

**ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE**  
**Summer 2019**

**Monday and Thursday (May 23 & 30; June 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27)**

**6:00 - 9:00pm**

**BS714 The Psalms**

**Dr. Rebecca Hancock**

This course will combine study of broader issues related to the Book of Psalms—including the history of interpretation, poetry in the Psalms, the Psalter as a collection, divine justice in the psalms, and the use of historical motifs—with exegetical study of individual psalms. Students will be introduced to current issues in biblical scholarship on the Psalms, and examine theological and ethical implications for both ancient and contemporary faith communities.

**Course Requirements:**

- Students should expect to read *at most* 1000 pages of required reading from the required texts below, as well as articles provided by the professor.
- Students should expect to write *at most* 22 double-spaced pages. Graded writing assignments will include the following:
  1. Exegesis paper (10-12 pages) (30%)
  2. Psalms in worship reflection paper (2-3 pages) (15%)
  3. Psalm written by student (2-3 pages) (15%)
  4. Journal on psalms (4-5 pages) (30%)
- In addition to reading and writing, students should expect to produce or participate in these additional graded learning activities: Attendance and active participation in class (10%)

**Required texts:**

- Anderson, Bernhard W. *Out of the Depths: The Psalms Speak for Us Today*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Rev. and Expanded. Louisville, Westminster John Knox, 2000. (ISBN-13: 978-0664258320).
- Robert Alter, *The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary*. New York: Norton, 2007. (ISBN 0393337049).
- Dombkowski Hopkins, Denise. *Journey through the Psalms*. Rev. and expanded edition. St. Louis, Chalice Press, 2002. (ISBN-13: 978-0827217140).
- One of the following study Bibles:
  - A. *The HarperCollins Study Bible* (HarperOne, 2006), ISBN: 978-0060786847 (this is 2nd ed.; the first edition is OK). This is based on the NRSV.
  - B. *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2003), ISBN: 978-0687278329. This is based on the NRSV.
  - C. *The Catholic Study Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2016), ISBN: 978-0190267230 (this is 3rd ed.; earlier editions are OK). This is based on the NABRE.
  - D. *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2018), ISBN: 978-0190276072 (this is the 5<sup>th</sup> ed.; 2010 earlier editions are OK). This is based on the NRSV.

*Note:* If a student already owns a different academic study Bible, he or she can petition the instructor for permission to use that Bible instead. The exemption is entirely at the prerogative of the course instructor granting that exemption.