

POETS (4OT512)

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
 Dates: February 13-14, March 06-07, May 01-02
 Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
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 Spring Semester 2009

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the literary structure, themes, and history of the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. Two Credit Hours.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course:

- 1) To increase your comprehension and knowledge of the Poetical Books (i.e., Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) in the English Bible.
- 2) To acquire an introductory understanding of the interpretive issues in each of the Poetical Books including form-critical analysis of the Psalms and the use of literary analysis in poetic texts (e.g., parallelism, chiasmus, inclusio, etc.).
- 3) To aid in the interpretation of the Poetical Books in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.

III. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

****Required:**

- 1) Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetical Books*. Revised Edition. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 2007.
 (You assigned all 336 pages.)
- 2) Longman, Tremper III. *How to Read Proverbs*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002. (You are assigned all 168 pages.)
- 3) Longman, Tremper III. *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: IL: InterVarsity, 1988. (You are assigned all 155 pages.)

Suggested Resources:

- 4) Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1985.
- 5) Anderson, F. *Job*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1976.
- 6) Berlin, Adele. *The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism*. Revised & Expanded. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.
- 7) Bruggemann, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 1984.
- 8) Dearman, J. Andrew. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.
- 9) Fokkelman, Jan P. *Reading Biblical Poetry: An Introductory Guide*. Trans. Ineke Smit. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- 10) Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook*.

- Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2007.
- 11) Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. Nashville: TN, Broadman, 1993.
 - 12) Hartley, J. *The Book of Job*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988.
 - 13) Hillers, D. *Lamentations*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972.
 - 14) Kidner, Derek. *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job & Ecclesiastes*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1985.
 - 15) Konkel, August H. *Job*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2006.
 - 16) Kugel, James L. *The Idea of Biblical Poetry: Parallelism and Its History*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Press, 1981.
 - 17) Longman, Tremper III. *Jeremiah, Lamentations* (NIBC). Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2008.
 - 18) Longman, Tremper III. *Proverbs*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.
 - 19) Longman, Tremper III. *Song of Songs* (NICOT). Grand Rapids: MI: Eerdmans, 2001.
 - 20) Longman, Tremper III. *The Book of Ecclesiastes* (NICOT). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.
 - 21) McCann, J. Clinton. *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms: The Psalms as Torah*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1993.
 - 22) Miller, Patrick D. *Interpreting the Psalms*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress, 1986.
 - 23) Murphy, Roland E. *The Tree of Life*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
 - 24) Peterson, D. and K. Richards. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1992.
 - 25) Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 1-15*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
 - 26) Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 15-31*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
 - 27) Watson, Wilfred G.E. *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to its Techniques*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1984.
 - 28) Whybray, Norman. *Reading the Psalms as a Book*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

- 1) **Assigned Readings: (Total Page Count Approx. 975 pages)**
 - i. Primary Literature: Each student is required to read the entire Poetical Books corpus (e.g., *New Geneva Study Bible*, pp. 700 - 1017; 317 pages).
 - ii. Secondary Literature (See section III above)
- 2) **Paper:** Topic and due date will be announced in class (see handout)
- 3) **Final Examination:** A study guide will be provided. The date of the exam will be announced in class.

V. COURSE OUTLINE

WEEKEND ONE: FEBRUARY 13 –14

The Book of Psalms

Reading Assignment (i.e., to be read before class):

- The Book of Psalms in the English Old Testament
- Longman, Tremper III. *How to Read the Psalms*. Downers Grove: IL: InterVarsity, 1988.

WEEKEND TWO: MARCH 06 – 07

The Book of Psalms (Continued)

The Book of Proverbs

Reading Assignment:

- The Book of Proverbs in the English Old Testament
- Longman, Tremper III. *How to Read Proverbs*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

WEEKEND THREE: MAY 01 – 02

The Book of Job

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Reading Assignment:

- The Books of Job and Ecclesiastes in the English Old Testament
- Bullock, C. Hassell. *An Introduction to the Old Testament Poetical Books*. Revised Edition. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 2007.

VI. ATTENDANCE, LATE ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADING

A. **Attendance** is not mandatory. However, lectures and materials covered in class will be covered in the final examination.

B. **Late Papers** will be penalized one-half letter grade for every week that it is not turned in.

C. **Scale.** The standard RTS grading scale will be used.

A (97-100)	C (80-82)
A- (94-96)	C- (78-79)
B+ (91-93)	D+ (75-77)
B- (86-87)	D- (70-71)
C+ (83-85)	F (below 70)

D. **Basis for computation**

<i>Final Examination</i>	50%
<i>Paper</i>	50%