

# The Song of Songs

Exegesis in the Old Testament – 1OT501  
Thursday, 10:00 AM to 11:50 AM

Reformed Theological Seminary  
Jackson, Mississippi – Fall 2018  
Miles V. Van Pelt, Ph.D.

## 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. **Primary Literature** – Weekly Hebrew translation from the Song of Songs text presented in *BHQ* (see schedule). 30%
2. **Secondary Literature** – Weekly Reading Assignments from various secondary sources used in class discussion. These assignments will be handed out at the end of class each week. 10%
2. **Paper 1** – Briefly describe and summarize *one* of the various options for the interpretation of the Song of Songs (each student in the class will select a different interpretation). This paper should: (1) explain the interpretation; (2) describe the history of the interpretation; (3) summarize strengths and weaknesses; (4) and provide a number of illustrations for the interpretation from the text of the Song of Songs. Approximately 5 pages, double spaced (class presentation). 10%
4. **Paper 2** – Select a difficult or key text from the Song of Songs and conduct a thorough exegetical study in order to solve the difficulty or explain the significance of it. Approximately 15 pages, double spaced (class presentation). 25%
5. **Final Exam** – This exam will cover the translation and interpretation of the Hebrew text of the Song of Songs. 25%

## Required Course Textbooks

*BHQ* Hebrew Text

Koehler and Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (HALOT).

Various secondary resources as needed

## Course Schedule

August	30	Syllabus, Assignments, and Introduction to The Song of Songs	
September	6	Song of Songs 1:1-7	
	13	Song of Songs 1:8-2:7	(Paper 1 presentations)
	20	Song of Songs 2:8-17	(Paper 1 due date)
	27	Song of Songs 3:1-11	
October	4	Song of Songs 4:1-7	
	11	Song of Songs 4:8-5:1	
	18	Song of Songs 5:2-8	(Paper 2 Presentations)
	25	Song of Songs 5:9-6:3	(Paper 2 Presentations)
November	1	Song of Songs 6:4-12	(Paper 2 Presentations)
	8	Song of Songs 7:1-8:4	(Paper 2 Presentations)
	15	ETS/SBL – No Class	
	22	Thanksgiving – No Class	
	29	Song of Songs 8:5-14	(Final Papers Due)
December	6	Final Exam	