Reformed Theological Seminary  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Spring 2013

Exegesis in the OT: The Song of Songs - 1OT503
Miles V. Van Pelt, Instructor

Course Description

A verse by verse, exegetical study of the Hebrew text of Song of Songs in its canonical and covenantal context. Prerequisites include Hebrew 1, Hebrew 2, Hebrew Exegesis.

Course Objectives

Objectives for this course include: (1) to advance in Hebrew exegetical skill; (2) to work with Hebrew poetry; (3) to reckon with the difficulties encountered with the interpretation of the Song of Songs for the church; (4) to increase biblical-theological knowledge.

Course Requirements

1. **Weekly Hebrew translation.** 30%

2. **Paper 1** – Briefly describe and summarize the various options for the interpretation of the Song of Songs. The paper should reflect on the history of interpretation and organize the interpretational options in a meaningful way. 5-7 pages, double spaced. 10%

3. **Paper 2** – Briefly describe and summarize the Bible’s teaching on sex and marriage. The point of this exercise is to provide a larger biblical context for our work in the Song of Songs. 5-7 pages, double spaced. 10%

4. **Paper 3** – Select a difficult or key text from the Song of Songs and conduct a thorough study in order to attempt to solve the difficulty or explain the significance of it. 8-12 pages, double spaced. 20%

5. **Final Exam** – This exam will cover the translation and interpretation of the Hebrew text of the song of songs. 30%
Course Textbooks

*BHQ* Hebrew Text


Various secondary resources as needed

Course Schedule: **Wednesday from 9:00 - 11:00 AM**

January 30  Syllabus, Assignments, and Introduction to The Song of Songs!
February 6   Song of Songs 1:1-8
             13   Song of Songs 1:9-2:7
             20   Song of Songs 2:8-17     (Turn in Paper 1)
             27   Song of Songs 3:1-5; 3:6-11
March 6      Song of Songs 4:1-7
             13   Song of Songs 4:8-5:1     (Spring Break – Keep Translating!)
             20   Song of Songs 5:2-8      (Turn in Paper 2)
             27   Song of Songs 5:9-6:3
April 3      Song of Songs 6:4-12
             10   Song of Songs 7:1-6
             17   Song of Songs 7:7-8:4     (Turn in Paper 3/Presentations)
             24   Song of Songs 8:5-14     (Remaining Presentations)
May 1        Final Exam
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

### Course: 1OT503 OT Exegesis 2 (Song of Songs)

### Professor: Miles V. Van Pelt

### Campus: Jackson

### Date: Spring 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em><em>MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. OT theology 2. Historical-critical view of Wisdom Lit. 3. Significant academic paper on related topic</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>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Major part of class is exegeting texts 2. Original languages are used in class and encouraged in academic paper 3. It’s a BIBLE class!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Traditional Reformed categories are used for explaining many OT categories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Personal application is made in class to many biblical texts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Multi-faceted applications are made from biblical texts, e.g. environment, politics</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>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>1. Common grace use of historical-critical scholars is discussed &amp; required in paper</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>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1. Many times preaching applications are made from biblical texts</td>
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<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<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</td>
<td>1. Biblical knowledge and hermeneutical skill is major factor in this category of church life</td>
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<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>None</td>
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