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

Contact Information:  
bfullilove@rts.edu  
770-952-8884  

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.

*Hourly Examinations:* A take-home hourly exam will be distributed at each class. This exam will be due at the beginning of the next class. The final hourly will be due Dec 2, 2013 at 10:00 PM by email. Each hourly will be closed book, and the student will have 1 hour to take the exam.

*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 Dec 9, 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:

- Hourly Examinations: 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.
**EXTENSION POLICY:** All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)
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.

September 20-21:
Topics:
- What is Hebrew Poetry?
- How to interpret Hebrew Poetry
- Proverbs

Reading Due:
- Proverbs (English Bible)
- Kidner, pp. 11-55
- Futato, pp.23-56

October 11-12:
Topics:
- Psalms
- Song of Songs

Reading Due:
- Psalms (English Bible)
- Song of Songs (English Bible)
- Futato, pp.57-230
- Belcher, all

November 15-16:
Topics:
- Ecclesiastes
- Job
- Wisdom Literature as a Whole

Reading Due:
- Ecclesiastes (English Bible)
- Job (English Bible)
- Kidner, pp.56-124

OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-3:30. I am always also available by appointment, including before or after class.

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**
**MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

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.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Exam, Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Exegetical Focus, Significant Paper, Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Biblical-theological emphases of this portion of canon; engage theologically when appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</th>
<th>Strong</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<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>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<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>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Essential Qualification</td>
<td>Level</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><strong>Moderate</strong></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><strong>Minimal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<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><strong>Minimal</strong></td>
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