POETRY OF THE BIBLE

**GOAL:** This course is an introduction to the poetical sections of the Old Testament. As such, it will introduce the student 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. In this respect, the student should become aware of the many issues in biblical poetry, and how these have been understood and interpreted. Ultimately, this study should provide a good foundation for the student to apply Scripture to all of life.

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


**REQUIREMENTS:** The grade for the course will be computed on the basis of the following variables:

1. There will be a “take home” final examination. It will be presented to the student on the last morning of class (Friday, June 6). You have one week to finish the exam. It must be sent to me by Friday, June 13 by e-mail or snail-mail (w/postmark). This examination is worth 90% of the final grade.

2. The student is expected to read the five wisdom books in their entirety, in addition to the assigned readings from the textbooks. To insure the completion of this assignment,
the student must submit to me a reading report by Friday, June 27 either by e-mail or snail-mail. The report will include the number of pages you have read of the assigned readings, the approximate percentage of all the reading, and your signature. It will account for 10% of the final grade.

3. My e-mail address is jcurrid@rts.edu and my mailing address is Prof. John Currid, Reformed Theological Seminary, 2101 Carmel Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

1. Monday, June 2

   Syllabus

   Authority and Inspiration

   What is Poetry?

   Form and Structure of Hebrew Poetry

2. Tuesday, June 3

   Figures of Speech

   Typology

   The Book of Job

   Introduction to the Psalms

   Are the Psalm Titles Authentic?

3. Wednesday, June 4

   Psalm 1

   Psalm 2, A Royal Messiah Psalm

   Psalm 8, A Son of Man Psalm

   Psalm 22, A Suffering Messiah Psalm
Psalm 23, The Shepherd Hymn
Psalm 110, A Royal Messiah Psalm
The Imprecatory Psalms

4. Thursday, June 5
What is a Proverb?
How to Interpret a Proverb
Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs
Proverbs 31, A Woman of Worth
Vanity of Vanities
Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:26

5. Friday, June 6
Ecclesiastes 3:1-5:20
Is the Plan of God Fair?
Song of Solomon