

40T512: POETS

Course Syllabus

Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta
 Monday, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 February 08 – May 17

Instructor: John J. Yeo, Ph.D.
 Spring 2010
 Two Credit Hours

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

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:**
 - 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) **Midterm and Final Examinations:** A study guide will be provided.

V. COURSE SCHEDULE (You are required to read the appropriate chapters corresponding to the lectures)

February 08-	<i>Syllabus Review and Course Requirements</i> Prolegomena: Introduction to the Poetical Books
February 15-	PSALMS: Authorship and Dating
February 22-	PSALMS: Form Criticism and the Shape of the Psalter
March 01-	PSALMS: Parallelism and Hebrew Poetry
March 08-	PSALMS: Texts
March 15-	Spring Break
March 22-	<i>Mid-term Exam</i>
March 29-	PROVERBS: Authorship and Dating
April 05-	PROVERBS: The Collection of Proverbs, Genre Analysis, and ANE Parallels
April 12-	PROVERBS: Texts
April 19-	JOB: Authorship and Dating
April 26-	JOB: Theology and Texts
May 03-	ECCLESIASTES: Authorship and Dating
May 10-	ECCLESIASTES: Theology and Texts SONG OF SONGS: Authorship, Dating, and Theology <i>Paper on the Psalms Due</i>
May 17-	<i>Final Examination</i>

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 (88-90)	D (72-74)
B- (86-87)	D- (70-71)
C+ (83-85)	F (below 70)

D. Basis for computation

<i>Midterm Examination</i>	25%
<i>Final Examination</i>	25%
<i>Paper</i>	50%