PROFESSOR’S CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DATES

Course Dates: February 3 – May 4
Online Dates: February 3 – March 16
In-Class Dates: March 30 – May 4
Course Completion Date: May 19

Summary of Due Dates:

- February 8 at 4p
  - Quiz 1
  - Discussion Post 1
- February 10 at 4p
  - Reply Post 1
- February 15 at 4p
  - Quiz 2
  - Discussion Post 2
- February 17 at 4p
  - Reply Post 2
- February 22 at 4p
  - Quiz 3
  - Discussion Post 3
- February 24 at 4p
  - Reply Post 3
- February 29 at 4p
  - Quiz 4
  - Discussion Post 4
- March 2 at 4p
  - Reply Post 4

- March 7 at 4p
  - Step 1
- March 9 at 4p
  - Step 2
- March 14 at 4p
  - Step 3
- March 16 at 4p
  - Step 4
  - Reflection on the book of Psalms
- April 13 at 4p
  - Reflection on the book of Proverbs
  - Exam 1 (Proverbs)
- May 13 at 4p
  - Reflection on the book of Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs
  - Reflection Workbook
- May 19 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 13 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 be 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 Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs, due on May 13 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 8 at 4p.
- Quiz 2 is due on February 15 at 4p.
- Quiz 3 is due on February 22 at 4p.
- Quiz 4 is due on February 29 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 1 at 4p.
- Reply to post 4 is due on March 3 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 8 at 4p.
- Step 2 is due on March 10 at 4p.
- Step 3 is due on March 15 at 4p.
- Step 4 is due on March 17 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 13 at 4p.
- Exam 2 is on Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs is due on May 19 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.

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**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 1-3**
- Topic: Interpreting the Categories
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 4
- Complete the module for Week 4

**Week of March 8-10**
- 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 15-17**
- 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:

March 30
- Topic: Proverbs
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapters 1 and Walton, Pages 320-331, 343-357

April 6
- Topic: Proverbs
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapters 2-3 and Walton, Pages 378-382

April 13
- Topic: Ecclesiastes
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapters 6-7 and Walton, Pages 383-385

April 20
- Topic: Ecclesiastes & Job
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapters 4-5 and Walton, Pages 358-367

April 27
- Topic: Job
- To be read before class: Kidner, Chapter 8 and Walton, Pages 389-412

May 4
- 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:**
Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<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>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>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Course focus is 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>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.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Course deals with the Kingship/Sovereignty of God.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td></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>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Course lectures aim to model this value consistently.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>One reading helps students distinguish exegetical language from expository language. Papers must apply this distinction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</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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<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<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>Minimal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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