HYBRID COURSE SYLLABUS

02OT512 POETS
Mark D. Futato, Ph.D.
Spring 2015
PROFESSOR’S CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DATES

COURSE DATES: February 4 – May 6
IN CLASS DATE: February 4
ONLINE DATES: February 4 – March 18
IN CLASS DATES: April 1 – May 6

COURSE COMPLETION DATE: May 21

SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

- February 9 at 4p
  - Quiz 1
  - Discussion Post 1
- February 11 at 4p
  - Reply Post 1
- February 16 at 4p
  - Quiz 2
  - Discussion Post 2
- February 18 at 4p
  - Reply Post 2
- February 23 at 4p
  - Quiz 3
  - Discussion Post 3
- February 25 at 4p
  - Reply Post 3
- March 2 at 4p
  - Quiz 4
  - Discussion Post 4
- March 4 at 4p
  - Reply Post 4
- March 9 at 4p
  - Step 1
- March 11 at 4p
  - Step 2
- March 16 at 4p
  - Step 3
- March 18 at 4p
  - Step 4
  - Reflection on the book of Psalms
- April 15 at 4p
  - Reflection on the book of Proverbs
  - Exam 1 (Proverbs)
- May 15 at 4p
  - Reflection on the book of Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs
  - Reflection Workbook
- May 21 at 4p
  - Exam 2 (Ecclesiastes, Job, and Song of Songs)

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COURSE OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION:
This course introduces students to the nature of Hebrew poetry and to literary, historical, and theological analysis of Psalms (and Lamentations), Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs. The nature of Hebrew poetry and the book of Psalms are studied online over a six-week period that precedes the classroom experience, which covers Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs.

PURPOSE:
To encourage you in experiencing more of the abundant life that Jesus came to bring to the glory of God the Father and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOALS:
Comprehension
- To increase your knowledge of English Bible in Job-Song of Songs.
- To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from Job-Song of Songs.

Competence
- To sharpen your ability to interpret Job-Song of Songs in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
- To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of Job-Song of Songs in your own life and in the life of the local church.

Character
- To grow in your honesty in your relation with God, others, and self.
- To grow in your wisdom as you live before God, others, and self.
- To grow in your love for God, others, and self.

SUPPORT:
Canvas offers several ways of interacting with Dr. Futato or his TA. One is Ask the Professor. Ask the Professor is the primary place for posting questions and has the benefit of allowing classmates to profit from the dialog. Two is Inbox. Inbox functions like email and can be used if you have a personal question, for example, a question about a grade. Three is Conferences. Conferences allows for video conferencing, screen sharing, etc., and can be used in place of traditional office hours.

Canvas also allows for interaction with classmates. You can interact with classmates via the Student to Student forum or Inbox or Conferences.

See FAQ on the Home Page or at Modules > Course Resources for instructions on various Canvas features.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Reading in Textbooks:
The books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs in a translation of your choice.


Reflection Workbook:
You will produce a reflection workbook, based on your reading of Old Testament Today.

- On pages 412-414, there are reflection questions.
- You will answer five questions of your choice.
- Type the number and question before each answer.
- Each answer must be 100 to 200 words in length.
- Your workbook must be double spaced, with 1 inch margins all around.

File protocols:
- Upload your reflection workbook to Canvas as a PDF at Modules > Course Completion or Assignments.
- Use the following naming protocol for your file: LastName_FirstName_ReflectionWorkbook, e.g., Futato_Mark_ReflectionWorkbook.

Assessment information:
- The reflection workbook is worth 15 points, totaling 12% of your grade.
- The reflection workbook is due on May 15 at 4p.

Reflection Papers:
You will write three reflection papers.

- One on a text of your choice from the book of Psalms.
- One on a text of your choice from the book of Proverbs.
- One on a text of your choice from the book of Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs.

Each paper must 2 pages in length, double spaced, with 1 inch margins all around.

These are not exegetical papers but are more like an extended journal entries that focus on what the meaning of the text for your life or ministry.

You must read each text at least twice a day for six consecutive days before writing your reflection.

File protocols:
- Upload each reflection paper to Canvas as a PDF at Modules > Week 6 (for Psalms) or Course Completion (for the other 2).
• Use the following naming protocol for your file: LastName_FirstName_Reflection_01, e.g., Futato_Mark_Reflection_01.

Assessment information:
• Each reflection paper is worth 5 points, totaling 12% of your grade.
• Your reflection on the book of Psalms, due on March 18 at 4p.
• Your reflection on the book of Proverbs, due on April 15 at 4p.
• Your reflection on the book of Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs, due on May 15 at 4p.

**QUIZZES:**

There are four online quizzes, one quiz for each of the first four weeks of the online portion of the course. (See “Interpreting the Psalms Guide” at Canvas > Modules > Course Resources for direction in how to prepare for each quiz.) Go to Canvas > Modules or Quizzes or Assignments.

• Quiz #1: Interpreting the Psalms, chapter 1.
• Quiz #2: Interpreting the Psalms, chapter 2.
• Quiz #3: Interpreting the Psalms, chapter 3.
• Quiz #4: Interpreting the Psalms, chapter 4.
Assessment information:

- Each quiz is worth 5 points, totaling 15% of your grade.
- Quiz 1 is due on February 9 at 4p.
- Quiz 2 is due on February 16 at 4p.
- Quiz 3 is due on February 23 at 4p.
- Quiz 4 is due on March 2 at 4p.

**Discussion Posts and Replies:**

There are four discussion posts and four replies, one post and reply for each of the first four weeks of the online portion of the course. Go to Canvas > Modules or Discussions or Assignments.

- Post and Reply 1 – Read Psalm 148. Compare and contrast the strophic divisions for Psalm 148 in the NIV and ESV. How would you divide this psalm? Defend your divisions.
- Post and Reply 02 – Read Psalms 1 and 2. What is the theological connection between the purpose of the Psalms (Psalm 1) and the message of the Psalms (Psalm 2)?
- Post and Reply 03 – Read Psalm 3. What was the original historical setting Psalm 3? How would the post-exilic community have applied Psalm 3 to their historical situation?
- Post and Reply 04 – Read Psalm 13. What is the category of Psalm 13? How does Psalm 13 reveal Christ to you?

You are required to post an answer to each of the discussion questions and then to post at least one reply to the post of one classmate of your choice. You may and are encouraged to interact beyond the required post and reply.

Assessment information:

- Each discussion post is worth 5 points, totaling 15% of your grade. Each original post is worth 3 points and each reply is worth 2 points.
- Discussion post 1 is due on February 9 at 4p.
- Reply to post 1 is due on February 11 at 4p.
- Discussion post 2 is due on February 16 at 4p.
- Reply to post 2 is due on February 18 at 4p.
- Discussion post 3 is due on February 23 at 4p.
- Reply to post 3 is due on February 25 at 4p.
- Discussion post 4 is due on March 2 at 4p.
- Reply to post 4 is due on March 4 at 4p.

**Psalms Project:**

Having studied the first four chapters of *Interpreting the Psalms*, you will put the material into practice by following the steps explained in chapter 5 and illustrated in chapter 6.

There are four steps and you will perform one step per week for the first four weeks of the online portion of the course. (See “Proclaiming the Psalms Guide” at Canvas > Modules > Course Resources for detailed instructions.)

- Step 1 – Getting Oriented
- Step 2 – Focusing on the Details
- Step 3 – Shaping Your Presentation
- Step 4 – Reflecting on Your Text and Life
File protocols:

- Upload each step to Canvas as a PDF at Modules.
- Use the following naming protocol for your file: LastName_FirstName_Step_01, e.g., Futato_Mark_Step_01.

Assessment information:

- Each step in the Psalms project is worth 5 points, totaling 15% of your grade.
- Step 1 is due on March 09 at 4p.
- Step 2 is due on March 11 at 4p.
- Step 3 is due on March 16 at 4p.
- Step 4 is due on March 18 at 4p.

Exams:

There are two exams. Go to Modules > Course Completion or Quizzes.

- Exam 1: Lectures on Proverbs and the readings on Proverbs in *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*.

Assessment information:

- Each exam is worth 20 points, totaling 31% of your grade.
- Exam 1 on Proverbs is due on April 15 at 4p.
- Exam 2 on Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs is due on May 21 at 4p.

Grading Policy:

Late work will be penalized 1 letter grade per day, unless prior permission for late submission is granted. The published RTS grading scale is used in this course. See the Catalog, page 47.
COURSE SCHEDULE

ONLINE SCHEDULE:

Week of February 9-11
- Topic: Appreciating the Poetry
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 1 and Walton, Pages 332-342
- Complete the module for Week 1

Week of February 16-18
- Topic: Viewing the Whole
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 2
- Complete the module for Week 2

Week of February 23-25
- Topic: Preparing for Interpretation
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 3
- Complete the module for Week 3

Week of March 2-4
- Topic: Interpreting the Categories
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 4
- Complete the module for Week 4

Week of March 9-11
- Topic: Psalms Project (Steps 1 and 2)
- To be read: Futato, Pages 183-196, 209-219
- Complete the module for Week 5

Week of March 16-18
- Topic: Psalms Project (Steps 3 and 4)
- To be read: Futato, Pages 197-208, 220-229
- Complete the module for Week 6

IN CLASS SCHEDULE:

April 1
- Topic: Proverbs
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapters 1 and Walton, Pages 320-331, 343-357

April 8
- Topic: Proverbs
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapters 2-3 and Walton, Pages 378-382
April 15
- Topic: Ecclesiastes
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapters 6-7 and Walton, Pages 383-385

April 22
- Topic: Ecclesiastes & Job
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapters 4-5 and Walton, Pages 358-367

April 29
- Topic: Job
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapter 8 and Walton, Pages 389-412

May 6
- Topic: Song of Songs
- To be read before class: Walton, Pages 385-388

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FURTHER READING

INTRODUCTION:


**Hebrew Poetry:**


**Psalms – Introduction:**


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


**Psalms – Commentaries:**


**Proverbs:**


**Job:**


**ECCLESIASTES:**

Bartholomew, Craig G. *Ecclesiastes* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009).


**SONG OF SONGS:**


Hess, Richard S. *Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005).


**Lamentations:**

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### Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>One reading helps students distinguish exegetical language from expository language. Papers must apply this distinction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Course focus in on content of Job-Song of Songs. The students are required to write a paper on Psalm 23 and demonstrate interpretive skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Course deals with the Kingship/Sovereignty of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Course objectives: 1) Grow in honesty in relation with God, others, and self. 2) Grow in wisdom before God, others, and self. 3) Grow in love for God, others, and self.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Course lectures aim to model this value consistently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>One reading helps students distinguish exegetical language from expository language. Papers must apply this distinction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Study of the Psalms will be applied to issues of modern worship.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td></td>
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