and his relationship to humanity as revealed in the Psalms. (CLO 4)
6. Create a song or poem based on one or more Psalms. (CLO 3)
7. Demonstrate a habit of personal devotions that include a daily reading of the Psalms. (CLO 5)

**Information Literacy**

Ozark Christian College is committed to information literacy training. This training will be intentional, incremental, and missional. Students will learn to access, evaluate, and utilize pertinent information in their ministry preparation.

**ADA Accommodation**

If you have a disability and are requesting an accommodation, please contact the Executive Director of admissions at 1-417-624-2518 x2006 as soon as possible.

**Course Policies**

*OCC Student Email Address*

All Ozark Christian College students must use the official e-mail address provided by the college (lastname.firstname@my.occ.edu) to receive communication from
the faculty and staff. The OCC student e-mail address may be forwarded to another
email service (e.g. yahoo.com or hotmail.com). Email will be the professor’s
chosen method of communication with the student in this course, so check
your email regularly.

**Online Course Refund Policy**

Refunds of tuition and certain fees may be made upon official withdrawal of any
student according to the table below. To receive a refund adjustment for any
classes dropped, less an administration fee, the student should contact to the office
of the Registrar at mcmillin.jennifer@occ.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Monday-Thursday</th>
<th>100% refund</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday-Sunday</td>
<td>90% refund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: Monday-Thursday</td>
<td>75% refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday-Sunday</td>
<td>50% refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: Monday-Thursday</td>
<td>25% refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday-Sunday</td>
<td>0% refund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online Course Drop Policy**

Any online courses dropped during the first four (4) days of the course (by 5:00 pm
CST on Thursday) will not be recorded on the student’s transcript. Courses dropped
after the fourth day, but before the sixth week of the course, will be recorded as a
“W” on transcripts. A grade of “W” will not be calculated into the GPA but will
impact financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. Courses cannot be dropped
after the fifth week of class. Students must communicate their intention to drop an
online course via email to the Registrar’s Office.

**Online Course Attendance**

Online courses often demand greater discipline and careful attention to details
within a compressed period of time compared to on-campus courses. Students are
strongly advised to remain in close contact with their online instructor in the event
that they must be absent for a brief period of time. Attendance in online courses
will be taken on a weekly basis. Students will be expected to actively participate
according to the individual course syllabus.

Participation may include, but not be limited to: submitting written assignments,
posting in graded forum discussions, completing exams, and written communication
with the instructor directly related to the course. **Online students who do not
participate in the above ways for seven consecutive days will be
considered absent. Students are permitted a maximum of one absence.**

The following scenarios may negatively impact a student's academic record and
financial aid opportunities.
1. Students who do not login within the first four days of an online course will be administratively dropped. They will receive a 100% refund but will be assessed a drop fee. Personnel from the Online Learning Office will contact students via their OCC student email account and current phone number to assist them prior to this deadline.

2. Any online student who misses twelve consecutive days will be contacted by the instructor via the student's OCC email account. The student will be given 48 hours to communicate their intentions. Those who do not respond, or who do not wish to continue in the course, will be dropped and will not receive a refund. Instructors will promptly convey this information to the Registrar's Office. If this occurs within the first five weeks of the course, a grade of "W" will be given. If after the fifth week, the student will receive a failing grade.

3. If online students acquire two non-consecutive absences, they will fail the course. For further explanation, please see current course catalog section, "Academic Policies."

Assignment Submission
All assignments will be facilitated through our Canvas course site. You may post replies to the discussions forums, as well as take quizzes and exams. For written assignments, save documents in either .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf format (or as otherwise indicated by your instructor) and upload them to the Canvas site.

Late Work
Assignments are due on Thursday and Sunday by 11:59 pm Central Standard Time. Late work may or may not be accepted, at the discretion of the teacher. Any grade deductions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. If you have a question about a particular assignment, please contact the teacher well ahead of the deadline.

Responses to Your Work
You may generally expect replies to personal communication (email, Canvas inbox) within 24-48 hours. For written assignments, the professor will endeavor to grade and give feedback within seven days of the due date.

Academic Honesty
Due the commitment of training men and women for Christian service and the commitment of educational excellence, academic integrity is our natural expectation. Compelling evidence of academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating or plagiarism) will be reported to the academic dean’s office and the student development office. Penalties could range from failure of an assignment to suspension from college. Students should avoid dishonesty and irresponsibility at all costs.

TurnItIn
Ozark Christian College contracted with iParadigms, LLC for Turnitin® services to be used at the instructor’s discretion. The Originality Check service allows students
to submit a paper through Canvas to check for improper citation and potential plagiarism before it is submitted to the instructor. The Peer Review service allows students to submit assignments anonymously to peers for editing and feedback. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Required Course Tools/Connectivity

Successful participation in this course requires the student to possess or obtain (and know how to use) the following in addition to course books:
- One fully functional and adequately performing desktop or laptop computer, free of known viruses.
- A word processor that can publish or save into .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf format.
- Access to your @my.occ.edu email address.
- Daily access to a reliable internet connection of at least 1MB/s speed.
- A webcam and mic (typically integrated on most laptops).

Course Topic Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
<th>Hrs./Min. Covered</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 1      | Introduction to the Book of Psalms  
-Characteristics of Hebrew Poetry  
-Principles for Interpreting the Psalms | 14 hr.            |
| 2      | Praying the Psalms in Christ  
-Chiasms in Psalms and the organization of the Psalter | 15.5 hr.         |
| 3      | The Psalms in Community  
-Ancient Near-Eastern Cosmology  
-The Role of the Temple | 17 hr.            |
| 4      | Praying the Psalms in Anger  
-The Cursing Psalms and the Ethic of Jesus | 16 hr.            |
| 5      | Praying the Psalms in Worship  
-The Question of Theodicy in the Exile  
-History and Theology in the Psalms | 16 hr.            |
| 6      | The Psalms and the Messiah  
-The Use of the Psalms in Corporate Worship | 17 hr.            |
| 7      | The Psalms and the Torah  
-The Role of the Torah in the Life of Faith | 16.5 hr.         |
| 8      | The Psalms and Praise  
-The Covenant Expressed in the Psalms | 13 hr.            |

Total Hours Students will Spend Working on Course 127 hr.
Grades

Below is a listing of assignments that comprise the 100% percentage points possible for this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Course Objectives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments/Projects</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graded Discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-95 points</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-93 points</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-91 points</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-87 points</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-85 points</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-83 points</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-79 points</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-77 points</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-75 points</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71-70 points</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-0 points</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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</table>

For further information on grading policies, refer to the college catalog.