

HEBI 70153/80153/90153 Exegesis in the Hebrew Bible: Psalms (Hebrew)
PRTH 70970/80970 Special Topics in Practical Theology: Thomas Merton
3 semester hours

Instructor: Toni Craven and Stephen Sprinkle

Prerequisites:

For HEBI 70153 and PRTH 70970, HEBI 60003 or its equivalent is required. Masters level students who have completed NETE 60003 or its equivalent are welcome to speak with Professor Craven or Professor Sprinkle about admission. For HEBI 80153 and PRTH 80970, admission to the D. Min. is required. Ability to read and translate biblical Hebrew is required for HEBI 90153 as well as admission to the Th.M. or Ph.D.

Description of Content:

Critical study of selected Psalms (in Hebrew for those who are able), with attention to methods and resources that have shaped literary, historical, and theological understandings, as well as other emerging modes of interpretation of the Psalms as the backbone of monastic life. Using the life and prayers of Thomas Merton, a monk of Gethsemani, who influenced the spirituality of countless persons of faith in the late 20th century and whose influence is shaping 21st century beliefs, attitudes, and practice, we will view the Psalms as prayers that organized life.

Class Procedures:

The course will have multiple formats including lecture, close reading, group discussions, and group projects and/or presentations dealing with the Psalms and with the life and practices of Thomas Merton.

Requirements:

Regular and punctual class attendance; active class participation, which may include written weekly assignment; 3 reading response papers; 1 class presentation (on a particular psalm or an aspect of Thomas Merton's life); 1 major paper analyzing a particular psalm or segment of Merton's practice. All written work for the semester will be submitted on e-college.

Texts:

BHS or NRSV.

Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches (paperback); David G. Firth (ed.), Philip S. Johnston (ed.); 2006; ISBN-10: 0830828338 and ISBN-13: 978-0830828333.

William P. Brown, *Seeing the Psalms: A Theology of Metaphor* (paperback), Westminster John Knox Press, 2002; ISBN-10: 0664225020 or ISBN-13: 978-066422502.

Thomas Merton: Essential Writings; Selected with an Introduction by Christine M. Bochen; 8th printing, 2008; ISBN 1-57075-3318.

Jim Forest, *Living with Wisdom: A Life of Thomas Merton*, Rev. Ed., 2008; ISBN-13: 978-1570757549.

Grading Procedure:

Class Participation 25%; Weekly Written Assignments 25%; Class Presentation 20%; Final Paper 25%

