COURSE SYLLABUS
POETS 06OT512
2 credits

Spring Semester, 2013
February 1-2, March 22-23, April 19-20
Friday 7:00-10:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: William Fullilove
Ph.D. Candidate: Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures
The Catholic University of America

Contact Information:
1034 Balls Hill Road
McLean, VA 22101
EMAIL: bill@mcleanpres.org
Cell: 703/581-2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the literary structure, themes, and history of the Psalms and wisdom literature of the Old Testament.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Comprehension:
1. To increase your knowledge of the English Bible of the books Job-Song of Songs.
2. To increase your understanding of the message(s) of the books Job-Song of Songs, both separately and together.
3. To introduce the basic trends in scholarly research regarding these books.

Competence:
1. To sharpen your ability to understand and interpret Hebrew Poetry.
2. To sharpen your ability to interpret the books Job-Song of Songs in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
3. To sharpen your ability to teach and preach the books Job-Song of Songs in the context of the local church.
4. To prepare those called to pastoral ministry for licensure and ordination exams at their local church assemblies and examination boards.

Character:
1. To sharpen your application of the themes of the books Job-Song of Songs in your personal spiritual life.
2. To be a person of growing faith, hope, and love based on the work of God as revealed in these books.
REQUIRED READINGS:

- Biblical books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs in two English translations of the student’s choice.

REQUIREMENTS:

*Attendance:* Students are required to attend class lectures and discussions. If you know you cannot make it to a portion of a class session, notify the instructor in advance. Given the weekend format of this class, students are not permitted to miss a full weekend.

*Reading:* Students should complete all readings according to the course schedule below.

*Final Examination:* A take-home final exam will be distributed on the last day of class. This exam will be **due April 30, 2013 at 10:00 PM by email.**

*Paper:* Students who have taken Hebrew are required to write an exegetical paper for this class. Students who have not taken Hebrew may instead write a theological paper. Papers should be 15-20 pages, double-spaced and should interact both with the material discussed in class sessions and the secondary readings. Additional research is required for these papers and must be demonstrated both in the paper itself and in its bibliography.

- Exegetical Paper: Students may submit an exegetical paper on one of the following passages: Psalm 24, Proverbs 3:13-26, or Job 19:23-27.
- Theological Paper: Students should email the instructor by February 28 with a one-page paper proposal for approval. This paper will be **due May 11, 2013 at 10:00 PM by email.**

Note: Students who are interested in doing additional graduate study beyond their RTS degree **MUST** contact the instructor in advance, as these requirements may be adjusted to better prepare the student for his or her future course of study.

**TOTAL GRADE:** The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Final Examination: 50%
Paper: 50%

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system. The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades based on each student’s attendance at class and participation in classroom discussion.

Late papers without **advance** excuse from the instructor will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per 24 hours late. Advance excuse will only be given in exceptional cases.
COURSE SCHEDULE:
The majority of this class will focus on an exegetical study of the books Job-Song of Songs. Particularly important topics in academic or pastoral study of these books will also be covered. NOTE: The course schedule is ALWAYS subject to revision based on the needs of the class.

February 1-2:
Topics:
• What is Hebrew Poetry?
• How to interpret Hebrew Poetry
• Proverbs
• Psalms – Part I
Reading Due:
• Proverbs (English Bible)
• Psalms 1-41 (English Bible)
• Kidner, pp. 11-55
• Futato, pp.23-138

March 22-23:
Topics:
• Psalms – Part II
• Ecclesiastes
• Song of Songs
Reading Due:
• Psalms 42-150 (English Bible)
• Ecclesiastes (English Bible)
• Song of Songs (English Bible)
• Futato, pp.139-230
• Belcher, all
• Kidner, pp.90-115

April 19-20:
Topics:
• Job
• Wisdom Literature as a Whole
Reading Due:
• Job (English Bible)
• Kidner, pp.56-89, 116-124

OFFICE HOURS:
By appointment (contact the instructor to setup a time and place). I am usually available before or after class, but can also meet at other times. I enjoy sharing thoughts with students, so do not hesitate to contact me. The contact information given above is for your use, and you should feel free to contact me as much as you wish. I will respond as promptly as possible.
BIBLIOGRAPHY/RECOMMENDED READING:

INTRODUCTION

HEBREW POETRY

PSALMS - INTRODUCTION
Longman, Tremper III. How to Read the Psalms (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1988).

PSALMS - COMMENTARIES

**WISDOM**

**PROVERBS**

**JOB**

**ECCLESIASTES**
SONG OF SONGS
Hess, Richard S. Song of Songs (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005).
---. Song of Songs (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005).

LAMENTATIONS
Hillers, D. Lamentations (AB 7a; Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MDiv</strong> Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><em>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</em></td>
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<td><em>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Exam, Paper</td>
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<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Exegetical Focus, Significant Paper, Readings</td>
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<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
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<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Biblical-theological emphases of this portion of canon; engage theologically when appropriate</td>
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<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Close study of the Word of God sanctifies; strong devotional components of Scripture</td>
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<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Material is taught within and analyzed against redemptive-historical worldview</td>
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<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Discussion and evaluation of contributions from other traditions in a respectful and honoring way</td>
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<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Exegetical work that forms the backbone of strong preaching;</td>
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<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
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<td>Role</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Frequent discussion of applications for preaching</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate Psalter forms a basic component of many traditions' Christian worship</td>
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<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal Discussion as applicable</td>
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