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:**


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:*


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- Syllabus Review and Course Requirements
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- Mid-term Exam

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

Paper on the Psalms Due

May 17- Final Examination

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.

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D. **Basis for computation**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
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