

BT708 Advanced OT Synthesis III: Writings

Course: BT708 Advanced OT Synthesis III: Writings
Credits: Three Credits
Semester: Spring 2025, Session 2
Dates: March 11 – May 3, 2025
Time: Tuesdays 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Place: Microsoft Teams
Professor: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the historical backgrounds, arguments, biblical theology, and interpretive issues in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible. Students will study how these books relate to the post-exilic period of Israel's history and how these books were used in the worship of God by Israel. Students will study the Messianic prophecies in these books and do exegetical studies in the Hebrew text of these Old Testament books.

This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student who successfully completes this course should . . .

- a) *strengthen* proficiency in biblical Hebrew and *develop* exegetical skills in the Hebrew text (PLO 1) (A1-5)
- b) *understand* the literary structure, major themes, and theology of the Writings, including the inter-textual relationship of each book with other books in the canon. (PLO 2) (A1-5)
- c) *develop* an understanding of the nature and development of the Abrahamic Covenant and Mosaic Covenant in the Hebrew canon, and the prophetic history of the nation of Israel (PLO 4) (A1-5)
- d) *develop* a working understanding of Hebrew poetry (PLO 1) (A1-5)
- e) *articulate* the basic literary structure and message of the books of the Writings section of the canon (PLO 2) (A1-5)

- f) *learn* from and interact with past and contemporary scholarship in the field (PLO 4) (A1-5)
- g) *apply* teachings from the Writings to their life and ministry (PLO 3) (A1-5)

TEXTBOOKS

The Holy Bible. A translation based on formal equivalency such as the NKJV, NASB, or ESV is required in every course at Calvary University.

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Cole, Robert L. *Psalms 1–2: Gateway to the Psalter*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013. (ISBN: 979-1-9075-3430-0; Amazon \$80 or less)

Dorsey, David A. *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis–Malachi*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1999. (ISBN: 0-8010-2793-4; Amazon \$32 or less)

De Waard, Jan, Piet B. Dirksen, Yohanan A. P. Goldman, Rolf Schäfer, and Magne Sæbø. *Biblia Hebraica Quinta: General Introduction and Megilloth*, Vol. 18. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2004. (ISBN: 3-438-05278-4; Amazon \$48 or less)

Elliger, K. and W. Rudolph, eds. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997. (ISBN: 978-1-6830-7352-9; Amazon \$60 or less)

Rydelnik, Michael and Edwin Blum, eds. *The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy: Studies and Expositions of the Messiah in the Old Testament*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2019. (ISBN: 978-0-8024-0963-8; Amazon \$33 or less)

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Read Cole’s book *Psalms 1-2: Gateway to the Psalter* and write a critical book review (6-8 double spaced pages) following Turabian format (200 points)

Assignment 2: Read Dorsey’s book *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament* on the books of the Writings Section of the Hebrew Bible and write a critical book review (6-8 double spaced pages) following Turabian format (200 points)

Assignment 3: Present a 30 minute lecture on a Hebrew text from the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible. Each student will present on a different text and should use PowerPoint (100 points)

Assignment 4: Read Rydelnik and Blum's book *The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy* on the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible and write a critical book review (6-8 double spaced pages) following Turabian format (200 points)

Assignment 5: Take the Hebrew Old Testament Comprehensive Exam. The first part of the Exam will be translating and parsing from two different texts in the Hebrew Bible. The second part of the Exam will be a two hour oral exam in Microsoft Teams. (300 points). See the questions below to study and prepare for this exam.

POINTS AND FINAL GRADE

960-1000 points A

940-959 points A-

920-939 points B+

880-919 points B

860-879 points B-

0-859 points F

SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction to the *Kethuvim* (the Writings)

Week 2 Psalms

Week 3 Proverbs

Week 4 Job

Week 5 Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

Week 6 Daniel

Week 7 Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles

Week 8 Old Testament Comprehensive Exam

HELP FOR STUDENTS

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic

assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

EXPECTATIONS

Attend class in Microsoft Teams. Each PhD student is expected to be at every class on time. Make class attendance a priority.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade.

Use Turabian style for all research papers. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 edition.

Calvary University 2025 Hebrew Old Testament Comprehensive Exam

QUESTIONS ON THE TORAH SECTION OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

Explain the literary shaping/composition of the Torah.

How is the Torah a book of faith (righteousness through faith)?

Explain the *Toledoth* outline of Genesis.

What is the purpose of the Mosaic Law in the Torah?

What are the Feasts of Israel? Explain the significance of each feast?

What happened on Yom Kippur? Why is this day so important?

How does Deuteronomy 28-30 relate to the history and future of Israel?

QUESTIONS ON THE PROPHETS SECTION OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

Explain how the Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings) are prophetic literature. Make sure to include major teachings within each book and some of the intertextual links between these books and others in the Hebrew canon.

What was the role of the prophet in Israel?

What are the unconditional biblical covenants for Israel?

What is the Abrahamic covenant? When will the Abrahamic covenant be fulfilled?

What is the Land covenant in the book of Deuteronomy? How were the blessings and cursings of the book of Deuteronomy fulfilled in Israel's past history? How will they be fulfilled in the future for Israel?

What is the Davidic covenant? What key text explains the Davidic covenant?

What is the New covenant? What key text explains the New covenant?

When will the unconditional covenants for Israel be fulfilled? How do you know?

Discuss the literary shaping/composition and the meaning of the book of Isaiah.

Explain the messianic significance of Isaiah 6-7, 9 and 52:13-53:12.

Explain Isaiah 7:14. Is Isaiah 7:14 a Direct Messianic Prophecy or Typological Prophecy? What is the meaning of the Hebrew word *almah*? How do you know?

Explain the Isaiah 53 prophecy. How do you know that this prophecy refers to Messiah and not to Israel?

QUESTIONS ON THE WRITINGS SECTION OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

Discuss the literary shaping/composition and the meaning of Psalms.

Is the book of Psalms a collection of hymns or a unified book of theology? How do you know?

What is the messianic and eschatological teaching found in the Psalms?

Give your assessment of Gunkel's form criticism of the Psalms.

What is the difference between a lament psalm, a descriptive praise psalm and a declarative praise psalm?

What is the Times of the Gentiles? When did this time begin? What Gentile nations dominated Israel according to Daniel 2 and 7? What is the last Gentile ruler in the times of the Gentiles?

Explain the 70 weeks (heptads) prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27. What will happen in the 70th week? What is the abomination of desolation?

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER OF BOOKS IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

Explain the canonical order of the books in the Hebrew Bible (the Tanak). Read the article "The Order of the Books in the Hebrew Bible" by Greg Goswell and be prepared to explain some reasons why the books are placed in this canonical order in the Hebrew Bible.

What does Tanak stand for?

What is paratext?

What OT books are in the Torah section of the Hebrew Bible?

What OT books are in the Prophets section of the Hebrew Bible?

What OT books are in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible?

Why is Daniel placed in the writings section?

What is the last book in the Hebrew Bible? Why is this book last? How does this last book end?

Explain the chronology of key events and key people in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (key dates, people, and times of writing of all OT books)

Why is 1 Kings 6:1 important to OT chronology?

When did the Exodus take place? How do you know?

Who was the Pharaoh of the Exodus? How do you know?

When did Joshua and the Israelites conquer Jericho? How do you know?

What OT books were written after the Babylonian exile?