

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: The Book of Psalms

TERM: Fall 2026-2027

PROFESSOR: Jerome Creach

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the biblical book of Psalms. It considers historical and social settings for the Psalms, but it focuses on literary, theological, and canonical issues. The course gives special attention to the reign of God as the central theological issue in the book and to God's work for justice as a key feature of God's reign. **The course serves as an elective for the Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry.**

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recall and describe the content and arrangement of the book of Psalms.
- Discuss historical and social settings of various psalms and of the final form of the book.
- Converse in an informed way about the history of interpreting the Psalms and the Psalter.
- Describe the literary structure or "shape" of the book.
- Identify the central theological claims of the book (e.g., God's kingship; the nature and identity of humankind; the plight and destiny of the righteous vis-à-vis the wicked; key vocabulary such as "righteousness," "justice," and "peace" and the theological concerns they communicate).
- Show awareness of contemporary use and usefulness of the Psalms, including how the Psalms inform Christian worship and serve as a source for Christian theology.
- Apply the Psalms to current socio-economic issues of injustice.

PREREQUISITES:

OT110 or OT120

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Creach, Jerome F. D. *Discovering Psalms: Content, Interpretation, Reception*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2020. ISBN: 978-0802878069, \$28.99
- Mays, James L. *Psalms. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1994. ISBN: 978-0664234393, \$38.65

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Exam, Papers, Student Presentation

ATTENDANCE: Required