



THE MASTER'S SEMINARY

BI634

PREACHING AND POETRY

DR. PHILIP WEBB

IN PERSON/ONLINE

INTRODUCTION

The Master's Seminary exists to equip godly men to be pastors and/or trainers of pastors for service to Christ in strategic fields of Christian ministry through an educational program and an environment of spiritual fellowship and relationships which emphasize unreserved commitment

to the worship of God, submission to the authority of the Scriptures, a life of personal holiness, the priority of the local church, and the mission of penetrating the world with the Truth.

Master of Divinity Program

The Master of Divinity Program is designed to provide a broad biblical-theological understanding, personal growth, and professional preparation for church or mission vocations requiring ordination.

Program Learning Outcomes:

- *PLO #1: As a future elder, pastor, missionary or educator, comprehend the significant areas of Biblical Interpretation, Biblical Languages, Christian Theology, and Pastoral Ministry.*
- *PLO #2: As a future elder/pastor, construct a personal philosophy of ministry with application to the desired vocational goals.*
- *PLO #3: As a future teacher of the Scripture, synthesize the input of Biblical languages, Bible backgrounds and theological constructs to preach and teach the Bible to varied age levels and abilities within any ministry context.*
- *PLO #4: As a future spiritual leader, exhibit the disciplines of holiness, prayer, and compassion required for ministry.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Poetry has been an important part of Biblical history and the art of expressing Biblical truth in verse has long been a hallmark of preaching. In this class we will learn the basics of poetic meter and look at the use of poetry in scripture, preaching and sacred music. We will trace history, beginning with early church fathers and Ambrose of Milan in 374 AD and see how preaching and hymns intersected. From there we see Martin Luther, who paraphrased psalms and wrote hymns that would help to solidify doctrine in the hearts of believers as the Reformation spread throughout Europe. Beyond him there was Miles Coverdale, Richard Baxter, John Bunyan, Isaac Watts, Horatius Bonar, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Wesley, John Newton, William Williams and so many others. We will study how these preaching poets provided the lyrics that the flock would sing in their fulfillment of Paul's commands to sing to one another. There will also be guest lecturers who have learned to use poetry to express gospel truth and how their preaching has laid this foundation. By the end of our class, we hope to have kindled a spark of appreciation for theological poetry and the benefit it has in our own personal devotion.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course with its lectures, reading, and assignments:

- SLO #1: To identify poetic structure of texts and the specific components of that structure.
- SLO #2: To better understand the theological truth that sacred poetic writings are based upon and reference.
- SLO #3: To understand poetry well enough to be able to express spiritual truth in poetic verse, regardless of form or structure.
- SLO #4: To understand how poetry and poets have impacted scripture, preaching and lyrics throughout history.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Bond, Douglas, *The Poetic Wonder of Isaac Watts*, Sanford, FL, Ligonier Ministries, 2013, 978-1-56769-308-9
- Herbert, George, *The Country Parson, The Temple*, ed. John N. Wall, Jr. (New York, Paulist Press 1981) 978-0-8091-2298-1
- Piper, John, *Seeing Beauty and Saying Beautifully*, Crossway, 978-1-4355-4294-7
- Watts, Isaac, *The Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs of the Rev. Isaac Watts, D.D.*, ed Matthew Boswell, (Frisco, TX, Doxology & Theology Press, 2016) 978-0-9968247-0-5

COURSE ALIGNMENT GRID

	SLO #1	SLO #2	SLO #3	SLO #4
Reading	X	X	X	X
Poetic Analysis	X	X		X
Poetic Project			X	
Research Paper	X			X
Music Application	X		X	X

CREDIT HOUR ANALYSIS CHART

	Data	Calculation	Hours
Course Units	2	10 hours/unit	20
General Reading	850	30 pgs/hour	23
Poetic Analysis	12	1 pg/hour	12
Poetic Project	5	1/4 pgs/hour	10
Research paper	10	.5 hour/page	5
TOTAL HOURS			70

COURSE GRADING SCHEME

1. Reading45%
2. Book Report35%
3. Music Application.....15%
4. Participation5%

COURSE ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Assignment #1: Reading

- The student will be required to read the following texts.
 - *Seeing Beauty and Saying Beautifully*
 - *The Poetic Wonder of Isaac Watts*

Assignment #2: Poetic Analysis

- Provide a poetic structure analysis of 6 Christian poems or hymns. Detail the meter and rhyme scheme. Provide any other poetic details and a few paragraphs on the meaning of the poem. The Rykin texts are very helpful for this assignment.

Assignment #3: Poetic Project

- Write in verse, a summary from a Biblical text or sermon. Choose a poetic form and provide a minimum of 20 lines. It can be free verse, or it can have a meter and a rhyme scheme.

Assignment #4: Research Paper

- Write a paper 10 pages, double spaced, on Isaac Watts, George Herbert, John Wesley or John Newton. Focus on their poetic writings, providing a few examples of those you consider to be particularly noteworthy.

Recommended texts:

- Appleyard, John, *The Poetical Works of the Rev. H.F. Lyte, M.A.*, Forgotten Books, 1000424938
- Chilcote, Paul Wesley, *John & Charles Wesley: Selections from their Writings and Hymns Annotated and Explained*, Skylight Paths Publishing, Nashville, TN, 2011, 978-1-68336-158-9
- Cutino, Michele, *Poetry, Bible and the Theology from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages*, Walter de Gruyter GmbH, Berlin, 2020, 978-3-11-068719-4
- Flew, Newton R., *The Hymns of Charles Wesley: A Study of their Structure*, WIPF & STOCK, Eugene, OR, 2014, 978-1-4982-0497-2
- Music, David W., *Studies in the Hymnody of Isaac Watts*, Brill Publishing, 978-90-04-51994-7
- Piper, John, *The Misery of Job and the Mercy of God*, Crossway, 1-58134-399-X
- Roberts, Wendy Raphael, *Awakening Verse: The Poetics of Early American Evangelicalism*, Oxford University Press, 978-0-19-751027-8
- Ryken, Leland, *40 Favorite Hymns for the Christian Year*, P&R Publishing, 978-1-62995-793-7
- Ryken, Leland, *40 Favorite Hymns for the Christian Life*, P&R Publishing, 978-1-62995-617-6
- Ryken, Leland, *40 Favorite Hymns of the Christian Faith*, P&R Publishing, 978-1-62995-908-5
- Ryken, Leland, *"The Soul in Paraphrase: A Treasury of Classical Devotional Poems"*, Crossway, 978-1433558610
- Smith, Ryan Whitaker, Wilt, Dan, *"Sheltering Mercy: Prayers Inspired by the Psalms"*, Brazos Press, 978-1587435461

- Smith, Ryan Whitaker, Wilt, Dan, “*Endless Grace: Prayers Inspired by the Psalms*”, Brazos Press, 978-1587435478
- Spurgeon, Charles H., “*The Two Wesleys*”, WIPF & STOCK, Eugene, OR, 2014, 987-1-4982-0531-3
- Troeger, Thomas H., “*Wonder Reborn: Creating Sermons on Hymns, Music, and Poetry*”, Oxford University Press, 978-0-19-539888-5
- Watson, J.R., “The English Hymn”, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1197, 0-19-826762-2
- Wesley, Charles, “*John: Hymns and Commentary*”, Hargreaves Publishing, 9781518733994
- Wieder, Laurance, “*The Poets Book of Psalms*”, Harper San Francisco, 0-06-069284-7
- Wilson, Paul Scott, “*Preaching as Poetry: Beauty, Goodness, and Truth in Every Sermon*”, Abingdon Press, 978-1-4267-6404-2