Poetry of the Bible  
OT512  
Spring 2006  
Hebrew Section

INSTRUCTOR
Dr. John D. Currid  
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Hebraic7

Monday, 2:00-4:00 pm
BSB 1
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GOAL
This course is an introduction to the Hebrew of the poetical sections of the Old Testament. As such, the student will be introduced to the major poetical books of the Bible: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. Included in the study will be such varied themes as figures of speech, parallelism, authority and inspiration, and the use of the Poetical Books in the New Testament. Most of our work will be done in the original language. In this respect, the student should become aware of the many issues in biblical poetry, and how these have been understood and interpreted. As well, our hope is that the student will become more proficient in the use of the Hebrew language in biblical poetry.

TEXTBOOKS
The following books are required for the course, and they may be purchased in the bookstore:

Hebrew Bible (preferably Biblia Sacra).


PROTOCOLS

1. Grading Scale. The student’s work will be graded according to the scale given in the institutional catalogue (p. 44).

2. Attendance and Late Assignments. Attendance is a requirement. Due to the fact that much of the work of the class will be in-class reading of Hebrew, absence is
not permitted. In addition, students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class session. Late assignments are docked ½ letter grade per day.
3. Computers. Computer use is strictly forbidden in class. As well, all daily work for the course must be done by hand, that is, all translation work must be hand-written.
4. Plagiarism. If a student plagiarizes, he will immediately be expelled from the class with a failed grade. Students are expected to do their own work.

REQUIREMENTS

1. A final examination will take place on the last day of class (May 8). This examination will be comprehensive, and it will count for 90% of the final course grade.
2. The student is expected to read the five wisdom books in their entirety, in addition to the reading of the textbook. The student is required to submit the percentage of reading that has been done; it will be reported on the final examination. 5% of the final course grade.
3. The student is required to have all translation and parsing (verbs) ready for each assigned class period. At the close of the semester the student will turn in all of these hand-written assignments. They will be handed in at the final examination. 5% of the final course grade.
4. Class participation and attendance are mandatory. Absences must be approved by the professor prior to the class to be missed.

CLASS OUTLINE

1. Monday, February 6

   Syllabus
   Authority and Inspiration
   What is Poetry?

2. Monday, February 13

   Translate Psalm 1:1-6
   Translate Psalm 2:1-3

3. Monday, February 20

   Translate Psalm 8:1-4
   Translate Psalm 22:1-2, 16-18

4. Monday, February 27

   Translate Psalm 23:1-6
   Translate Psalm 110:1-4
5. Monday, March 20
   Translate Proverbs 3:13-23
   Translate Proverbs 31:10-12

6. Monday, March 27
   Translate Ecclesiastes 1:1-6
   Translate Ecclesiastes 2:4-8

7. Monday, April 3
   Translate Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
   Translate Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

8. Monday, April 10
   Translate Ecclesiastes 7:1-4
   Translate Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

9. Monday, April 17
   Translate Song of Songs 1:1-7
   Translate Song of Songs 1:12-14

10. Monday, April 24
    Translate Song of Songs 2:1-7
    Translate Song of Songs 3:1-5

11. Monday, May 1
    Translate Job 1:1-5
    Translate Job 1:20-22

12. Monday, May 8
    Final Examination