

030T5300/1 POETS
June 2020 Summer A
DR. JOHN D. CURRID

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POETRY OF THE BIBLE

GOAL: This course is an introduction to the poetical sections of the Old Testament. As such, it will introduce the student to the major poetical books of the Bible: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. Included in the study will be such varied themes as Figures of Speech, Parallelism, Authority and Inspiration, and the Use of the Poetical Books in the New Testament. In this respect, the student should become aware of the many issues in biblical poetry, and how these have been understood and interpreted. Ultimately, this study should provide a good foundation for the student to apply Scripture to all of life.

TEXTBOOKS: The following books are required for the course:

1. R. P. Belcher, The Messiah and the Psalms: Preaching Christ from the Psalms (Christian Focus, 2006).
2. J. Currid, Why Do I Suffer? Suffering and the Sovereignty of God (Christian Focus, 2004; reprint 2014).
3. T. Longman, How To Read the Psalms (Inter-Varsity, 1988).

REQUIREMENTS: The grade for the course will be computed on the basis of the following variables:

1. There will be a “take home” final examination. It will be presented to the student at the end of the last morning of class (Friday, July 3). You have 24 hours to finish the exam, and return it to me. It is open book. This examination is worth 45% of the final grade.
2. The student is expected to read the five wisdom books in their entirety, in addition to the assigned readings from the textbooks. To insure the completion of this assignment, the student must submit to me a reading report with your final paper. The report will include the number of pages you have read of the assigned readings, the approximate percentage of all the reading, and your signature. 5% of the final grade.
3. The student is required to submit a 12-15 page paper. It is due to me by Friday, July 24 at 5pm. The paper is worth 45% of the final grade. Late papers will be docked ½ grade per day. Paper expectations are spelled out on the last section of this syllabus.

4. The student is required to listen to four sermons by the professor on sermonaudio.com for the purpose of seeing how to move from exegesis to sermon preparation from the poetical literature. They are: Knowing God (Psalm 19); A Song of Victory (Psalm 24); The Providence of God (Psalm 31:14-24); and, The Two Gaths (Psalm 34).
5. The student is required to participate in 15 hours of professor-student interaction seminars and 5 hours of student-student interaction seminars. 5% of final grade.
6. The student is required to listen to two lectures by Dr. Belcher on the RTS app: Lesson 5, "Wisdom Literature: A Comparative Approach" and Lesson 7, part 1, "Proverbs, the Problem of Context."

METHODOLOGY

The class will be taught through the Zoom platform. Attendance is mandatory. The Zoom time lectures and discussions will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am to noon. There will be 12 sessions (see below for the exact dates). The on-line time will consist of mostly lecture material, although time for discussion will be made available.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

1. Monday, June 8
 - Syllabus
 - Authority and Inspiration
 - What is Poetry?
2. Wednesday, June 10
 - Form and Structure of Hebrew Poetry
 - Figures of Speech
 - Typology
3. Friday, June 12
 - The Book of Job
4. Monday, June 15
 - Introduction to the Psalms
 - Are the Psalm Titles Authentic?
 - Psalm 1
5. Wednesday, June 17
 - Psalm 2, A Royal Messiah Psalm
 - Psalm 8, A Son of Man Psalm

6. Friday, June 19
Psalm 23, The Shepherd Hymn
Psalm 110, A Royal Messiah Psalm

7. Monday, June 22

Psalms of Ascent
What is a Proverb?

8. Wednesday, June 24
How to Interpret a Proverb
Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs
Proverbs 31, A Woman of Worth

9. Friday, June 26
Vanity of Vanities

10. Monday, June 29
Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:26

11. Wednesday, July 1
Ecclesiastes 3:1-5:20
Is the Plan of God Fair?

12. Friday, July 3
Song of Solomon

Paper Requirements:

12-15 pages in length.

Spacing 1.5.

Use footnotes, not endnotes: see standard journals, such as JBL, JETS for form.

Include *at least* three journal articles.

Include *at least* twelve sources i.e., books and articles.

Paper must have a title page in proper format.

Paper must have a bibliography in proper format.

The standard format for the paper is *The SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd edition (Atlanta: SBL

Press, 2014). This may be found in the library, but you should own your own copy.

For an excellent example of this paper, go to <https://rts.edu/campuses/charlotte/students/pen-and-parchment/> and see paper by K. McIlvaine).

Topic: The student should choose a psalm of manageable length, and write a verse by verse exposition of the psalm. The exposition must include three basic parts: context, content, and consequence. If the student has taken Hebrew 1-2, then the exposition must demonstrate proper usage of that language.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Poets (OT 5300)
 Professor: Dr. John Currid
 Campus: Charlotte
 Date: Summer 2020

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<i>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.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong • Moderate • Minimal • None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Articulation of essential biblical, theological, and historical information is covered, but mostly written, not oral
Scripture	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.)	Strong	The original meaning of the poetical books is covered with emphasis on research in a paper and substantial time spent on meaning for today
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	There is an emphasis on the theological message of the poetical books, but not as directly tied to the Westminster Standards
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Learning about our relationship to God, especially in the Psalms, aids sanctification
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	Implicit, not explicit
Winsomely Reformed	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.)	None	
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians.	Minimal	We discuss how to preach and teach the poetical books