



O R L A N D O



COURSE SYLLABUS

02OT5300 POETS

Mark D. Futato, Ph.D.

Spring 2026

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

TITLE: Poets

NUMBER: 020T5300

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mark D. Futato

EMAIL: mfutato@rts.edu

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment via [Calendy](#)

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COURSE DATES

COURSE DATES: January 28 - May 5

SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

- For a summary of due dates click on Syllabus in the left-hand navigation bar on Canvas.

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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.

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 through Song of Songs.
- To increase your knowledge of introductory issues in each book from Job through Song of Songs.

Competence

- To sharpen your ability to interpret Job through Song of Song in their historical, theological, and literary contexts.
- To sharpen your ability to apply the teaching of Job through 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. Three is the Comment box. In the right-hand column where assignments are graded, there is a Comment box. If you have questions about a grade, for example, a question on a quiz or exam, post them here.

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

See FAQ on the Home Page or at Modules > Student Orientation to Canvas for instructions on various Canvas features.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READING IN TEXTBOOKS:

The books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs in a translation of your choice.

Futato, Mark D. *Interpreting the Psalms: An Exegetical Handbook* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2007). [978-0825427657] You are assigned all 234 pages.

Kidner, D. *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1985). [978-0877844051] You are assigned all 157 pages.

Walton, John H., and Andrew E. Hill. *Old Testament Today: A Journey from Ancient Context to Contemporary Relevance*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014. [978-0310498209] You are assigned 72 pages.

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 14% of your grade.
- The reflection workbook is due on May 8 at 11a.

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 extended journal entries that focus on 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 14% of your grade.
- Your reflection on the book of Psalms, due on March 25 at 4p.
- Your reflection on the book of Proverbs, due on April 8 at 4p.
- Your reflection on the book of Ecclesiastes or Job or Song of Songs, due on May 8 at 11a.

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 4 points, totaling 15% of your grade.
- Quiz 1 is due on February 4 at 12p.
- Quiz 2 is due on February 11 at 12p.
- Quiz 3 is due on February 18 at 12p.
- Quiz 4 is due on February 25 at 12p.

HOW-TO POSTS :

There are six how-to posts, one post for each of the first six weeks of the course. Go to Canvas > Modules.

- Post 01 - 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 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 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 04 - Read Psalm 13. What is the category of Psalm 13? How does Psalm 13 reveal Christ to you?
- Post 05 - Read Psalm 131. 1) What are the main divisions of Psalm 131? 2) How would you divide Psalm 131 into parallel lines? (Compare and contrast the NIV and the ESV.) 3) What is the significance of the "weaned child" image in Psalm 131?

- Post 06 – Read Psalm 131. 1) Create an exegetical outline of Psalm 131. 2) Create an expository outline of Psalm 131. 3) What is one application of Psalm 131 for your life or ministry?
Assessment information:
 - Each practice post is worth 4 points, totaling 22% of your grade.
 - Post 01 is due on February 4 at 12p.
 - Post 02 is due on February 11 at 12p.
 - Post 03 is due on February 19 at 12p.
 - Post 04 is due on February 25 at 12p.
 - Post 05 is due on March 4 at 12p.
 - Post 06 is due on March 11 at 12p.

EXAMS :

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

- Exam 1: Lectures on Proverbs and the readings on Proverbs in *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*.
- Exam 2: Lectures on Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs and the readings on Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs in *The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes*.

Assessment information:

- Each exam 1 is worth 20 points, totaling 36% of your grade.
- Exam 1 on Proverbs is due on April 8 at 4p.
- Exam 2 is on Ecclesiastes, Job, and the Song of Songs is due on May 14 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

January 28

- Topic: Introduction to the Course
- Topic: Psalm 29

February 4

- Topic: Psalm 148
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 1 and Walton, Pages 332-342
- Complete the module for Week 1

February 11

- Topic: Psalms 1-2
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 2
- Complete the module for Week 2

February 18

- Topic: Psalms 3 and 30
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 3
- Complete the module for Week 3

February 25

- Topic: Psalm 30
- To be read: Futato, Chapter 4
- Complete the module for Week 4

March 4

- Topic: Psalm 131
- To be read: Futato, Pages 183-196, 209-219
- Complete the module for Week 5

March 11

- Topic: Psalm 8
- To be read: Futato, Pages 197-208, 220-229
- Complete the module for Week 6

Week of March 18 Spring Break

March 25

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

April 1

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

April 8

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

April 15

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

April 22

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

April 29

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

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FURTHER READING

INTRODUCTION:

Berry, Donald K. *An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament* (Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 1999).

Brown, William P. *The Psalms* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2010).

Estes, Daniel J. *Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010).

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Message of the Psalms* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 1984).

Keel, Othmar. *The Symbolism of the Biblical World: Ancient Near Eastern Iconography and the Book of Psalms* (New York, NY: Seabury, 1978).

Lucas, Ernest C. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Psalms & Wisdom Literature* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

Murphy, Roland E. *The Tree of Life* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996).

HEBREW POETRY:

Petersen, D. and Richards, K. *Interpreting Hebrew Poetry* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1992).

PSALMS – INTRODUCTION:

Brown, William P. *The Psalms* (IBT; Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2010).

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

Lucas, Ernest C. *Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Psalms & Wisdom Literature* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004).

McCann, J. Clinton. *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms: The Psalms as Torah* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1993).

PSALMS – COMMENTARIES:

Allen, Leslie C. *Psalms 101-150* (Vol. 21. 2 Revised. WBC. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2002).

Clifford, Richard J. *Psalms 1-72* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2002).

Clifford, Richard J. *Psalms 73-150* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2003).

Craigie, Peter C. *Psalms 1-50* (Vol. 19. 2nd ed. WBC. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005).

Futato, Mark D. *Psalms* (Vol. 7. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2009).

Kidner, Derek. *Psalms: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1973).

Tate, Marvin E. *Psalms 51-100* (Vol. 20. WBC. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1991).

VanGemeren, Willem A. *Psalms* (EBC. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008).

Waltke, Bruce K., and James M. Houston. *The Psalms as Christian Worship: An Historical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010).

PROVERBS:

Bridges, Charles. *A Commentary on Proverbs* (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1846).

Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (The New American Commentary, 14; Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1993).

Longman, Tremper III. *Proverbs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2006).

Ortlund, Raymond C., Jr. *Proverbs: Wisdom That Works* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2012).

Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 1-15* (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004).

Waltke, Bruce K. *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 15-31* (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005).

JOB:

Anderson, F. *Job* (Tyndale OT Commentaries 13; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1976).

Walton, John H. *Job*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Konkel, August H., and Tremper Longman III. *Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2006).

Hartley, J. *The Book of Job* (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988).

ECCLESIASTES:

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

Enns, Peter. *Ecclesiastes* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011.

Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (The New American Commentary, 14; Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1993).

Konkel, August H., and Tremper Longman III. *Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2006).

Longman, Tremper III. *The Book of Ecclesiastes* (NICOT; Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997).

Provan, Iain. *Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).

SONG OF SONGS:

Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (The New American Commentary, 14; Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1993).

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

Konkel, August H., and Tremper Longman III. *Job, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2006).

Longman, Tremper III. *Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005).

Provan, Iain. *Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).

LAMENTATIONS :

Dearman, J. Andrew. *Jeremiah, Lamentations* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002).

Hillers, D. *Lamentations* (AB 7a; Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972).

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Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 2OT512

Professor: Mark D. Futato

Campus: Orlando

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ N/A 	
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.	Moderate	One reading helps students distinguish exegetical language from expository language. Papers must apply this distinction.
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.	Strong	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.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Minimal	Course deals with the Kingship/Sovereignty of God.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	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.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos.	Strong	Course lectures aim to model this value consistently.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	One reading helps students distinguish exegetical language from expository language. Papers must apply this distinction.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Study of the Psalms will be applied to issues of modern worship.
Shepherd	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.	Minimal	
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	